

**Request from the competent authority:** 25/4/2019

**CNR BEA revised opinion published on 21/6/2019**

**Context of the request as set out by the competent authority:** The industry's fact sheets on environmental enrichment materials must urgently be finalised by pig producers, in line with the vade mecum currently being updated in light of an upcoming audit to be carried out by the General Directorate for Health and Food Safety.

**Request:** That the FRCAW provide an opinion on the categorisation proposed by pig producers of three environmental enrichment materials, based on each material type as defined in the European Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336 of 8 March 2016 on the application of Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking.

**References:**

- EC Directive 2008/120/EC. Available online: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008L0120&from=EN> (accessed on 16 April 2019).
- The European Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/336 of 8 March 2016 on the application of Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking. O. J. Eur. Union 2016. Available online: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2016/336/oj> (accessed on 16 April 2019) (*named hereinafter "Recommendation"*).
- Commission Staff Working Document on best practices with a view to the prevention of routine tail-docking and the provision of enrichment materials to pigs Accompanying the document Commission Recommendation on the application of Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs as regards measures to reduce the need for tail-docking (*named hereinafter "working document"*).
- Anses, 2015. AVIS du 30/01/2015 révisé le 13/02/2015 relatif à l'enrichissement du milieu d'élevage des porcs par la mise à disposition des matériaux manipulables, Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, p. 47

**I. Remarks:**

As specified in the working document, "[the working document] is without any legally binding nature. It is drafted by the Commission services as a staff working document and does not reflect any validated

position of the Commission.”. The Recommendation is also without any legally binding nature. In practice, however, Member States have to comply with the Recommendation. Equally, compliance with the Recommendation implies also complying with any associated opinions published alongside the Recommendation. In the case of any dispute, a judgement would refer to the associated documents.

## **II. Conclusion:**

### **1. Straw, hay and fodder racks**

- Forage materials distributed in feeders or racks cannot be considered of "optimal" interest but only of "sub-optimal" interest.
- They must therefore be used in combination with other materials.

### **2. Combination of iron chains and softwood**

- The combination of iron chains and regularly renewed softwood can be considered of "sub-optimal" interest and should be combined with other materials.
- The combination of iron chains chain and hardwood, i.e. not degradable by animals, is considered to be of "marginal interest". This material should therefore be combined with other materials of a different nature which are of at least "sub-optimal" interest.

### **3. Corn starch**

- Corn starch in compressed form, in association with wood fibres may be considered of "suboptimal" interest.
- Like any material of sub-optimal interest, this material must be combined with other materials of different nature.