SECTION 11: TRANSPORTING PIGS

Transportation can be a stressful time for animals as well as for animal owners. It is critical that you:

- Are aware of the federal (Part XII of the *Health of Animals Regulations*) and provincial laws around transporting animals.
- Are aware of the risks associated with transporting animals.
- Have equipment and conveyances designed, constructed and maintained for pigs.
- That you are comfortable and experienced to transport pigs (e.g., have the knowledge, skills and are trained by someone experienced).
- Are aware that Canada has a Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation, released in 2001 through the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council.
- Are aware that an updated transportation code is currently being developed under the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) code developmental process, with a projected completion date of spring 2023.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES:

- It is *ILLEGAL* and inhumane to transport an unfit animal.
- NEVER transport an animal loose in the back of a truck or loose in a vehicle.
- Maximum transport time for a pig is 28 hours.
- Always wash and disinfect your vehicle, trailer and any crate used after transporting pigs.

11.1 TRANSPORTATION BASICS

To transport pigs safely and humanely, you need the right person, with the right vehicle, the right pigs, on the right day, for the right amount of time.

The person:

- Should have a class 5 driver's licence (no additional licensing is required unless you are hauling large-scale livestock liners).
- Should be experienced in handling pigs (have the knowledge and skills).
- Should be calm and collected to reduce the stress for the pigs.
- Should have experience hauling a trailer.



11.1 TRANSPORTATION BASICS

- Must follow the federal and provincial laws.
 - Health of Animals Regulations (HAR): Part XII Transport of Animals (see Section 11.4 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS).
- Must be registered with PigTRACE (see Section 1.2 PIGTRACE).

The vehicle:

- Vehicles should be in excellent condition and must be in full compliance with provincial highway traffic legislation.
- If you are using a trailer, the requirements include, but are not limited to:
 - Non-slip flooring.
 - No sharp edges, bolts, handles, or protrusions sticking out that could injure pigs.
 - A ramp designed, constructed and maintained to load pigs in and out (maximum slope is 20 degrees).
 - A clean trailer that has fresh bedding.
 - Sufficient ventilation (no exhaust should enter into the trailer).
 - Appropriate partitions (if the trailer is large and only has a few pigs, you do not want them sliding around in the back while driving. Fill the trailer or block off sections to create a smaller environment for fewer pigs).
 - When transporting boars, it is very important to use partitions to keep boars separate.
- If you are NOT using a trailer, consider the following:
 - NEVER have pigs loose in the back of a pick-up truck or inside your vehicle.
 - Secure pigs in a crate (e.g., dog kennel). Make sure they can fit into it nicely.
 - They should be able to stand with all feet on the floor, with head elevated, with sufficient space to permit a full range of head movement, and without any part of its body coming into contact with the top or cover of the crate.
 - Crates should be bedded with absorbent bedding for manure and urine.
 - Crates should be cleaned and disinfected between moving pigs.
 - If it is freezing outside, warm up your vehicle before loading pigs inside.
 - If it is hot outside, turn on air conditioning or open windows to cool the vehicle down before loading pigs inside.

Source: National Farm Animal Care Council. Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Transportation. Canadian Agri-Food Research Council, 2001⁽¹⁾



TRANSPORTING PIGS | SECTION 1

11.1 TRANSPORTATION BASICS





(L): Clean and disinfected crate loaded with bedding placed in trailer. This is a good way to separate pigs from each other.

(R): Bedded trailer with partitions. This is an effective way to limit space in the trailer if you have more space than you need. This will prevent pigs from sliding around in the trailer during transport.



Young pigs being transported in a clean crate bedded with clean blankets inside the back of the car. Notice the disposable pad placed underneath the crate. This makes cleaning out the vehicle a lot easier. These pigs fit comfortably inside this crate.

Photo Credits: Dr. Kelsey Gray

The pigs:

- Pigs should have feed withdrawn 3–4 hours prior to loading. Heavy feed intake by pigs immediately prior to loading has been associated with vomiting and death.
- Pigs should be calmly handled and not stressed when getting them into the vehicle or trailer.
- See Section 11.3 FIT TO TRANSPORT for expectations on the conditions pigs are allowed to be transported in.
- Appropriate pigs should be transported together (for example, you should never transport boars together in a small area as they are prone to fighting and injuring each other).



11.2 TRANSPORT BIOSECURITY

The day:

- Avoid transporting on extremely hot or extremely cold days; if you must transport on these days:
 - If it is a hot day, transport early in the morning before the heat of the day.
 - If it is a cold day, add extra bedding and cover holes in the trailer.
- Avoid transporting in icy, rainy, windy, or other adverse weather circumstances.

The time:

- Maximum time without access to feed, safe water and rest (FWR) for healthy pigs is 28 hours (this includes transport time). This interval begins when FWR is last provided and ends when FWR is provided again.
 - Maximum time without access to feed, safe water and rest (FWR) for very young (8 days of age or less) and compromised pigs is 12 hours (this includes transport time).
- Pigs must be provided with FWR every 28 hours (or sooner if there is a risk of nutritional deficit, dehydration or exhaustion). When provided with rest, it must be for at least 8 consecutive hours.

11.2 TRANSPORT BIOSECURITY

Anytime you transport pigs, you are at the risk of spreading disease. When you transport pigs, you are also transporting their manure, urine, and other biologicals that may contain contagious viruses, bacterium, or parasites. High traffic places like auction marts or slaughter facilities are the highest risk.

Imagine bringing something devastating like PED (porcine epidemic diarrhea) home to your farm and losing 100% of your piglets. You should always consider the disease risk when transporting pigs and take precautions to prevent spreading disease. Consider the following:

DO:

- Ensure your animals are healthy before transporting them (unless you are taking them to a veterinarian).
- If you are transporting pigs inside your vehicle in a crate:
 - Your car should be clean before arriving at your destination.
 - Get vehicle washed after leaving your destination before returning to your farm.
 - Blankets or towels used as bedding should be washed in the washing machine with a hot water soap wash and dried in the dryer to kill any pathogens.



11.2 TRANSPORT BIOSECURITY

- Any straw or shavings used as bedding must be completely scrapped out and disposed of before washing.
- Use a clean crate to transport pigs (crates should be washed with soap and water and disinfected with a bleach solution or with an agricultural disinfectant like Prevail® or Virkon®).
- Let crates dry completely.
- If you are transporting pigs inside a trailer attached to your vehicle:
 - Your vehicle and trailer should be clean before arriving at your destination.
 - Blankets or towels used as bedding should be washed in the washing machine with a hot water soap.
 - Any straw or shavings used as bedding must be completely scrapped out and disposed of before washing.
 - Trailer should have the outside and inside washed and disinfected this can be done at a livestock trailer wash.
 - Alternatively, the vehicle and trailer can be washed at a regular wash-bay. The trailer should be washed inside and outside of all debris.
 - Special attention should be paid to the wheels and wheel wells when washing your vehicle and trailer (especially after leaving the slaughter facility).
 - Then, the inside of the trailer can be disinfected with a handheld spray gun.
 - Any panels/partitions used inside the trailer will need to be washed and disinfected as well.
 - Let the trailer and any panels from inside completely dry after applying disinfectant.
 - Trailer should be loaded with clean, fresh bedding at the time of the next trip.
- Wear boot covers whenever you walk around high-traffic sites remove these from your boots as you get back inside your vehicle.
- Keep a disinfectant spray in your vehicle.
- Spray off your mats, foot pedals, and inside of the door with disinfectant after visiting high-traffic sites.
- Keep hand sanitizer in your vehicle.



11.3 FIT TO TRANSPORT



Cleaned, disinfected, and dried trailer and partitions ready to be loaded with clean bedding before transport. This is how a clean trailer should look before transport. Photo: Dr. Kelsey Gray

AVOID:

- Transporting animals in a dirty trailer, container, or crate. It is unsafe for your animals and for the safety of other animals.
 - It also does not look professional and is an easy way to lose credibility amongst other producers and the public.
 - If you are buying pigs from someone, they will NOT be happy with you if you show up with a dirty trailer to their farm.
- Waiting days to wash your vehicle/trailer. The manure, urine, and bedding will harden and make it more difficult to clean.
- Making multiple stops (e.g., veterinary clinic, feed store, supply store) in one day after visiting the slaughterhouse and prior to washing your vehicle.
- Transporting sick animals.
- Cleaning your vehicle/trailer/crates right by where you house your pigs (if you wash your vehicle at home, have a designated dirty area where you can ensure you are not scraping out your trailer near your pigs).

11.3 FIT TO TRANSPORT

It is illegal to transport an unfit animal! (Unless under exceptional circumstances where transportation is recommended by a veterinarian for veterinary care.)

Any and all people (e.g., pig producers, handlers and transporters) involved directly or indirectly in selecting, loading, transporting, and unloading an animal are responsible under federal law to ensure the animal is assessed for "fitness" prior to loading and transportation.



11.3 FIT TO TRANSPORT

This means that **YOU** are legally responsible to ensure that the pigs you are selecting to transport, or are transporting yourself, are physically healthy and suitable for travel. If you transport an unfit animal, you may be subject to law enforcement action.

Unfit Animals:

- Would suffer unnecessarily during transport because of infirmity, illness, injury, fatigue or any other cause.
- Federal law (Part XII of the *Health of Animals Regulations*) prohibits loading, confining, and transporting unfit animals.
- Unfit animals must NOT be transported except under the advice of a veterinarian for veterinary care.

Compromised Animals:

- Have a reduced capacity to withstand transportation, but can be transported with special provisions to prevent unnecessary suffering, injury or death.
- May ONLY be locally transported with special provisions to receive care, be euthanized or humanely slaughtered.

Special Provisions:

- Transport locally and directly to the nearest suitable place (not through an auction or assembly yard) to receive care or be humanely killed.
- Individually load the compromised animal without having to negotiate any ramps inside the conveyance.
- Maximum time without access to feed, safe water and rest (FWR) for compromised animals is 12 hours.
- Isolate the compromised animal from other animals (exception: a compromised animal
 may be confined and transported with one other familiar animal if doing so is unlikely
 to cause either animal suffering, injury or death).
- Other special provisions may be required, such as additional bedding, to prevent the animal's suffering, injury or death during loading, confinement, transport and unloading.

Sources:

Humane Handling Guidelines for Pigs. Standards for the Care of Compromised and Unfit Animals, 2016⁽²⁾ Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Animal Health. Humane Transport and Animal Welfare, 2020⁽³⁾



11.3 FIT TO TRANSPORT

"Should this Pig be Loaded?" Decision Tree

SHOULD THIS PIG BE LOADED?

Guidelines for Transporting Pigs

LOAD HEALTHY PIGS

Do Not Load Do Not Transport – Unfit

Delay Transportation

- Dehydration
- Fever (rectal temperature > 39.5°C)
- Sows that have farrowed within 48 hours, or likely to farrow during transport or upon arrival at destination (100 or more days of gestation)
- Recent surgery (not healed) (e.g., castration)
- Stressed pigs showing any signs of
- -Exhaustion (refuses to move)
- -Heat stress
- -Weakness
- $\\ Trembling$
- -Laboured breathing
- -Skin discolouration/blotchy patches

Euthanize On-Farm Immediately

- Non-Ambulatory*
- In shock or dying
- · Emaciated (extremely thin)
- Fractured or amputated leg or fractured pelvis
- Other fractures that considerably hamper mobility or are likely to cause severe pain when the animal is manipulated for loading or when it is being transported
- Exposed bone
- Arthritis involving multiple joints
- Prolapsed uterus
- Rectal stenosis with distension and which renders the animal weak or down
- Hernia**
- Suffering from severe nonresponsive disease
- Severe recent injury

Do Not Transport to a Sale or an Assembly Yard

Transport with Special Provisions*** Direct to Slaughter

Transport As Soon As Possible

- Ambulatory pig: a pig that can walk and rise without assistance, and:
- -ls visibly lame but can keep up with the group
- -ls unable to keep up with other animals; has some difficulty climbing ramps
- · Abscess and local infection (no fever)
- · Prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Inguinal or umbilical hernias other than those defined under Do Not Transport
- Acute or unhealed penis injury
- Severe dewclaw injury
- First stage anorexia, or weight loss (no fever)
- Open wound (pig may be unfit depending on severity of wound)
- Acute frostbite
- Blindness
- Severe tail bite or vulva bite
- Smoke inhalation

Pigs with multiple conditions may not be fit for transport

* Non-Ambulatory Animals – an animal that cannot walk or that:

- Is unable to rise or remain standing without assistance
- Is unable to move without being dragged or carried
- Has difficulty rising or needs additional time to rise
 Is reluctant to walk or exhibits halted movement
- After splitting, cannot walk
- Suffers severe pain when walking, or requires assistance to remain standing

** Hernia includes at least one of the following criteria:

- Impedes movement
- Painful on palpation
- Touches the ground when the pig is standing in its natural position
- Includes an open skin wound, ulceration, or obvious infection

*** Special Provisions include:

- Extra bedding
- Loading in a rear compartment
- Separation from other animals
- Penning with a familiar companion animal
- Local transport only
- Transport direct to the nearest suitable place where the animal can be properly cared for, slaughtered or euthanized
- Other measures as appropriate

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If an animal has difficulty walking or loading, it is likely that the animal will go down during transport. It is also very likely that it will be subjected to additional suffering and/or injury from trampling as a result of becoming non-ambulatory during the journey. If this is the case, transportation is not recommended.

EMERGENCY ON-FARM SLAUGHTER

If an animal is fit for human consumption, but not fit for transport (i.e., injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter may be an option. Consult with your provincial government for more information on the availability of emergency on-farm slaughter in your province.

Any animal may be loaded for transport for veterinary treatment under veterinary supervision.

Adapted from: Should this Pig be Loaded? Decision Tree published jointly by BCFACC, AFAC, FACS and OFAC (May, 2010) and from Arbre de Décision Transport des Animaux Fragilisés published by Fédération des producteurs de porcs du Québec (July, 2011)

Source: Humane Handling Guidelines for Pigs. Standards for the Care of Compromised and Unfit Animals, 2016⁽²⁾

Footnote: Refer to Part XII of the HAR for current information regarding compromised and unfit conditions.



11.4 FEDERAL TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

11.4 FEDERAL TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

Transportation of animals is regulated federally under the *Health of Animals Act*, and its *Health of Animals Regulations (HAA* and *HAR*): Part XII Transport of Animals.

If you are transporting animals (or if you are involved directly or indirectly in selecting, loading, confining, transporting, and unloading), these regulations apply to you.

Part XII of the *HAR* includes all aspects of animal transport and related confinement including:

- Knowledge, skills and training requirements
- Contingency planning
- Assessment and selection of animals that are fit for the intended transport and confinement
- Withdrawal of feed, water and opportunities to rest (FWR) prior to and in preparation for loading and confinement for transport
- Handling the animal(s) for the purpose of loading
- Loading the animal(s), including into crates, modules or other contrivance or container if applicable and into conveyances
- Handling very young animals (8 days of age or less)
- Transport and related confinement of animal(s)
- Monitoring animals during transport
- Ventilation
- Space requirements
- Unloading the animal(s)
- Transfer of care
- Records
- Timing of the post transport access to feed, water and rest (if applicable)



SECTION 11 TRANSPORTING PIGS

11.4 FEDERAL TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

In all cases, the transport continuum (including withdrawal of FWR, handling for the purposes of loading, confining, transporting, unloading, post-transport access to feed and water) begins whenever the animal is handled or actions are taken (e.g., selection of animal to transport, moving to a pen for loading) to prepare the animal for the purposes of transport. Transport ends when the animal has been unloaded and the authority of *HAR* Part XII ends in whole or in part (requirements continue after unloading) when:

- the unloaded animal has been provided with feed, water and rest, or
- the container enters the stunning chamber for the purposes of slaughter prior to the animal being removed from the container, or
- the animal is to be slaughtered or otherwise euthanized prior to having reached the maximum interval of time for feed, water and rest after unloading.

Summary of Key Legal Expectations:

EXPECTATION	SUMMARY	
Understand definitions from the <i>HAR</i> (136).	 Be able to describe and recognize a compromised animal. Be able to describe and recognize an unfit animal. Be able to describe and provide special provisions. 	
Have knowledge and skills necessary to select, load, confine, transport, monitor and unload an animal <i>HAR</i> (138).	 Be able to assess the condition and fitness of the animal before loading, monitoring animals throughout transport, and apply appropriate actions. Be able to assess transport conditions such as animal compatibility (e.g., 2 boars should not transport in a small space together), space needs, and temperature, and apply appropriate actions. Be able to assess any foreseeable equipment risks like truck, trailer, or container issues and apply appropriate actions. Be able to assess driving conditions like weather conditions, road safety, or anticipated delays and apply appropriate actions. Have a contingency plan in place and take appropriate measures in the event of unforeseen circumstances to prevent unnecessary suffering, injury, or death. 	
Understand how to handle unfit animals HAR (139).	Know the options for unfit animals (depending on circumstance): immediate euthanasia, delayed transportation, on-farm slaughter, or transport for veterinary care on veterinary recommendation.	
Understand how to handle compromised animals <i>HAR</i> (140).	 Know how to safely transport compromised animals and provide special provisions for them. The maximum time without access to FWR is 12 hours. 	
Understand how to handle animals of 8 days of age or less <i>HAR</i> (141).	 Know how to safely transport young animals and provide special provisions for them. The maximum time without access to FWR is 12 hours (single period, not repeated). 	



11.4 FEDERAL TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

EXPECTATION	SUMMARY		
Understand proper animal handling HAR (144).	 Do NOT EVER perform prohibited activities including: Beating, striking, whipping, or kicking animals. Using prods, whips, or devices in a way that would cause suffering, injury, or death. Using prods, whips, or devices on an animal who does not have a clear path. Using prods on animals less than 3 months old or on sensitive areas or animals (belly, anal, genital, or facial areas). Dragging animals. Lifting animals by their hair, head, neck, ears, or tails. Handling an animal in any way that can cause suffering, injury, or death. Dropping, kicking, or throwing containers with animals inside. Handling animal containers in a way that can cause suffering, injury, or death. 		
Understand proper ramp usage for loading/ unloading animals HAR (145).	 Ensure ramps are: Secure and do not have sharp edges that can cause injury. Can bear the expected weight without breaking, bending, twisting, or collapsing. Designed to prevent animals from tripping, slipping, or falling. Placed to prevent a gap where an animal can fall or escape through. On a slope that does not exceed 20 degrees. 		
Understand how to prepare the animal space <i>HAR</i> (146–149).	 Ensure the space is appropriate: Do not let exhaust blow into the trailer. Meet space requirements (if using a crate or kennel, make sure animals fit inside comfortably). Use proper bedding for weather conditions. Protect animals from noxious things (e.g., fumes). 		
Understand appropriate conveyances and containers for animals HAR (150).	 Ensure the containers: Are suitable for the species (dog kennels work for smaller pigs). Prevent pigs from escaping. Have adequate ventilation. Have flooring that prevents tripping, slipping, and falling. Will not collapse or topple over. Do not have exposed bolt heads, angles, or projections. Do not have unsecured objects. Can be cleaned. Allow visibility of the animal from outside. Have bedding to absorb manure/urine. Are secured and will not slide around during transport. 		
Understand feed, water, and rest requirements HAR (152).	Maximum time with access to FWR for pigs is 28 hours (this includes transport time).		
Understand record keeping <i>HAR</i> (153, 154).	 Record all swine movements with PigTRACE. If you are leaving animals at assembly yards, you need a "transfer of care" record: a receipt of incoming animal condition, date and time of food, water, and rest provision, and written location and date/time of departure and arrival. 		

Source: Government of Canada. Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations: SOR/2019-38, 2019⁽⁴⁾



SECTION 11 TRANSPORTING PIGS

SECTION 11 REFERENCE LIST

For more specific information on transportation of animals, please refer to the web page for the *Health of Animals Regulations:* Part XII: Transport of Animals – Regulatory Amendment. Interpretative Guidance for Regulated Parties, 2020⁽⁵⁾: https://inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/health-of-animals-regulations-part-xii/eng/1582126008181/1582126616914

For a basic comparison of the federal transport regulations from 1997 to the amended transport regulations in 2019⁽⁶⁾, please refer to Appendix I at the end of this section. For small lot pig producers that own and manage other livestock species, Appendix I is particularly noteworthy because it includes transport regulation changes that affect species other than swine.

SECTION 11 REFERENCE LIST

- National Farm Animal Care Council. Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Transportation. Canadian Agri-Food Research Council (2001)
- 2. Humane Handling Guidelines for Pigs. Standards for the Care of Compromised and Unfit Animals (2016)
- 3. Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Animal Health. Humane Transport and Animal Welfare (2020)
- 4. Government of Canada. *Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations:* SOR/2019-38 (2019)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Animal Health. Health of Animals Regulations:
 Part XII: Transport of Animals Regulatory Amendment. Interpretative Guidance for Regulated Parties (2020)
- 6. Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Animal Health. Fact sheet: Then vs. Now Humane Transportation Regulations (2019)
- 7. Canadian Pork Council. Health of Animals Regulations for Pig Transport Overview of Changes (2020)



APPENDIX I

APPENDIX I: Basic Comparison of Federal Transport Regulations from 1997 to Amended Transport Regulations in 2019⁽⁶⁾

THEN VS. NOW

(Humane Transportation Regulations)

Stronger animal transportation requirements = Healthier animals

The amendments to the Transportation of Animals requirements under the Health of Animals Regulations improve the well-being of animals during the entire transportation process, keeping in mind Canada's geographic size and the time required to travel between locations.

- Many years of consultation with veterinarians, farmers, transporters, associations, scientists, governments, members of the public and interested stakeholder groups
- ☑ Regulations apply to everyone involved in transporting animals in Canada

IMPROVEMENTS (starting in 2020)

- ✓ Science-based
- Longer rest periods
- suitably fed, hydrated and rested
- ▼ Full transport time (including loading and unloading) from time off feed, water and rest
- Balance of prescriptive and outcome-based requirements
- Outlines training requirements and contingency plans
- ☑ Better aligned to international standards
- Shorter hours for many animals
- ☑ Addresses compromised animals and unfit
- Addresses broiler chickens, spent hens, and rabbits
- Addresses young animals
- Allows for innovation

SPECIFIC COMPARISON				
PROVISION	THEN (Regulations from 1997)	NOW (Amended regulations 2019)		
Transport continuum	Focus mainly on time in confinement	Feed, water and rest (FWR) times start when FW are first removed and include time for loading, transport and unloading, until FW are provided again.		
Type of regulations	Prescriptive based requirements that restrict innovation	More outcome based regulations including: ☑ adequate space, ☑ enough headroom, ☑ weather protection ☑ ventilation, etc.		
MAXIMUM IN	TERVALS WITHOUT FEED, WATER AND	REST (FWR)		
All livestock (including ruminants), cervids and camelids 8 days of age or less, or too young to be fed exclusively hay or grain	Max. 18 h of transport confinement (calves)	Max. 12 h without FWR		
Compromised animals	Not specified. Covered under general requirements (48 h for ruminants, 36 h for monogastrics).	Max. 12 h without FWR		
Ruminants	Max. 48 h of transport confinement	Max. 36 h without FWR		
Animals with a simple stomach (monogastrics): horses, pigs, birds, reptiles, pets, etc.	Max. 36 h of transport confinement	Max. 36 h without FWR Horses and pigs 28 h without FWR Max. 36 h without FWR for all other animals Max. 72 h from time of hatching for birds Max. 24 h without water Max. 28 h without feed 8 h No maximum for specially equipped conveyances/containers that meet numerous specified requirements and provide FWR. Outcome-based		
Hatching birds	Max. 72 h of transport after hatching (chicks only)	Max. 72 h from time of hatching for birds		
Broiler chickens, spent hens and rabbits	Not specified. General requirement for monogastrics (36 h of transport confinement)	Max. 24 h without water Max. 28 h without feed		
Rest time after max. feed and water time	5 h	8 h		
Innovation	Not specified	No maximum for specially equipped conveyances/containers that meet numerous specified requirements and provide FWR. Outcome-based requirements for the animals still apply.		
	inspection.gc.ca/humane			
Canadian Food Agence canadienne Inspection Agency of inspection des aliments		Canada		



APPENDIX II

APPENDIX II: Health of Animals Regulations for Pig Transport – Overview of Changes, Canadian Pork Council for 2020⁽⁷⁾













HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS FOR PIG TRANSPORT

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES

February 2020

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

This project is funded by the AgriMarketing Program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

TRANSPORT DURATIONS

- Transport duration primarily considers the time pigs go without feed, water and rest
- For fully fit pigs, the time without feed, water and rest cannot exceed 28 hours
- For compromised pigs, these time periods cannot exceed 12 hours

RAMPS

Barn ramps and any external ramps (outside of trailer) used to load/unload pigs onto/from trailers cannot have slopes that exceed 20°

MONITORING PIGS IN-TRANSIT

- Transporters are expected to check on the pigs at an appropriate frequency to ensure their well-being, considering the current road and weather conditions and the age and condition of the pigs when loaded, among other risk factors
- 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:
 - o Euthanizing the pig on-board, or
 - o Proceeding to the nearest suitable place to have the pig euthanized, while also considering the other pigs' health and welfare



APPENDIX II

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS FOR PIG TRANSPORT

PROVISIONS FOR TRANSPORTING COMPROMISED PIGS

A compromised pig:

- must be shipped to the nearest suitable place
- cannot be loaded and shipped to an assembly 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 the trailer's ramps
- requires additional measures to protect its welfare, such as extra bedding and being loaded last and unloaded first

Most significant changes to definitions of "compromised" and "unfit"

- Pigs with severe rectal or vaginal prolapses are now defined as "unfit"
 - Minor rectal or vaginal prolapses are still defined as "compromised"
- A pig that is lame in one or more legs is now considered "unfit" if it also exhibits:
 - o signs of pain or suffering, and
 - o halted movements or a reluctance to walk

TRAINING AND COMPETENCY

- Commercial, livestock transport companies must provide and document training for all their employees involved in the planning and performance of livestock transport
- All livestock transporters commercial or selfhaulers – must be competent and knowledgeable in their role (and in how it relates to the regulations)

DOCUMENTATION AND PLANS

- All livestock transporters must have a contingency plan – written or verbal – for possible delays and circumstances that could result in harm or suffering to the pigs, such as storms, mechanical breakdowns, delays, accidents and injuries to the pigs that occur mid-transit
- All transporters must keep a movement document (manifest) on-board while transporting pigs, which covers details of the load, including (but not limited to):
 - o floor space in the trailer,
 - when the trailer was last cleaned and disinfected.
 - o the number, weight and description of the pigs at loading,
 - o when the pigs were loaded, and
 - o when the pigs were last fed, watered and
- All deliveries to slaughter facilities and assembly yards must be accompanied by a transfer of care document that describes:
 - o the pigs' condition on arrival,
 - the time when the pigs were last fed, watered and rested, and
 - o the time they arrived at the facility
- The pigs remain in the transporter's care until a representative of the facility provides written acknowledgement to the transporter of receiving the pigs



For more information:

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

