

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

USA Comments

CHAPTER 7.5.

**SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS**

Article 7.5.1.

**General principles**

1. ...

- f) When using goads and other aids, the following principles should apply:
- i) *Animals* that have little or no room to move should not be subjected to physical force or goads and other aids which compel movement. Electric goads and prods should only be used in extreme cases and not on a routine basis to move *animals*. The use and the power output should be restricted to that necessary to assist movement of an *animal* and only when an *animal* has a clear path ahead to move. Goads and other aids should not be used repeatedly if the *animal* fails to respond or move. In such cases it should be investigated whether some physical or other impediment is preventing the *animal* from moving.
  - ii) The use of such devices should be limited to battery-powered goads on the hindquarters of pigs and large ruminants, and never on sensitive areas such as the eyes, mouth, ears, anogenital region or belly. Such instruments should not be used on horses, sheep and goats of any age, or on calves or piglets.
  - iii) Useful and permitted goads include panels, flags, plastic paddles, flappers (a length of cane with a short strap of leather or canvas attached), plastic bags and metallic rattles; they should be used in a manner sufficient to encourage and direct movement of the *animals* without causing undue stress.
  - iv) Painful procedures (including whipping, tail twisting, use of nose twitches, pressure on eyes, ears or external genitalia), or the use of goads or other aids which cause pain and suffering (including large sticks, sticks with sharp ends, lengths of metal piping, fencing wire or heavy leather belts), should not be used to move *animals*.
  - v) Excessive shouting at *animals* or making loud noises (e.g. through the cracking of whips) to encourage them to move should not occur, as such actions may make the *animals* agitated, leading to crowding or falling.
  - vi) *Animals* should be grasped or lifted in a manner which avoids pain or suffering and physical damage (e.g. bruising, fractures, dislocations). In the case of quadrupeds, manual lifting by a person should only be used in young *animals* or small species, and in a manner appropriate to the species; grasping or lifting such *animals* only by their wool, hair, feathers, feet, neck, ears, tails, head, horns, limbs causing pain or suffering should not be permitted, except in an emergency where *animal welfare* or human safety may otherwise be compromised.

- vii) Conscious *animals* should not be thrown, dragged or dropped.
- viii) Performance standards should be established to evaluate the use of such instruments. Numerical scoring may be used to measure the percentage of animals moved with an electric instrument and the percentage of animals slipping or falling at a point in the slaughterhouse. Any risk of compromising animal welfare, for example slippery floor, should be investigated immediately and the defect rectified to eliminate the problem. In addition to resource-based measures, outcome-based measures (e.g. bruises, lesions, behaviour, and mortality) should be used to monitor the level of welfare of the animals.

**Rationale to amending Article 7.5.2.1.f)viii:** The language of the deleted text is duplicated in Article 7.5.2.1.g below, therefore it is unnecessary.

- g) ~~Performance standards should be established to evaluate the use of such instruments. Numerical scoring may be used to measure the percentage of *animals* moved with an electric instrument and the percentage of *animals* slipping or falling at a point in the *slaughterhouse*. Any risk of compromising *animal welfare*, for example slippery floor, should be investigated immediately and the defect rectified to eliminate the problem. In addition to resource-based measures, outcome-based measures (e.g. bruises, lesions, behaviour, and mortality) should be used to monitor the level of *welfare* of the *animals*.~~

## 2. Specific considerations for poultry

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Article 7.5.4.

### Care of animals in lairages

...

- 6. ~~If *animals* are not to be slaughtered within 12 hours of their arrival as soon as possible, suitable feed should be available to the *animals* on arrival and at intervals appropriate to the species.~~ Unweaned *animals* should be slaughtered as soon as possible.

**Rationale for amending Article 7.5.4, Point 6:**

The language of the deleted text is duplicated in Point 14 below, therefore is unnecessary.

7. ...

- 14. Waiting time on the transport vehicle should be minimised, and the time to processing should not exceed 12 hours ~~when if no food or water is provided during waiting.~~ Water should be accessible to the animals at all times during holding after unloading.

**Rationale for amending Article 7.5.4, Point 14:** Transport vehicles are not designed or intended to be a holding facility for animals prior to slaughter. We are unable to identify a scientific basis on which to justify the exclusion of water from animals pre-slaughter, either for food safety or processing concerns.