LAND TRANSPORT OF PIGS

STANDARDS

Derived from The Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals – Livestock Transport version 1.1

1 Responsibilities and planning

SA1.1 A person in charge must exercise a duty of care to ensure the welfare of pigs under their control and compliance with the livestock transport standards.

The responsibility for pig welfare in the transport process is:

i) the consignor for the:
   a) mustering and assembling of pigs; and
   b) handling; and
   c) preparation, including inspection and selection as ‘fit for the intended journey’; and
   d) feed and water provision; and
   e) holding periods before loading; and

ii) the transporter is responsible for:
   a) the loading including final inspection during loading as ‘fit for the intended journey’; and
       b) the loading density; and
   c) additional inspections of the pigs; and
   d) unloading

iii) the master of the marine vessel is responsible for the pigs on roll-on/roll-off livestock transport vehicles during a sea journey

iv) the receiver after unloading.

SA1.2 If a person in charge reasonably expects the journey time to exceed 24 hours, the transporter must possess a record which is accessible at the road side and that specifies:

i) the date and time that the pigs last had access to water; and

ii) the date and time of pigs inspections and any welfare concerns and actions taken; and

iii) emergency contacts.

A person in charge who is transferring responsibility for pigs to be further transported for a total journey time of longer than 24 hours must provide a record with this information to the next person in charge.

2 Stock-handling competency

SA2.1 A person involved in any part of the pig transport process must be competent to perform their required task, or must be supervised by a competent person.

3 Transport vehicles and facilities for pigs

SA3.1 A person in charge must ensure that the vehicles and livestock handling facilities are constructed, maintained and operated in a way that minimises risk to the welfare of pigs. Vehicles and facilities must:

i) be appropriate to contain pigs; and

ii) have effective airflow; and

iii) have flooring that minimises the likelihood of injury or of pigs slipping or falling; and

iv) be free from internal protrusions and other objects that could cause injury; and

v) have sufficient vertical clearance for pigs to minimise the risk of injury.
4 Pre-transport selection of pigs

SA4.1 Pigs must be assessed as fit for the intended journey at every loading by a person in charge. A pig is not fit for a journey if it is:
   i) unable to walk on its own by bearing weight on all legs; or
   ii) severely emaciated; or
   iii) visibly dehydrated; or
   iv) showing visible signs of severe injury or distress; or
   v) suffering from conditions that are likely to cause increased pain or distress during transport; or
   vi) blind in both eyes; or
   vii) known to be, or visually assessed to be near (within two weeks) parturition, unless time off water and journey is less than four hours duration to another property.

SA4.2 Any pig assessed to be not fit for the intended journey must only be transported under veterinary advice.

SA4.3 The consignor must only supply pigs that are fit for the intended journey.

SA4.4 A person in charge must not load, nor permit to be loaded, pigs that are not fit for the intended journey except under veterinary advice.

SA4.5 If an pig is assessed to be not fit for the intended journey before loading, a person in charge must make appropriate arrangements for the care, treatment or humane destruction of the pig at the first reasonable opportunity.

5. Loading, transporting and unloading pigs

SB9.1 A person in charge must ensure time off water does not exceed the time periods given below for each class of pig:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Maximum time off water (hours)</th>
<th>Minimum Spell duration (hours)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactating sows and piglets</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaners</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SB9.2 and SA5.1 If pigs have been off water for the maximum time permitted, the person in charge must ensure the pigs are provided with a spell for 12 hours (water, food, space to lie down and rest) before continuing the current journey or before starting another journey.

SB9.3 Journey time may be extended to 72 hours only if each of the following conditions are satisfied:
   i) pigs must have access to water and food on the vehicle within every 24 hours; and
   ii) there must be space for all pigs to lie down; and
   iii) pigs must be assessed regularly to be fit for the remainder of the intended journey; and
   iv) pigs must be provided with water, food and rest for 24 hours before starting another journey.

SA5.2 The person in charge must manage time off water to minimise risk to the welfare of the pigs according to:
   i) the increased risk to their welfare of longer journeys close to the permitted maximum time off water; and
   ii) the assessment of whether the pigs are fit for the remainder of the intended journey; and
iii) the predicted climatic conditions, especially heat or cold; and
iv) the class of pigs, especially if weak, pregnant, recently having given birth, lactating or immature; and
v) the nature of the intended journey.

SA5.3 If no records are provided indicating the last time the pigs had access to water, pigs at a livestock handling facility (saleyard, spelling facility or staging point) must be provided with reasonable access to water by the person in charge within 24 hours at the facility, or within the maximum time off water relevant class of pig if this is less than 24 hours.

SA5.4 The driver must assess the loading density for each pen or division in the livestock crate. The assessment is based on average live weight of the intended loading, and must be managed to minimise risk to the welfare of the pigs.
Determination of loading density must consider all of the following factors:
i) class
ii) size and body condition
iii) predicted climatic conditions
iv) nature of the intended journey
v) design and capacity of the vehicle.

SA5.5 The driver must have the final decision on the loading density.

SA5.6 The driver must segregate pigs by sufficient internal partitions to minimise risk to their welfare.
Determination of segregation must consider all the following factors:
i) class and size
ii) general health of the pigs
iii) level of aggression
iv) nature of the intended journey.

SA5.7 A person who handles pigs in the transport process must do so in a manner that is appropriate to the class, and minimises pain or injury. Specifically:
i) pigs must not be lifted by only the head, ears, neck or tail; or
ii) pigs must not be lifted off the ground by a single leg, they weigh less than 15 kilograms; or
iii) mechanical lifting of pigs must ensure that the pig is supported or secured as necessary; or
iv) pigs must not be thrown or dropped; or
v) pigs must not be struck in an unreasonable manner, punched or kicked; or
vi) pigs which are unable to stand must not be dragged, except in an emergency to allow safe handling, lifting, treatment or humane destruction.

SB9.4 A person loading, transporting or unloading pigs must not use an electric prodder except where:
i) individual pigs weigh 60 kgs (live weight) or more; and
ii) other reasonable action to cause movement have failed; and
iii) there is reasonable risk to the safety of the driver or the pig(s) and (SA5.8) a person who handles pigs in the transport process must not use an electric prodder:
i) on genital, anal or facial areas; or
ii) on pigs that are unable to move away; or
iii) excessively on an animal.

SA5.9 A person in charge must ensure that a dog is under control at all times during loading, transporting and unloading pigs.

SA5.10 A transporter must ensure that a dog is not transported in the same pen as pigs.
SA5.11 A person in charge must ensure that a dog that habitually bites is muzzled if working with pigs.

SA5.12 A transporter must ensure that the ramp and the vehicle are properly aligned, and that any gap between the ramp and the vehicle is sufficiently narrow to minimise the likelihood of injury to pigs during loading and unloading.

SA5.13 The transporter must:
   i) inspect the pigs crate immediately before departure, to ensure that doors are closed and secured; and
   ii) inspect the receival yard immediately before unloading, to ensure that there is free access and sufficient space for the pigs intended to be unloaded; and
   iii) take reasonable steps to notify a receiver of the arrival of the pigs at the destination.

SA5.14 The transporter must inspect pigs:
   i) on the vehicle before departure; and
   ii) except when pigs travel on roll-on/roll-off livestock transport vehicles during a sea journey, within the first hour of the journey and then at least every three hours or at each driver rest stop, whichever comes first; and
   iii) at unloading; and
   iv) at each driver or vehicle change over stop.

SA5.15 Upon identifying a distressed or injured pig at an inspection, a person in charge must provide or seek assistance at the first reasonable opportunity. Weak, ill or injured pigs must be identified to the person receiving the pigs.

SA5.16 A person in charge must take reasonable steps to minimise the impact of extreme weather conditions on the welfare of pigs during the transport process.

SA5.17 The receiver of pigs must make arrangements at the first reasonable opportunity for separating weak, ill or injured pigs for rest and recovery, appropriate treatment, or humane destruction and disposal of dead stock.

6 Humane destruction

SA6.1 A person in charge must ensure that humane destruction methods result in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious.

SA6.2 A person in charge must ensure a moribund pig is humanely destroyed by a competent person or under the direct supervision of a competent person at the first reasonable opportunity.

SA6.3 If a competent person is not immediately available to humanely destroy a pig, the person in charge must arrange for a competent person to carry out the procedure at the first reasonable opportunity; unless it is in the welfare interest of the pig and a competent person is not immediately available, and the person considers they have the capability to destroy it.

SA6.4 A person humanely destroying a pig must take reasonable action to confirm it is dead.

SA6.5 A person must only use blunt trauma to the forehead to destroy a piglet up to 15 kg live weight.

SA6.6 Pigs must not be destroyed by bleeding-out by neck cut.