



What does lameness indicate?

- Lameness is the reduced ability of an animal to use one or more limbs in normal manner.
- Lameness may be more challenged when ramps (during loading and unloading) must be passed, as well as a larger risk of losing balance during journey.
- Lameness may experience additional pain when transported and their condition may deteriorate during journey.
- Pigs with severe lameness or unable to walk are unfit for transport.



{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 4.}: separation, veterinary treatment and/or killing of animals falling ill or being injured during transport.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 5.}: use of sedatives.



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 "[Fitness for Transport](#)".

Legal requirements



Council Regulation (EC) **1/2005**: Requirements associated with lameness:

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 1.}: only fit animals shall be transported.

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

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 3.a}: no additional suffering for slightly injured or ill animals.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 3.b}: transportation as part of a research programme.

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 3.c}: transportation under veterinary supervision for treatment or diagnosis.

Inspection method (recommended)

- In case the planned journey is less than 8h, farmer and livestock driver have to assess fitness for transport before and during loading.
- In case the journey is more than 8 h, an inspector additionally has to be present at loading to assess fitness for transport of pigs.
- In any case, pigs will be assessed for **lameness**.
- Inspector reports findings to the farmer and/or livestock driver, and in case of discrepancies between legal requirements and situation during loading and transport corrective actions are taken 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.

Please note: Pigs unable to walk are in general unfit for transport.

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 (KTBL Leitfaden*)

*Schrader, L.; Schubert, 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.

Source scoring method: adapted from *KTBL Leitfaden



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