





## What does lameness indicate?

- Lameness is the reduced ability of an animal to use one or more limbs in a normal manner.
- Lameness may be more challenging when ramps must be passed (during loading and unloading), and are at greater risk of losing balance during the journey.
- Lameness may experience additional pain when transported and their condition may deteriorate during journeys.
- Pigs with severe lameness and/or which are unable to walk unassisted 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 unassisted.

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

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 3.b}: transportation of animals used for scientific purposes.

{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 official inspector has to be present at loading to assess fitness for transport of pigs.
- In either case, pigs will be assessed for **lameness**.
- The 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 an individual level. Make all pigs stand up if necessary to observe them standing and walking (unless there is an obvious reason why a pig should not be made to stand). Gait scoring should be performed on non-slippery floors.

### No or low risk to welfare: 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).**



### High risk to welfare: 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.; Schubbert, A.; Rauterberg, S.; Czyncholl, 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.

Source for the assessment method: adapted from \*KTBL Leitfaden



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