CHAPTER 7.5.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

(Article 7.5.1.)
(Article 7.5.2.)
(Article 7.5.3.)
(Article 7.5.4.)
(Article 7.5.5.)
(Article 7.5.6.)
(Article 7.5.7.)

Stunning methods

1. General considerations

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

Persons carrying out stunning should be properly trained and competent, and should ensure that:

a) the animal is adequately restrained;

b) animals in restraint are stunned as soon as possible;

c) the equipment used for stunning is maintained and operated properly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, in particular with regard to the species and size of the animal;

d) the equipment is applied correctly;

e) stunned animals are bled out (slaughtered) as soon as possible;

f) animals are not stunned when slaughter is likely to be delayed; and

g) backup stunning devices are available for immediate use if the primary method of stunning fails.

Provision of a manual inspection area and simple intervention like captive bolt or cervical dislocation for poultry would help prevent potential welfare problems.

In addition, such persons should be able to recognise when an animal is not correctly stunned and should take appropriate action.

2. Mechanical stunning

A mechanical device should be applied usually to the front of the head and perpendicular to the bone surface. For a more detailed explanation on the different methods for mechanical stunning, see Chapter 7.6. and Articles 7.6.6., 7.6.7. and 7.6.8. The following diagrams illustrate the proper application of the device for certain species.

Signs of correct stunning using a mechanical instrument are as follows:

a) the animal collapses immediately and does not attempt to stand up;

b) the body and muscles of the animal become tonic (rigid) immediately after the shot;

c) normal rhythmic breathing stops; and

d) the eyelid is open with the eyeball facing straight ahead and is not rotated.
Captive bolts powered by cartridges, compressed air or spring can be used for poultry. The optimum position for poultry species is at right angles to the frontal surface.

Firing of a captive bolt in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions should lead to immediate destruction of the skull and the brain and, as a result, immediate death.

3. [...] 

4. [...] 

5. [...] 

Figure 1. The optimum position for cattle is at the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn from the rear of the eyes to the opposite horn buds.
**Figure 2.** The optimum position for pigs is on the midline just above eye level, with the shot directed down the line of the spinal cord.

**Pigs**

![Pig Diagram]

**Figure 3.** The optimum position for hornless sheep and goats is on the midline.

**Sheep**

![Sheep Diagram]

**Goats**

**Figure 4.** The optimum position for heavily horned sheep and horned goats is behind the poll, aiming towards the angle of the jaw.
Figure 5. The optimum position for horses is at right angles to the frontal surface, well above the point where imaginary lines from eyes to ears cross.

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