





©EURCAW-Pigs

What does lameness indicate?

- Pigs experience many movements during transportation and have to deal with unfamiliar floorings or ramps.
- Stressful loading procedures or transport situations may influence occurrence of limb lesions and the occurrence of lameness.
- Lameness will impede pigs' ability to walk e.g. down steep ramps at unloading and will be at disadvantage concerning access to water and food in lairage pens. 
- Lameness can indicate that pigs were not fit for transport.

Council Regulation (EC) **No 1099/2009**: Requirements associated with injuries and suffering:

{Chapter II, Article 3, Point 2.a-e}: prevention of injuries and pain. 

{Annex II, Point 2.5.}: prevention of injury and suffering from flooring.

{Annex III, Point 1.11.}: killing of animals, which are unable to walk.

Legal requirements

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](#)".

Council Regulation (EC) **No 1/2005**: Requirements associated with movements and design of floorings or ramps:

{Annex I, Chapter III, Point 1.3.a}: prevention of injury and suffering from flooring.

{Annex I, Chapter III, Point 1.4.a}: design of ramps.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 1.}: fit for transport.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 2.a}: fit for transport and ability to move.

Inspection method (recommended)

- Inspector assesses **lameness** while unloading from trucks and moving in lairage pen.
- Lameness shall only be assessed on passageways that are at least 3 meter long.
- In case lameness is indicated, the inspector evaluates the Business Operators' SOPs concerning monitoring and management of it and corrective actions are carried out to ensure the situation complies with legal requirements in the future.

Assess all pigs on individual level. Make all pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why a pig should not be made to rise). Gait scoring should be performed on non-slippery floors.

Score 0: No or slight lameness

Normal gait (fluid motion, even stride lengths, full weight bearing on all four legs),

Or

Slight lameness (stiff gait, shortened stride, increased spinal segment movement).



Score 1: Severe lameness

Minimum weight bearing on the affected limb(s), quick alternation between weight bearing and no weight bearing of affected limb(s) ("tipping"), no weight bearing on the affected limb(s).



Example videos of lame and not lame pigs.

Source scoring method and QR code: KTBL Leitfaden*

*Schrader, L.; Schubbert, A.; Rauterberg, S.; Czycholl, I.; Leeb, C.; Ziron, M.; Krieter, J.; Schultheiß, U.; Zapf, R. (2020): Tierschutzindikatoren: Leitfaden für die Praxis – Schwein. KTBL (Association for Technology and Structures in Agriculture), D-64289 Darmstadt, 2nd edition.

The project is supported by funds of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) based on a decision of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany via the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) under the innovation support programme.



© FLI



European Reference Centre
for Animal Welfare *Pigs*

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