



Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc



HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS FOR PIG TRANSPORT

CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMPROMISED AND UNFIT PIGS

February 2020

PROVISIONS FOR TRANSPORTING COMPROMISED PIGS

A compromised pig:

- must be shipped to the nearest suitable place,
- must not go without feed, water and rest for longer than 12 hours,
- cannot be loaded and shipped to an assembly yard or sales yard,
- can only be transported in a trailer compartment by itself or with one other compatible pig,
- must be loaded and unloaded individually, without having to use ramps inside the trailer,
- requires additional measures to protect its well-being, such as extra bedding and being loaded last and unloaded first.



This resource is part of the Canadian Swine Training Development Project.

Funding for this project has been provided through the AgriAssurance Program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

TRANSPORT CONSIDERATIONS FOR COMPROMISED AND UNFIT PIGS

MONITORING PIGS IN-TRANSIT

- If a transporter notices that a pig has become compromised or unfit in transit, all practical actions must be taken to relieve the pig's suffering, such as:
 - Euthanizing the pig on-board, or
 - Proceeding to the nearest suitable place to have the pig euthanized, while also considering the other pigs' health and well-being.

DOCUMENTATION

- Compromised pigs – and the measures used to protect them during transport – should be noted on the swine movement document at loading.
 - This can help protect the transporter and/or producer from enforcement action if a pig's condition worsens in transport.
- If a transporter notices that a pig has become compromised or unfit in transport, this should also be noted on the swine movement document or swine manifest, along with the actions taken to protect the pig's well-being.

MAIN CHANGES TO THE DEFINITIONS OF "COMPROMISED" AND "UNFIT"

In addition to a severe hernia that renders a pig as "unfit" for transport (e.g. has an open wound, touches the ground, or impedes movement), a pig is considered "compromised" if it has a hernia that is:

- Larger than 15 cm in diameter, *and*
- Swings while the pig is walking.

The following conditions now also make a pig "unfit" for transport:

- Sows that have farrowed in the last 48 hours
- Pigs with laboured breathing
- Pigs showing signs of dehydration, hyperthermia (heat stress) or hypothermia (cold stress)
- A pig that is lame in one or more legs and also exhibits:
 - signs of pain or suffering, and
 - halted movements or a reluctance to walk
- Pigs with severe **rectal or vaginal prolapses** – ones that are very swollen, inflamed or traumatized (e.g. bitten or torn)

*A pig with a minor **rectal or vaginal prolapse** – one that is not very swollen, inflamed or traumatized, or has been treated to reduce the amount sticking out and allow the pig to defecate/urinate – might still be able to be transported with special provisions as a "compromised pig". However, it must be carefully assessed before transport to ensure it can be shipped humanely. **If you are in doubt, do not transport it.***



For more information:

- contact your provincial pork organization;
- contact your nearest CFIA area office; or
- visit CFIA's website: inspection.gc.ca/humane