

Reluctant to move & turning back

Handling and moving



What does turning back and reluctance to move indicate?

- Pigs showing reluctance to move and turning back during unloading or in passageways of lairage are usually experiencing fear and/or pain and distress due to the environment.
- Steep and slippery ramps and uneven conditions of floors in passageways may cause pigs be reluctant to move and/or turn back.
- Lame pigs and pigs that are not fit for transport are more likely to be reluctant to move.



Council Regulation (EC) **No 1099/2009**: Requirements associated with moving pigs pre-slaughter:

{Annex II, Point 2.1.a, b}: pigs shall move freely in the required direction using their biological characteristics. {Annex II, Points 2.2. and 2.5.}: lateral protection of ramps and non-slip floors. {Annex III, Points 1.8. and 1.9.}: no striking and kicking, no electric shocks.



Note: Listed requirements are paraphrasing the literal text of the regulations 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"](#).

Legal requirements



Council Regulation (EC) **No 1/2005**: Requirements associated with moving pigs pre-slaughter:

{Article 3.d}: loading and unloading facilities ensure safety of animals.

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

{Annex I, Chapter II, Points 1. and 2.}: unloading facilities prevent fear and injury.

{Annex I, Chapter III, Points 1.3. and 1.4.}: unloading facilities prevent distress and excitement; steepness of ramp.

{Annex I, Chapter III, Point 1.8.e}: handling of animals not causing pain, distress and suffering.

Inspection method (recommended)

- The official inspector assesses **reluctance to move and turning back** during handling and moving of pigs.
- If pigs are reluctant to move or turn back, the inspector evaluates the Business Operators' SOPs concerning monitoring and management of these indicators.
- In case of infringements, the inspector reports findings to Business Operators and/or Animal Welfare Officers.
- In case of infringements, the inspector verifies the SOPs of the slaughterhouse and corrective actions are carried out to ensure the situation complies with legal requirements in the future.

Conditions during handling and moving

Pigs must be handled gently during unloading and be moved in small groups following the leading pig. Loading and unloading ramps should have the minimum possible incline, floor surfaces must be non-slippery and management of noise, lighting and airflow must be adapted to pigs' biological behaviour, accordingly.



All pigs will be assessed at group level. The same animals can be scored for both 'turning back' and 'reluctance to move' at the same time.

Turning back is defined as when a pig facing towards the unloading zone turns around and faces the lorry area. It is not considered turning back when the animals that arrived to the end of the unloading area return.

Reluctance to move is defined as an animal that, during 2 seconds at least:

- Stops and does not explore
- Does not move the body
- Does not move the head

The final value is the number of animals showing turning back and reluctance to move behaviour in relation to the total number of individuals.

No risk to welfare: No reluctance to move and turning back



High risk to welfare: Reluctance to move and turning back

Scan the QR code to watch a video of pigs showing reluctance to move and turning back during unloading at the slaughterhouse. These pigs usually experience fear and/or pain and distress due to the environment.



Source for the assessment method: Welfare Quality® protocol



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suggestions regarding this factsheet
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