

Prolapses

Pathological processes



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What do prolapses indicate?

- A prolapse describes a condition, where an organ is protruding from the body.
- In pigs prolapses of rectal or uterine tissues are relevant, but usually occur sporadically.
- Prolapse of the rectum may indicate stress due to cold and/or transport or enteric disorders.
- Prolapse of the uterus mostly occurs in sows close to parturition and can be followed by prolapse of the rectum.
- Prolapsed organs can be easily damaged causing pain and profuse bleeding, why those pigs 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 prolapses:

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

{Annex I, Chapter I, Point 2.b.}: unfit animals present severe open wounds, or prolapse.

{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 **prolapses**.
- 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 for rectal and/or uterine prolapses:

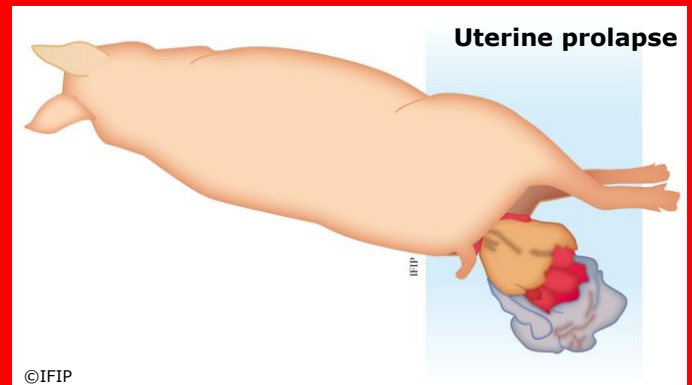
- A rectal prolapse is defined as extrusion of internal tissue from the rectum. Note that the first visible sign of a rectal prolapse is often blood on the faeces.
- A uterine prolapse is defined as extrusion of the uterus or part of the uterus from the vulva.

The animals should be examined from the rear, checking for the presence of swelling or extrusion of tissue from the rectum.

No risk to welfare: No evidence of prolapse



High risk to welfare: Evidence of prolapse



Sources for the assessment method: Welfare Quality® Protocol and Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Pigs



Co-funded by
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If you have any questions or
suggestions regarding this factsheet
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