




What does dead on arrival indicate?

- Among many other reasons, death during transport has been associated with lack of space, i.e. high stocking density during transport.
- Losses can be reduced when increasing the available space per pig.
- Thermal stress (heat and cold) can ultimately also result in death. 
- Space allowance and temperature are connected: high stocking density is a risk factor for overheating, i.e. especially in combination with high temperatures the risk for mortality is increased.

Legal requirements

Council Regulation **EC 1/2005**: Requirements associated with thermal control are specified in:

{Articles 3-6}: planning, considering weather conditions
{Annex I, Chapter II, Article 1,}: requirements regarding the vehicle

{Annex I, Chapter III, Article 2.6}: ventilation

Further requirements addressing thermal control during long transports (> 8 hours) are given in:

{Annex I, Chapter VI, Article, 1.2}: bedding


{Annex I, Chapter VI, Article 3.1}: range of temperature within the vehicle

{Annex I, Chapter VI, Article 3.2}: ventilation

{Annex I, Chapter VI, Article 3.3}: temperature monitoring system

{Annex I, Chapter VI, Article 3.4}: temperature warning system

Requirements associated with space allowance:

{Article 3-6}: provision of sufficient floor area and safety during transport. 

{Annex I, Chapter II, Article 1.1}: avoidance of injury and suffering

{Annex I, Chapter II, Article 1.2}: sufficient space when in a naturally standing position without hindering natural movement.

{Annex I, Chapter VII, D. Pigs}: all pigs must at least be able to lie down and stand up in their natural position.

Note: Listed requirements are paraphrasing the literal text of the regulation and are not comprehensive. Moreover, there might be stricter national legislation in place. For a more detailed description on the specific requirements, see the "[Review of climate control and space allowance during transport of pigs](#)"

Inspection method (recommended)

- The transporter plans transport based on size of vehicle and number and size of animals to be transported.
- During animal transports temperature and humidity should be recorded and records should be made available on request of the official inspector. Stocking density should be measured and reported on request of the inspector.
- The inspector checks for dead animals at stops and during unloading.
- The inspector reports findings to the transporter and in case of discrepancies between legal requirements and situation during transport corrective actions are taken to ensure the situation complies with legal requirements in the future.



Death is indicated by cessation of breathing and absence of a pulse (cardiac arrest). All animals which are found dead on the floor in the truck or die during unloading are considered dead on arrival.

Pigs found dead on arrival



©Aarhus University

Source for the assessment method: [Animal Transport Guides](#)



Co-funded by
the European Union



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

FRIEDRICH-LOEFFLER-INSTITUT



Bundesforschungsinstitut für Tiergesundheit
Federal Research Institute for Animal Health



EU Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare *Pigs*

If you have any questions or
suggestions regarding this factsheet
please contact info.pigs@eurcaw.eu