




Section 7.10

Euthanasia

REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE		
7.10	Euthanasia	Mandatory
 RECORD		
R-M	Mortality Record	Mandatory
 FACT SHEET		
F-18	Methods of Euthanasia	–

SECTION 7.10

EUTHANASIA

REQUIREMENTS

1. A Euthanasia SOP (SOP 7.10) must be developed in consultation with a licensed veterinarian. It must be adequately implemented and must include the following requirements:
 - a. ensuring designated personnel are trained to perform euthanasia on pigs.
 - b. assurance that pigs will not be forced to move prior to euthanasia when pain and suffering will occur.
 - c. primary and backup methods of euthanasia appropriate for each weight class of pig on-farm that comply with provincial legislation.
 - d. confirmation of insensibility immediately following the application of the euthanasia method.
 - e. the immediate reapplication of the primary euthanasia method or the application of the backup method if the pig shows signs of returning to sensibility.
 - f. confirmation of death prior to moving or leaving the pig.

For your convenience, a template for the Euthanasia SOP (SOP 7.10) has been developed for you to use.

RATIONALE

- a. A euthanasia SOP is important to ensure that all pigs are euthanized using the best method and to ensure that it is done as soon as possible.

GUIDANCE

- a. For additional information, see the Methods of Euthanasia fact sheet.
- b. People performing euthanasia need to understand how to assess whether pigs are insensible as well as how to confirm that pigs are dead.
- c. A Euthanasia SOP should also include a description of
 - i. how euthanasia equipment is to be cleaned and maintained after each use, and stored in working condition for its next use, and
 - ii. how the operator is to use the equipment safely.
- d. Appropriate restraint methods should be used, such as plastic boxes, sedation, chase boards and snares.

① AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretation	Verification				
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	NC-Critical	N/A
Q7.10.1	Verify that an Euthanasia SOP has been developed and includes all required elements.	Full and partial validation: ➤ SOP 7.10: Euthanasia				
	Has an on-farm Euthanasia SOP been developed in consultation with a licensed veterinarian, and includes all required elements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q7.10.2	Verify that the Euthanasia SOP is being adequately implemented on-farm. a. Trained barn personnel are capable of applying euthanasia methods, confirming insensibility and death, and responding to something going wrong with the application of the primary euthanasia method. b. Equipment for applying acceptable methods of euthanasia as outlined in the euthanasia SOP is available on-farm. c. During validation, if euthanasia is observed, the pig is handled and euthanized humanely, and insensibility and death are confirmed by personnel.	Full and partial validation: ➤ SOP 7.10: Euthanasia ➤ observation (full validation only, if applicable) ➤ interview				
	Is the Euthanasia SOP adequately implemented on-farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

N/A = not applicable; SOP = standard operating procedure



LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

COMPLIANT

- › The Euthanasia SOP is available and all required elements are addressed.
- › There is evidence that the Euthanasia SOP is being adequately implemented.

MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 60 days**

- › The Euthanasia SOP does not meet all requirements or is not available.

MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 30 days**

- › There is evidence that the Euthanasia SOP is not being adequately implemented and evidence that pig welfare has been compromised.
- › The primary method of euthanasia is not available or not in functional condition.
- › An acceptable euthanasia method is implemented, but used ineffectively.

CRITICAL NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 24 hours**

- › An unacceptable method of euthanasia, as identified by the Code of Practice, is used, resulting in a wilful act of abuse as described in the Animal Welfare Policy.