

B9 Specific requirements for the land transport of pigs

Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risks to the welfare of pigs during transport.

SB9.1	Time off water must not exceed the time periods given below:								
	<table><thead><tr><th>Class</th><th>Maximum time off water (hours)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Pigs</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>Lactating sows and piglets</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>weaners</td><td>12</td></tr></tbody></table>	Class	Maximum time off water (hours)	Pigs	24	Lactating sows and piglets	12	weaners	12
Class	Maximum time off water (hours)								
Pigs	24								
Lactating sows and piglets	12								
weaners	12								
SB9.2	Journey time may be extended to 48 hours only under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) pigs must have access to water on the vehicleii) there must be space for all pigs to lie downiii) pigs must be assessed regularly to be fit for the remainder of the intended journeyiv) pigs must be provided with water, food and rest for 24 hours before starting another journey.								
SB9.3	If pigs have been off water for the maximum time permitted, they must be provided with water, food and rest for 12 hours before starting another journey.								
SB9.4	Electric prodders must not be used on pigs.								
SB9.5	Approved methods for humane destruction are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) for pigs are firearm aimed in the frontal or temporal position, captive bolt aimed in the frontal positionii) for piglets less than 15 kilograms are blunt trauma, firearm, captive bolt or lethal injection.								

Note

Unloading for spells should be avoided for welfare and biosecurity reasons. However, spells longer than 4 hours can be deducted from the total water deprivation time. A spell less than 4 hours is not recommended or recognised for water deprivation time calculation, but can be taken as necessary.

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of pigs during transport.

Fitness

- GB9.1³ Health conditions that could cause pig welfare to decline during transport and should be considered unfit for transport include any of the following:
- lameness conditions where a pig can place weight on all legs
 - tail bite
 - fresh rectal, vaginal or perineal prolapse
 - umbilical, scrotal or traumatic hernias which touch the ground or are ulcerated or injured.
- GB9.2 Transporting sows about to farrow or more than 80 days pregnant should be avoided. Transport of sows should be over short distances. Additional care should be provided, and may include space to lie down on the vehicle, and appropriate feed and water.
- GB9.3 Transport of lactating sows with piglets should be avoided. If transported, the lactating sows should be segregated from all other pigs and the piglets protected appropriately. Additional care should be provided, and may include space to lie down on the vehicle, and appropriate feed and water.

Food and water

- GB9.4 Upon unloading, pigs should be fed and watered within 24 hour intervals in accordance with the relevant standards for production, saleyard and processing sectors.
- GB9.5 Spells during transport of pigs should be avoided due to the risks of poor welfare associated with unloading and reloading and for biosecurity reasons. For rest stops or unexpected stops, arrangements should be made to protect pigs from the extremes of heat and cold, and provide them with water and feed as necessary.

Loading densities

- GB9.6 The following space allowances based on the standing position specified in the table below should be provided:

Average liveweight (kg)	Space allowance (m ² /head) ^a
50	0.22
75	0.29
100	0.35
125	0.42
150	0.48
175	0.55
200	0.61
225	0.68
250	0.74
275	0.81
300	0.87

^a Based on the standing position

³ This information is based on a yet unpublished, pictorial, fit-to-load guide from Portec Australia, which will be used as a reference once published.

- GB9.7 Care should be taken to provide adequate space so that pigs can lie down on transport, particularly when planning for extended journeys.

Vehicles and facilities

- GB9.8 In hot weather, strategies should be considered to minimise heat stress and avoid windburn and sunburn. As a guide, 5% fewer pigs should be loaded in very hot weather.

Note

Other strategies should include, but are not restricted to, deferring loading or travel during cooler times of the day or at night; using tarpaulins and shade cloth, hoses, sprays, misters; wetting bedding in accordance with biosecurity regulations, providing water; and making sure vehicles transporting pigs are not stationary.

- GB9.9 In cold weather, loading strategies that minimise cold stress should be considered for classes of pigs that are likely to be more at risk (eg piglets).

Note

These strategies should include, but are not restricted to, using vehicles with enclosed fronts; covering sides of the vehicle with tarpaulins or other cover; and providing bedding according to biosecurity regulations.

- GB9.10 Appropriate flooring should be provided when transporting pigs longer than 24 hours. This should include, but is not restricted to, rubber matting, bedding or other material as may be appropriate. There should be a cleaning program for livestock crates in accordance with biosecurity regulations.
- GB9.11 The loading ramp should be appropriate to the vehicle and allow optimal movement of pigs. Ideally, ramps should be 900–1000 mm wide and 20 degrees or less in slope.
- GB9.12 The space between the pig and the roof or upper deck should be sufficient to allow clearance at the top of the rump.

Handling

- GB9.13 Pigs should be handled quietly at all times. Pigs should be managed as far as is reasonably possible to ensure that aggression between pigs does not lead to injury or stress during assembly, mixing, loading, penning on the vehicle, transport and unloading.
- GB9.14 When handling or moving pigs, stockpersons should use their body position.

Humane destruction

- GB9.15 For adult pigs, a rifle should deliver at least the power of a standard 0.22 magnum cartridge. For older boars and sows, a 0.30-calibre firearm should be used. For piglets, a rifle should deliver at least the power of a standard 0.22-long rifle cartridge and should be aimed in the frontal or temporal positions. Figure B9.1 shows the optimum position for humane destruction of pigs.
- GB9.16 The chest stick should be used as the preferred method of bleeding out.

GB9.17 Pithing of pigs is dangerous and is not recommended.

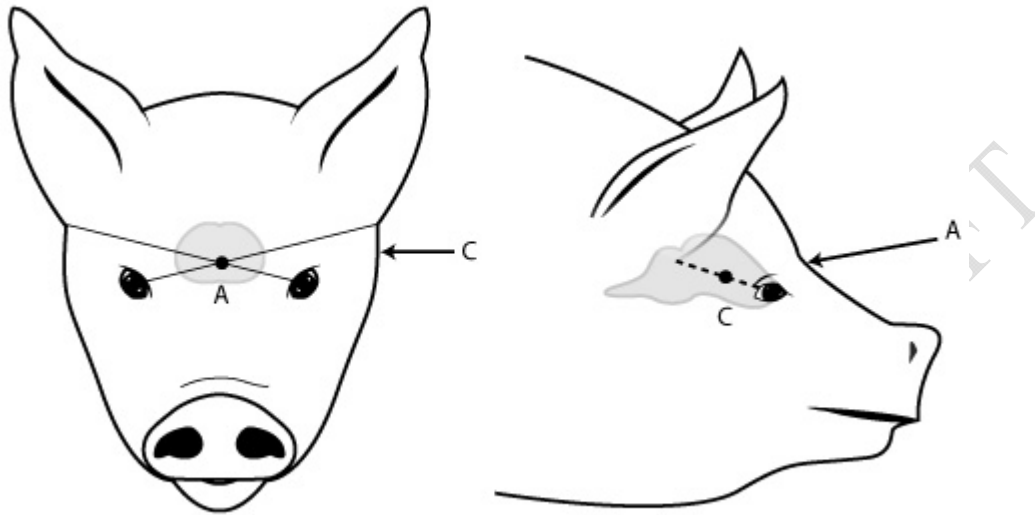


Figure B9.1 Recommended positions for humane destruction of pigs

Note: (A) indicates the frontal method and (C) indicates the temporal method. The dots indicate the point of aim and the arrows indicate the direction of aim for the positions. The aim point for the frontal position is low on the forehead. The positioning lines go from the outside base of the ears to the eyes.