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What do slipping and falling indicate?

- Pigs experience many movements during transportation and have to deal with unfamiliar floorings and ramps.
- Stressful unloading procedures and/or steep and slippery ramps and passageways in lairage may cause pigs to slip and/or fall while being moved.
- Slipping and falling can cause injuries and fear and stops pigs from moving forward freely during unloading, in passageways and while being moved to the stunning file. 
- Lamé pigs and pigs that are not fit for transport are more likely to slip and fall.


Prevention of falling and slipping

Bridges, ramps and gangways must be fitted with sides, railings or some other means of protection to prevent animals falling off them. Loading and unloading ramps should have the minimum possible incline. Passageways must have floor coverings which minimise the risk of slipping and be constructed as to minimise the risk of injury to animals.

Legal requirements



Council Regulation (EC) **No 1/2005**: Requirements associated with moving of pigs pre-slaughter: {Annex I, Chapter II, Point 1.1.d}: prevent falling and escaping during unloading. {Annex I, Chapter III, Point 1.3.a}: prevention of injury and suffering from flooring.

{Annex I, Chapter III, Point 1.4.a, b}: design of ramps, lateral protection to prevent falling and escaping. {Annex I, Chapter I, Point 1.}: fit for transport. 

Council Regulation (EC) **No 1099/2009**: Requirements associated with moving of pigs pre-slaughter: {Chapter II, Article 3, Point 2.a, d}: Prevention of falling and slipping. {Annex II, Point 2.5.}: prevention of risk of slipping, falling and injury.

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](#)".

Inspection method (recommended)

- Inspector assesses **slipping and falling** during unloading from trucks, and handling and moving.
- If pigs fall or slip, the inspector evaluates the Business Operators' SOPs concerning monitoring and management.
- 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.

The same animals can be scored for slipping and falling at the same time. All pigs within one group will be considered:

- Slipping is defined as a loss of balance, without (a part of) the body touching the floor.
- Falling is defined as loss of balance in which any part(s) of the body (except the legs) touch the floor. An animal slipping while it is falling will only be considered as falling. In addition, an animal is considered as falling only if it was previously standing up.

The final value will be the number of animals slipping and falling in relation to the total number of individuals.

No slipping or falling



Slipping

Scan the QR code to watch a video of several pigs slipping when being unloaded at the slaughterhouse.



Falling

Scan the QR code to watch a falling pig during unloading at the slaughterhouse.



Source scoring method: adapted from the Welfare Quality® protocol