



## Section 9.2

# Humane Transportation

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### REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
 <b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE</b>		
9.2	Humane Transportation	Mandatory
 <b>FACT SHEET</b>		
F-19	Fitness for Transport Decision Tree	–

## SECTION 9.2

# HUMANE TRANSPORTATION

### REQUIREMENTS

1. A **Humane Transportation SOP (SOP 9.2)** must be developed and include measures for:
  - a. ensuring the loading and unloading of pigs is carried out by trained and competent personnel only
  - b. assessing fitness for transport
  - c. mixing together only compatible animals
  - d. providing appropriate bedding for transport.
2. Loading and unloading facilities must be constructed and maintained to facilitate ease of movement and to prevent pigs from falling off, escaping or being injured.
  - a. Personnel involved in the transportation of pigs or who arrange for pigs to be transported must follow the most current national and provincial animal transport regulations.

*For your convenience, a template for the Humane Transportation (SOP 9.2) has been developed for you to use.*

### RATIONALE

- a. Advance planning is a key factor affecting the welfare of animals during transport. Planning includes selecting and preparing the animals, ensuring appropriate loading facilities are in place, and making arrangements with a qualified transporter. The nature and duration of the journey also need to be taken into consideration to ensure that animals are fit for the intended journey.
- b. A calm handling and loading process reduces discounts due to condemnations, bruises, carcass losses, and poor meat quality.
- c. A vehicle or container bedded with clean straw, shavings or other bedding material provides effective insulation and comfort and prevents the newly weaned pigs from developing hypothermia or frostbite.
- d. Training is essential to ensure that all personnel know their responsibilities. Personnel involved in transporting pigs or arranging their transport have a responsibility to ensure that no part of the transportation process (including loading, transit and unloading) causes injury or undue suffering in the animals.
- e. The federal requirements for animal transport are covered under the *Health of Animals Regulations*, Part XII (Transportation of Animals).

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### GUIDANCE

- a. Several factors affect the welfare of pigs during loading and transportation. These include: group size, feeding programs and methods (including some feed additives and nutritional deficiencies); lighting conditions at loading; drafts in the loading/handling facilities; extreme heat, humidity, or cold; aggressive handling during production; lack of regular moving and handling during the finishing period; and the attitudes of handlers during the production phase and during loading.
- b. Compromised animals, due to injury, fatigue, infirmity, poor health, distress, age (very young or very old), impending birth and other causes, have a reduced capacity to withstand the stress of transportation.

- c. Compromised animals are fit for transport with special provisions such as separation from other animals, extra bedding, and/or transporting to local slaughter only. Animals affected with conditions associated with a high risk of undue suffering resulting from transport are unfit for transport (e.g., non-ambulatory animals that are unable to stand without assistance or move without being dragged or carried, regardless of their size or age; referred to as non-ambulatory animals).
- d. Some pigs are more likely to suffer adverse effects caused by hot, humid weather. A pig that is fit for a short trip direct to processing may not be fit for marketing through an auction if it involves many stops.
- e. Animals that cannot bear weight on all four legs will likely become non-ambulatory during transport.
- f. Those responsible for arranging transportation services need to know
  - i. the expected length of the trip, including intermediate stops (e.g., rest stops, assembly yards, auctions)
  - ii. whether the transporter needs to provide additional services (e.g., feed, water, rest) during transit
  - iii. loading densities, which may change based on factors such as weather, the weight of individual pigs, and the expected duration of the trip.
- g. The site manager should ask feedback from the slaughterhouse and/or assembly yard about the condition of the pigs upon arrival.
- h. The scope of the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs ends at the farm gate, but includes requirements and considerations that affect the transportation process. A separate Code of Practice for transportation is available on the National Farm Animal Care Council's website.

**?** AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Question and Interpretation	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Q9.2.1	Verify that a humane transportation SOP has been developed and includes provisions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ensuring the loading and unloading of pigs is carried out by competent personnel only</li> <li>b. assessing fitness for transport               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ensuring unfit pigs are not loaded</li> <li>ii. prohibiting the loading of pigs that cannot bear weight on all four legs</li> <li>iii. identifying when compromised pigs can be shipped</li> <li>iv. prohibiting the loading of pigs that are showing signs of distress.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. mixing together only compatible animals</li> <li>d. providing appropriate bedding for transport according to weather conditions and the age of the pigs (especially newly weaned pigs).</li> </ul>	<b>Full and Partial Validation:</b> > SOP 9.2 Humane Transportation > interview			
	Has a humane transportation SOP been developed that includes all PigCARE-required elements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Q#	Audit Question and Interpretation	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Q9.2.2	Verify that loading and unloading facilities are constructed with safe and secure footholds and maintained to facilitate ease of movement and to prevent pigs from falling off, escaping or being injured.	<b>Full and Partial Validation:</b> > observation > interview			
	Are loading and unloading facilities constructed and maintained to facilitate ease of movement and to prevent pigs from falling off, escaping or being injured?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q9.2.3 HR	Verify whether the site manager asks for feedback from the slaughterhouses and assembly yards regarding the condition of the pigs upon arrival.	<b>Full and Partial Validation:</b> > interview			
	Is the site manager asking for feedback from the slaughterhouses and/or assembly yards about the condition of the pigs upon arrival?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

HR = highly recommended; N/A = not applicable; SOP = standard operating procedure.

## LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

### COMPLIANT

- > A **Humane Transportation SOP** is available that addresses all required elements.

### MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 12 months**

- > The **Humane Transportation SOP** is incomplete or not available.

### MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE

- > Not applicable.