

Training guide EURCAW-Pigs: suggestions for national training in EU Member States

EURCAW-Pigs provides a training course example as a sort of standard for each of the eight welfare focus topics in our Work Programme 2019-2020. The diversity of the different MS on how training is organized in general has to be taken into account: Hence, 'standards' for training will not fit all national needs, but need to be adjusted to the different contexts in the EU member states (MS).

Subject: Stunning and bleeding at slaughterhouses

Learning goals:

After the course, the participants will have gained:

- Knowledge about the intention of the EU-legislation (Protection of animals at the time of killing).
- Updated knowledge about handling of pigs when moved and restrained for stunning under different settings.
- Updated knowledge about approved methods for stunning and bleeding.
- Knowledge on key technical parameters to monitor when assessing the equipment used for the different methods for stunning (technical stunning parameters and operational capability).
- Knowledge about animal based indicators to assess the stunning and bleeding process.
- Practical training in using the EURCAW indicators and identifying failures in the processes.
- Knowledge about necessary measures in case of failures (backup procedures, instructions for troubleshooting and optimization of stunning and bleeding).
- Knowledge about challenges in relation to communication with abattoir workers during inspection.

Suggested programme and suggested training material for training course Stunning and bleeding at slaughterhouses

Suggested programme	Suggested course materials
<p>9:00-9:30 Welcome</p> <p>Welcome, participants present themselves. Presentation of learning goals by course leader</p> <p>9:30- 11:00 Presentation by expert</p> <p>Pig behaviour in relation to moving and restraining. How can this be done with the least negative effect on the animal?</p> <p><i>Plenum Discussion/ Questions</i></p>	<p>EURCAW-pigs website (Link)</p> <p>Preparation: Read: Review on pig welfare in slaughterhouses around the time of stunning and bleeding EURCAW-Pigs scientific output, 2021 (Link)</p> <p>Recommended animal handling guidelines & audit guide: A systematic Approach to Animal welfare, Grandin, 2019 (Link)</p>
<p>11:00-11:15 Coffee break</p>	
<p>11.15-13.00 Presentation by expert</p> <p>Introduction to the approved stunning methods (electrical-, controlled atmosphere- and mechanical methods) and technical parameters to monitor during inspection.</p> <p><i>Plenum Discussion/ Questions</i></p>	<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (Link)</p> <p>Scientific Opinion on the welfare of pigs at slaughter, EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare, EFSA Journal, 18(6):6148, 113 pp., 2020 (Link)</p> <p>Indicator factsheets on stunning and bleeding, EURCAW-Pigs, 2021 (Link)</p> <p>Welfare indicators, EURCAW-Pigs dossier on pig stunning and bleeding (Link)</p>
<p>13:00-14:00 Lunch</p>	
<p>14:00- 15:30 Case-based work in groups</p> <p>Assessing animal-welfare during stunning and killing – Animal based indicators. Suggested cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Head-to-body electrical stunning of sows. 2) Head-to-body electrical stunning of slaughter pigs (semi- automated and automated systems). 	<p>Indicator factsheets on stunning and bleeding, EURCAW-Pigs, 2021 (Link)</p> <p>Welfare indicators, EURCAW-Pigs dossier on pig stunning and bleeding (Link)</p>

<p>3) Head-only electrical stunning of slaughter pigs.</p> <p>4) CO₂ stunning of sows in a paternoster system.</p> <p>5) CO₂ stunning of slaughter pigs in a paternoster system.</p> <p>6) CO₂ stunning of slaughter pigs in a dip-lift system.</p>	
<p>15:30-15:45 Coffee break</p>	
<p>15:45-17:00 Plenum discussion with expert on the cases</p> <p>What does the legislation say? – focus on areas brought forward from participants.</p> <p>➔ opportunity for participants to ask questions and discuss cases from practice.</p>	
<p>17:00-19:00 Break and evening meal</p>	
<p>19:00-21:00 Evening session on communication</p> <p>What are the challenges for inspectors to communicate with the staff (Business Operators, Animal Welfare Officers and others) at the slaughterhouse?</p> <p>Subjects can for instance be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disagreement between inspectors and staff in relation to legislation about stunning/bleeding - find examples that can be used in discussing communication between inspectors and staff. • Discussion about possible change of specific systems at the slaughterhouse in relation to stunning/bleeding and how does it affect the relationship between animals, systems, staff and inspectors? • What are the challenges in relation to change? What role can inspectors play in relation to change? <p><i>Group work and Discussion</i></p> <p>Course wrap up and evaluation</p>	<p>Preparation: Read: Farmers, inspectors and animal welfare: possibilities for change: A Review, EURCAW-Pigs, 2020 (Link)</p> <p>Improving communication – relevant tools and resources, EURCAW-Pigs, 2020 (Link)</p> <p>Watch: Video-recorded interview with inspector focusing on challenging situation during welfare inspection in slaughterhouses, EURCAW-Pigs website (forthcoming)</p>