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What does fatigue indicate?

- Fatigued pigs are pigs without obvious injury or disease showing signs of acute stress that result from exhaustion.
- Fatigue can have many causes or is often multifactorial, it has been associated with or can be exacerbated by lack of space allowance, i.e. high stocking density during transport.
- Insufficient space per animal to allow for normal behaviour can result in an inability to lay down and rest and thereby result in fatigued animals.



Legal requirements



Council Regulation **EC 1/2005**: Requirements associated with space allowance are specified in:

{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, i.e. the loading density for pigs of around 100 kg should not exceed 235 kg/m².

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)

- Transporter plans transport based on size of vehicle and number and size of animals to be transported. Driver records space allowance during/after loading and checks animals for signs of fatigue during stops and unloading.
- Depending on when inspection is done, inspector checks space allowance during/after loading or during unloading. Animals are checked for signs of fatigue during unloading.
- Inspector reports findings to 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.

Space allowance per pig



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To check space allowance per pig, inspectors can divide total weight (truck's axle weight minus empty weight) by the available square meters or, if animals are not weighed, estimate weight and number of pigs, and compare with vehicle information.

Fatigued or exhausted pigs are reluctant to move, show respiratory distress (e.g. panting, see factsheet on heat stress), are moribund or show a generally reduced response to stimuli or reduced vigilance.

Sows showing signs of fatigue



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Scan the QR code to watch a video of a fatigued or exhausted pig.

The pig is reluctant to move, showing respiratory distress such as panting.



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Reference: adapted Animal Transport Guides <http://www.animaltransportguides.eu/>



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for Animal Welfare *Pigs*

For any questions or suggestions regarding this factsheet please contact info.pigs@eurcaw.eu