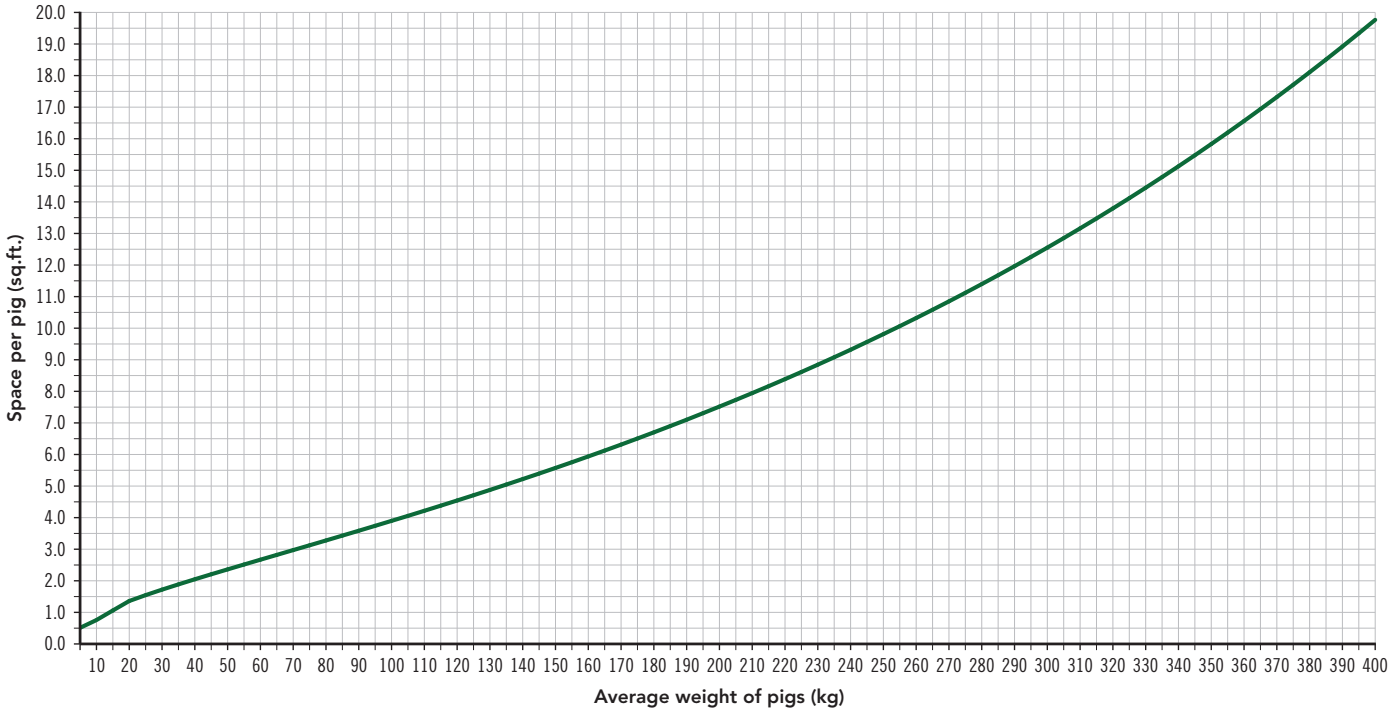
Canadian Pork Council
Conseil canadien du porc

PIG TRANSPORT STOCKING DENSITY

Minimum recommended space allowance for pig transportation

The chart below shows the minimum recommended space allowance for transporting healthy pigs in a well-designed, passively ventilated trailer when the highest ***humidex*** point expected throughout the journey remains below 20 degrees Celsius. Note that acceptable stocking densities in mechanically ventilated trailers may be higher as they provide some temperature and humidity moderation.



Reduce Stocking Density as Humidex Rises

The humidex is often referred to as the "feels like" temperature value. Though related, the humidex value is not the same as temperature; it also considers humidity. The humidex reading when relative humidity is 0% is the same as the temperature reading. However, when the humidity rises to 70%, for example, at an outside temperature of 25°C, the humidex reading is 32°C. The humidex, and not just the temperature alone, must be considered when transporting animals. Check www.theweathernetwork.com for the humidex ("feels like") value.

Reduce the number of pigs in the trailer by…	When the humidex hits…
5 %	25°C
10 %	30°C
15 %	35°C
20%	38°C
25 %	40°C
30 %	43°C
35 %	45°C
40 %	48°C
45 %	50°C

If the humidex is expected to be greater than 50°C during your scheduled journey, you should consider rescheduling for a cooler time period, like the early morning or another day.

An online tool to calculate stocking density based on pig weight and humidex is available at www.cpc-ccp.com/transport-stocking-density-calculator

Other Hot Weather Transport Recommendations

- If possible, travel during early morning and/or evening during periods of high temperatures.
- Open nose vents and unplug all holes and slots.
- Do not bed with straw in warm/hot weather.
- Avoid stopping when possible. Keep the trailer moving.
- Handle hogs with extra care during temperature extremes.

Disclaimer

Stocking density, predicted by pig weight, ambient temperature, and humidity, is to be used as a guideline. The *Health of Animals Regulations* require those people who transport, or arrange the transport of, live animals to assess all risk factors that could be viewed as impacting the animal's capacity to withstand transport. Stocking density must be adjusted accordingly when there are additional risk factors present including: poor/decreased ventilation, time spent stationary (e.g. in traffic), trailer design, and pre-existing conditions of the animal, such as dehydration, pregnancy, or body composition that could cause animals to overheat at different rates.

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