

WOAH TAHC Chapter 7.5. Animal Welfare during slaughter

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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STRUCTURE OF THE CHAPTER

- ☐ Introduction
- ☐ Scope
- ☐ Definition
- ☐ Hazards to animal welfare
- ☐ Measures
- ☐ Training and competency of personnel
- ☐ Design of premises and choice of equipment
- ☐ Throughput
- ☐ Maintenance and cleaning procedures
- ☐ Emergency plans
- ☐ Arrival of free-moving animals
- ☐ Handling of free-moving animals
- ☐ Lairage of free-moving animals
- ☐ Restraint for stunning or bleeding (free-moving animals)
- ☐ General principles for stunning of free-moving animals and animals in containers
- ☐ Mechanical stunning of free-moving animals
- ☐ Electrical stunning in free-moving animals
- ☐ Controlled atmosphere stunning in free-moving animals
- ☐ Bleeding of free-moving animals
- ☐ Slaughter of pregnant free-moving animals
- ☐ Emergency killing of free-moving animals
- ☐ Methods, procedures or practices that should not be used for free-moving animals
- ☐ Arrival of animals in containers
- ☐ Moving of animals in containers
- ☐ Lairage of animals in containers
- ☐ Unloading animals from containers before stunning
- ☐ Restraint for stunning animals from containers
- ☐ Head-only electrical stunning of animals in containers
- ☐ Electrical water-bath stunning for poultry
- ☐ Mechanical stunning of animals arriving in containers
- ☐ Controlled atmosphere stunning for animals in containers
- ☐ Bleeding of animals arriving in containers
- ☐ Emergency killing of animals arriving in containers
- ☐ Methods, procedures or practices that should not be used for animals arriving in containers

SCOPE

- ❑ Chapter divided in two main categories of animals:

- ❑ free moving animals



- ❑ animals in containers



STRUCTURE OF THE ARTICLES

- ❑ Animal welfare concerns
- ❑ Animal-based and other measures
- ❑ Recommendations
- ❑ Species-specific recommendations

Animal welfare concerns

Hazard	Welfare Consequences
FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES	
Slippery floors, high slopes	Handling stress General fear
High temperature, high humidity, high stocking density	Thermal stress
MANAGEMENT	
No access to water, dry hot weather	Prolonged thirst
Mixing, high stocking density,	Injuries
Electrical goads	Pain induced by management procedure

Animal-based and other measures

- Measure the actual effect on the animals
- Higher validity
- Lower reliability and feasibility

Welfare consequence	ABMs
Thermal stress	Shivering, huddling, panting
Handling stress	Slipping, falling
Sensory stress	Reluctant to move, turning back

Recommendations and Species-specific

Arrival of free-moving animals recommendations

3. Recommendations

- Animals should be unloaded promptly on arrival. This is facilitated by scheduling the arrival of the animals at the slaughterhouse/abattoir to ensure that there are sufficient personnel and adequate space in the unloading or lairage area.
- Consignments of animals whose welfare is at greater risk of being compromised should be unloaded first. When no space is immediately available, creating space should be a priority. Provision should be made to provide shelter, shade or additional ventilation during waiting periods, or animals should be transported to an alternative nearby location where such provision is available.
- Animals should not be isolated throughout the slaughter process, except under specific conditions, such as for aggressive or sick animals.
- Animals should be provided with drinking water as soon as possible after unloading.
- Animals that have undergone long or arduous journeys, are sick or injured, are lactating or pregnant and neonatal animals should be slaughtered as a priority and without delay.

4. Species-specific recommendations

- Some species such as pigs and shorn sheep are especially sensitive to extreme temperatures and therefore special attention should be paid when dealing with delays in unloading sensitive animals. This may include careful consideration of transport plans to time arrival and processing, provision of additional means of temperature and humidity control.

SUMMARY

CHAPTER 7.5 – ANIMAL WELFARE DURING SLAUGHTER

- Identifies welfare concerns and potential hazards for arrival and unloading, lairage, handling, restraint, stunning and bleeding.
- Provides animal-based measures to assess the level of welfare.
- Provides general and species-specific recommendations.
- Applies to free-moving animals and animals in containers.
- The principles underpinning these recommendations should also be applied to the slaughter of other species and those slaughtered in other places.
- This chapter should be read in conjunction with the guiding principles for animal welfare provided in Chapter 7.1., Chapter 7.14. killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products and with relevant provisions of Chapters 6.2. and 6.3.

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Thank you!

Merci

Gracias

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