

Terrestrial Animal Health Code: Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals

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Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport
by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

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World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



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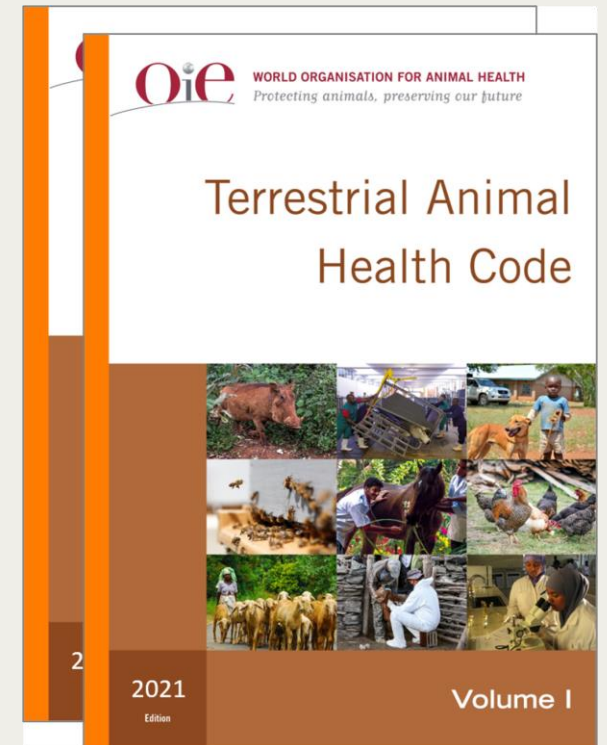




TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE

SECTION 7. ANIMAL WELFARE

- 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare
- 7.2. Transport of animals by sea
- 7.3. Transport of animals by land
- 7.4. Transport of animals by air
- 7.5. **Slaughter of animals**
- 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes
- 7.7. Dog population management
- 7.8. Use of animals in research and education
- 7.9. Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems
- 7.10. Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems
- 7.11. Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems
- 7.12. Welfare of working equids
- 7.13. Animal welfare and pig production systems
- 7.14. Killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products



Chapter 7.5 - Slaughter of animals

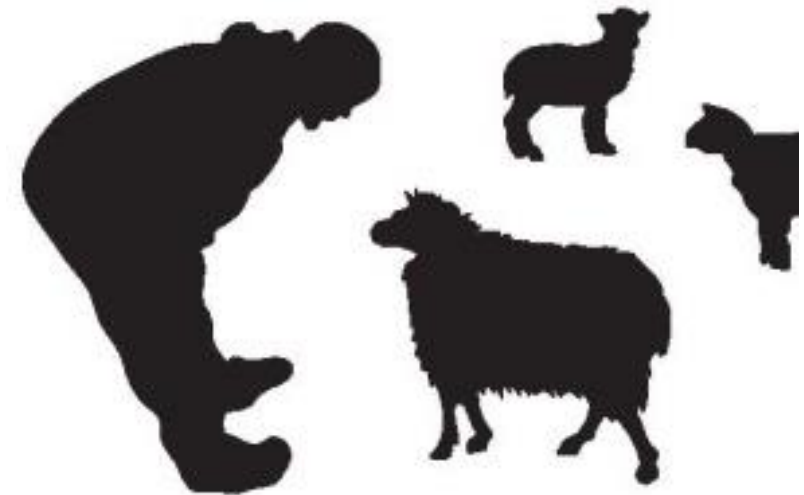
- **General principles**
 - staff competence
 - animal behavior
 - distraction
- **Key specific provisions**
 - Handling of animals
 - Lairage
 - Restraint, stunning and bleeding or bleeding only
 - Unacceptable practices





PERSONNEL

- **Personnel – important role:**
unloading, moving, lairage, care, restraint, stunning, slaughter and bleeding of animals
- sufficient number of personnel
- patient, considerate,
- competent and familiar with the recommendations
- **Competence - formal training and/or practical experience (certificate from the CA or from an independent body accredited by the CA)**
- **Role of management of the slaughterhouse and the Veterinary Services**

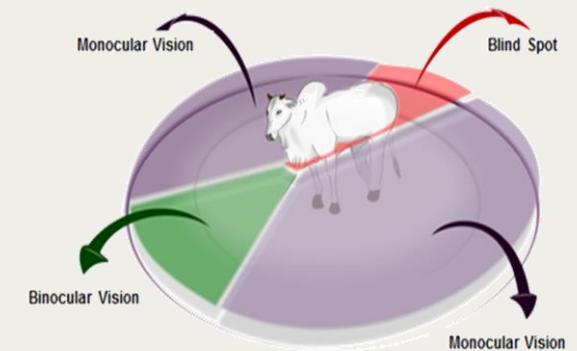
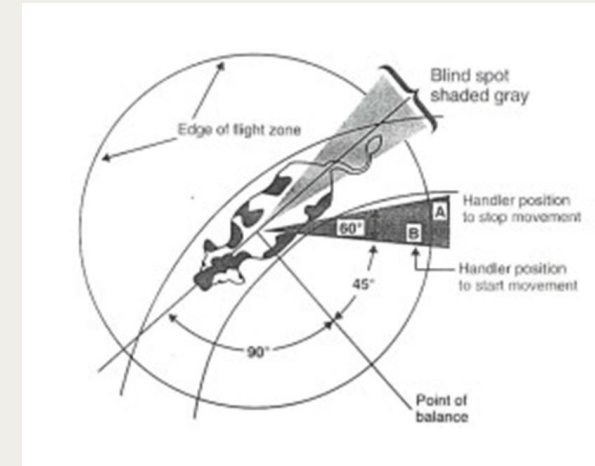




Animal behaviour

Importance of understanding animal behavior and sensory modalities

- handling (e.g., concept of flight zone and point of balance)
- design of facilities and minimize distractions that may cause approaching animals to stop, baulk or turn back.



42 Hz	Pigs	40.5 kHz
32 Hz	Cattle	37 kHz
125 Hz	Sheep	42 kHz
20 Hz	Human	20 kHz



DISTRACTIONS

understanding visual,
audial and physical
distractions in both design
of premises and handling





MOVING AND
HANDLING
ANIMALS

Animal welfare plan that includes:

- standard operating procedures
- monitoring and evaluation based on relevant indicators (vocalization, falls, slips, use of prods)
- include corrective actions
- and contingency actions for specific risks



LAIRAGE AND CARE ABOUT ANIMALS IN LAIRAGES

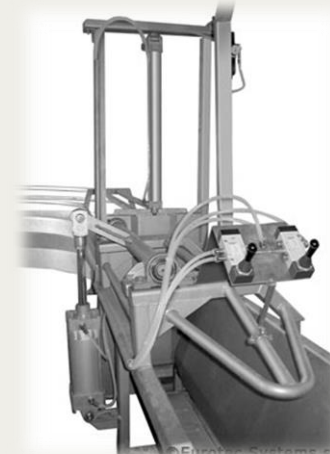
- CAPACITY appropriate to each species
- ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER
- Protection from adverse weather conditions
- Avoid mixing herds from different sources
- LIGHTING adequate for proper inspection
- Design to facilitate handling and movement of animals





RESTRAINT

Summary analysis of handling and restraining methods and the associated animal welfare issues





SLAUGHTER WITH AND WITHOUT STUNNING

Summary analysis of slaughter methods and the associated animal welfare issues

- Any mechanical, electrical, chemical or other procedure which causes immediate loss of consciousness...
- Both stunning and non stunning practices are described in detail



STUNNING METHODS

MECHANICAL

- Free bullet
- Captive bolt - penetrating
- Captive bolt – non penetrating
- Manual percussive blow

ELECTRICAL

- Split applications
- Single application
- Waterbath

GASEOUS

- CO₂ air/O₂ mixture
- CO₂ inert gases mixture
- Inert gases



SLAUGHTER WITH STUNNING

The competence of the operators, the appropriateness and effectiveness of the method, and the maintenance of the equipment are the responsibility of the management of the plant, but should be checked regularly by a Competent Authority.

- adequate restrain,
- the equipment used for stunning is operated properly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations,
- the equipment is applied correctly
- animals are not stunned when slaughter is likely to be delayed
- backup stunning devices are available for immediate use



EFFECTIVENESS OF STUNNING

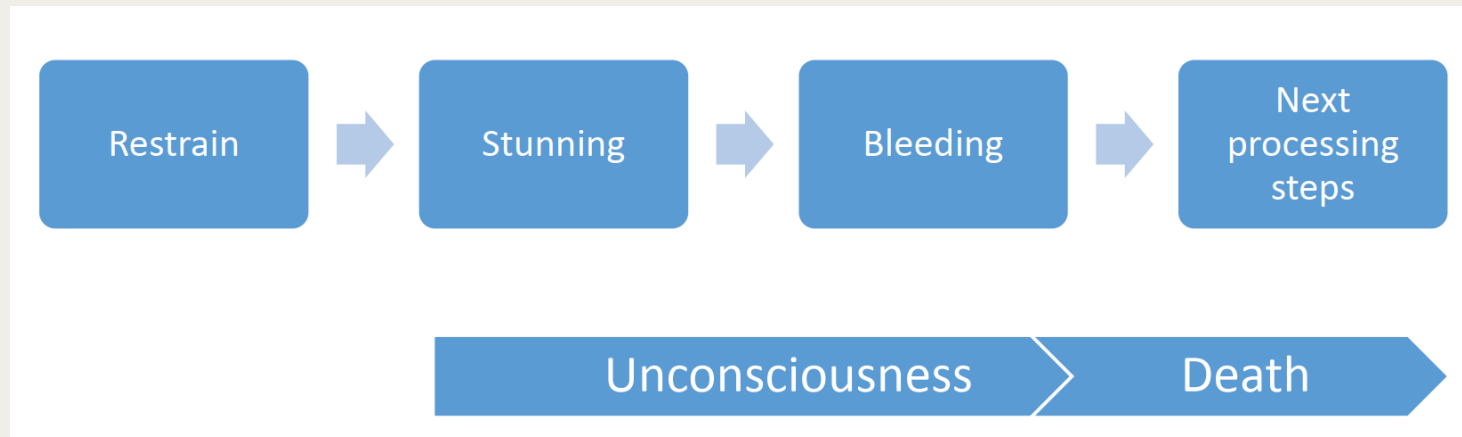
- the animal collapses immediately and does not attempt to stand up
- the body and muscles of the animal become (rigid) immediately after the shot
- normal rhythmic breathing stops
- the eyelid is open with the eyeball facing straight ahead and is not rotated





BLEEDING

- Animals which are stunned with a reversible method should be bled without delay.
- Maximum stun-stick interval depends on the parameters of the stunning method applied, the species concerned and the bleeding method used.
- All animals should be bled out by incising both carotid arteries.
- As a consequence, depending on those factors, the slaughterhouse operator should set up a maximum stun-stick interval that ensures that no animals recover consciousness during bleeding.





UNACCEPTABLE
METHODS,
PROCEDURES
OR PRACTICES

- electrical stunning method with a single application leg to leg is ineffective
- brain stem severance by piercing through the eye socket or skull bone without prior stunning
- restraining methods through electro-immobilization or immobilisation by injury such as breaking legs, tendon cutting, and severing the spinal cord (e.g. using a puntilla or dagger)





OIE improved animal welfare programme

- [Training in Jordan \(for participants from Egypt and Jordan\), January – March 2014](#)
- [Training in Turkey, June - August 2013](#)
- [Training in Oman \(for participants from Lebanon, Yemen and Oman\), May - September 2014](#)

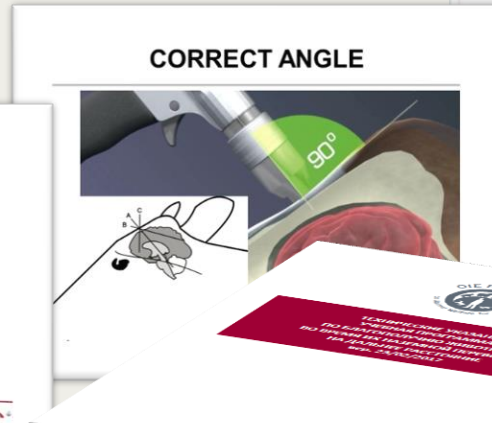
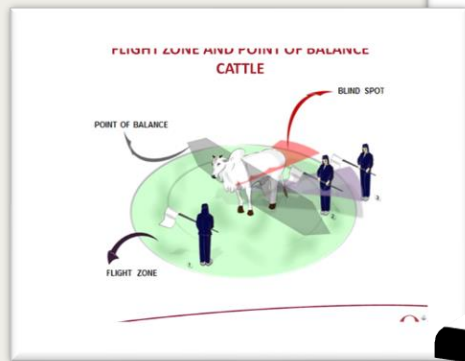
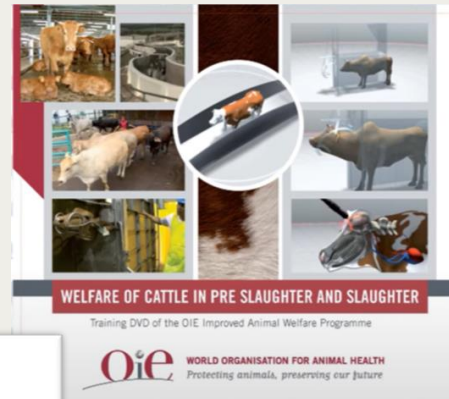


Australian Government
Department of Agriculture



Training materials

- 11 training modules
- Set of group work exercises
- Technical Note



- Introduction to animal welfare
- Behaviour of farm animals
- Animal handling
- Loading and transport of animals
- Arrival to the slaughterhouse and ante-mortem inspection
- Lairages, design and care for animals in lairages
- Restraint
- Mechanical stunning and bleeding of cattle
- Electrical stunning and bleeding of sheep and pigs
- Mechanical stunning and bleeding of sheep and pigs
- Gas stunning/killing of pigs
- Slaughter of cattle and sheep without stunning
- Animal Welfare and Meat Quality



REVISION CHAPTER 7.5 SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

September 2023 meeting report

<https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2023/10/a-tahsc-september-2023-report.pdf>

- ❑ **Chapter 7.5.** Slaughter of animals and related definitions; Presented for comments and adoption at the 2024 WOAHS GS. Annex 10 and Annex 4 (Glossary) of the Report.
- ❑ **Chapter 7.1.** Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare; Presented for comments (Inclusion of the ‘Five domains’ concept and clarification of the use of the terms animal-based measures and other measures). Annex 29 of the Report.



REVISION CHAPTER 7.5 SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

What is new

- ❑ **New title: Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter of animal.**
- ❑ **Chapter divided in two main categories of animals:**
 - ❑ free moving animals
 - ❑ animals in containers
- ❑ **Structure for each operation and method presented:**
 - ❑ 1.) Animal welfare concerns
 - ❑ 2.) Animal-based and other measures
 - ❑ 3.) Recommendations
 - ❑ 4.) Species-specific recommendations

Thank you

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