




What do fatigue and dead pigs indicate?


- Among many other reasons, fatigued or dead pigs during transport or in lairage pen is associated with a lack of space, i.e. high stocking density, or with thermal stress.
- Fatigued pigs are pigs showing signs of acute stress that result from exhaustion and are non-ambulatory. They may be **non-injured** or **injured** (e.g. lame pigs). 
- Pigs may be dead on arrival or die in lairage pens.

Legal requirements

Council Regulation (EC) **No 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, Point 1.1.a}: avoidance of injury and suffering.
{Annex I, Chapter II, Point 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.

Requirements associated with thermal control are specified in:
{Articles 3-6}: planning, considering weather conditions.
{Annex I, Chapter II, Point 1.}: requirements regarding the vehicle.
{Annex I, Chapter III, Point 2.6.}: ventilation.

Council Regulation (EC) **No 1099/2009**: Requirements associated with space allowance and thermal control are specified in:

{Chapter II, Article 3, Point 2.a-e}: provision of physical and thermal comfort, avoidance of injury, pain and fear.
{Annex III, Point 1.2.}: quick unloading after arrival.
{Annex III, Point 2.1.}: general provision for space allowance in lairage pens. 

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 on arrival and lairage management at pig slaughterhouses"](#).

Inspection method (recommended)

- The official inspector assesses fatigued pigs during unloading on truck.
- The inspector records if fatigued pigs are **injured or not**.
- The inspector assesses dead pigs on arrival (DOA) during unloading and dead pigs in lairage pens and takes records.
- If pigs show signs of fatigue or are dead, the inspector carries out further investigations concerning the causes for death.
- In case of infringements, the inspector reports findings to Business Operators (BOs) and/or Animal welfare officers (AWOs).
- In case of infringements, the inspector verifies the SOPs of the transport business and the slaughterhouse and corrective actions are carried out to ensure the situation complies with legal requirements in the future.



Fatigue



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High risk to welfare:

Fatigued or exhausted pigs are reluctant to move, show respiratory distress, are moribund or show a generally reduced response to stimuli or reduced vigilance.

Furthermore, assess if fatigued pigs are non-injured or injured:

Non-injured:

The pig is non-ambulatory, non-injured. The pig shows signs of fatigue but does not show any obvious sign of injury, trauma, or disease; and may be standing, sitting or more commonly lying down.

Injured:

The pig is non-ambulatory, injured. The pig shows signs of fatigue, is injured and shows obvious signs of injury, trauma, or disease.

Death



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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 as dead on arrival (DOA).

All animals which are found dead in the lairage pen are considered as dead in pens.

Sources for the assessment method: [Animal Transport Guides](#) & [McGlone et al., 2014](#)

Arrival management

Strict management for trucks upon arrival in respect to the schedule and the number of pigs being delivered and lairage capacities can shorten waiting times (< 0.5 h after arrival) of pigs on vehicles and minimise the risk of dead on arrival especially at high ambient temperatures.



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**EU Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare Pigs**

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