

CHAPTER 7.5.  
**USA COMMENTS**

**SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS**

**General comment:** The header on many of the pages incorrectly reads “Item 12.b. Killing of animals for disease control purposes – Chapter 7.6.”

Article 7.5.1.

**General principles**

1. Object

These recommendations address the need to ensure the *welfare* of food *animals* during pre-slaughter and *slaughter* processes, until they are dead.

These recommendations apply to the *slaughter* in *slaughterhouses* of the following domestic *animals*: cattle, buffalo, bison, sheep, goats, camelids, deer, horses, pigs, ratites, rabbits and *poultry*. Other *animals*, wherever they have been reared, and all *animals* slaughtered outside *slaughterhouses* should be managed to ensure that their *transport*, *lairage*, *restraint* and *slaughter* is carried out without causing undue stress to the *animals*; the principles underpinning these recommendations apply also to these *animals*.

2. Personnel

Persons engaged in the *unloading*, moving, *lairage*, care, *restraint*, *stunning*, *slaughter* and bleeding of *animals* play an important role in the *welfare* of those *animals*. For this reason, there should be a sufficient number of personnel, who should be patient, considerate, competent and familiar with the recommendations outlined in the present chapter and their application within the national context.

Competence may be gained through formal training and/or practical experience. This competence should be demonstrated through a current certificate from the *Competent Authority* or from an independent body accredited by the *Competent Authority*.

The management of the *slaughterhouse* and the *Veterinary Services* should ensure that *slaughterhouse* staff are competent and carry out their tasks in accordance with the principles of *animal welfare*.

3. Animal behaviour

*Animal handlers* should be experienced and competent in handling and moving farm livestock, and understand the behaviour patterns of *animals* and the underlying principles necessary to carry out their tasks.

The behaviour of individual *animals* or groups of *animals* will vary, depending on their breed, sex, temperament and age and the way in which they have been reared and handled. Despite these differences, the following behaviour patterns which are always present to some degree in domestic *animals*, should be taken into consideration in handling and moving the *animals*.

Most domestic livestock are kept in groups and follow a leader by instinct.

*Animals* which are likely to harm each other in a group situation should not be mixed at *slaughterhouses*.

The desire of some *animals* to control their personal space should be taken into account in designing facilities.

Domestic *animals* will try to escape if any person approaches closer than a certain distance. This critical distance, which defines the flight zone, varies among species and individuals of the same species, and depends upon previous contact with humans. *Animals* reared in close proximity to humans i.e. tame have a smaller flight zone, whereas those kept in free range or extensive systems may have flight zones which may vary from one metre to many metres. *Animal handlers* should avoid sudden penetration of the flight zone which may cause a panic reaction which could lead to aggression or attempted escape.

*Animal handlers* should use the point of balance at the *animal's* shoulder to move *animals*, adopting a position behind the point of balance to move an *animal* forward and in front of the point of balance to move it backward.

Domestic *animals* have wide-angle vision but only have limited forward binocular vision and poor perception of depth. This means that they can detect objects and movements beside and behind them, but can only judge distances directly ahead.

Although most domestic *animals* have a highly sensitive sense of smell, they react in different ways to the smells of *slaughterhouses*. Smells which cause fear or other negative responses should be taken into consideration when managing *animals*.

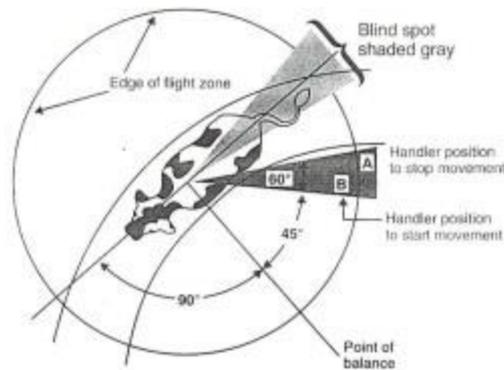
Domestic *animals* can hear over a greater range of frequencies than humans and are more sensitive to higher frequencies. They tend to be alarmed by constant loud noise and by sudden noises, which may cause them to panic. Sensitivity to such noises should also be taken into account when handling *animals*.

#### 4. Distractions and their removal

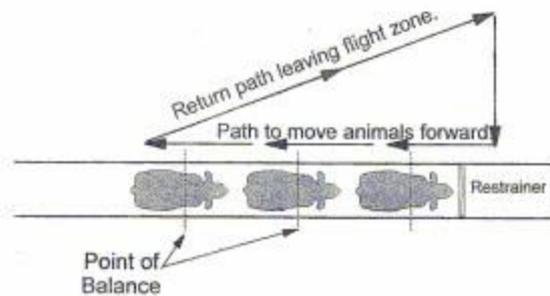
Distractions that may cause approaching *animals* to stop, baulk or turn back should be designed out from new facilities or removed from existing ones. Below are examples of common distractions and methods for eliminating them:

- a) reflections on shiny metal or wet floors – move a lamp or change lighting;
- b) dark entrances to chutes, races, stun boxes or conveyor restrainers – illuminate with indirect lighting which does not shine directly into the eyes of approaching *animals* or create areas of sharp contrast;
- c) *animals* seeing moving people or equipment up ahead – install solid sides on chutes and races or install shields;
- d) dead ends – avoid if possible by curving the passage, or make an illusory passage;
- e) chains or other loose objects hanging in chutes or on fences – remove them;
- f) uneven floors or a sudden drop in floor levels at the entrance to conveyor restrainers – avoid uneven floor surfaces or install a solid false floor under the restrainer to provide an illusion of a solid and continuous walking surface;
- g) sounds of air hissing from pneumatic equipment – install silencers or use hydraulic equipment or vent high pressure to the external environment using flexible hosing;
- h) clanging and banging of metal objects – install rubber stops on gates and other devices to reduce metal to metal contact;
- i) air currents from fans or air curtains blowing into the face of *animals* – redirect or reposition equipment.

**An example of a flight zone (cattle)**



**Handler movement pattern to move cattle forward**



Article 7.5.2.

**Moving and handling animals**

1. General considerations

Each *slaughterhouse* should have a dedicated plan for *animal welfare*. The purpose of such plan should be to maintain good level of *animal welfare* at all stages of the handling of *animals* until they are killed. The plan should contain standard operating procedures for each step of animal handling as to ensure that *animal welfare* is properly implemented based on relevant indicators. It also should include specific corrective actions in case of specific risks, like power failures or other circumstances that could negatively affect the *welfare of animals*.

*Animals* should be transported to *slaughter* in a way that minimises adverse animal health and *welfare* outcomes, and the transport should be conducted in accordance with the OIE recommendations for the transportation of *animals* (Chapters 7.2. and 7.3.).

The following principles should apply to *unloading animals*, moving them into *lairage* pens, out of the *lairage* pens and up to the *slaughter* point:

- a) The conditions of the *animals* should be assessed upon their arrival for any *animal welfare* and health problems.
- b) Injured or sick *animals*, requiring immediate *slaughter*, should be killed humanely and without delay, in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE.
- c) *Animals* should not be forced to move at a speed greater than their normal walking pace, in order to minimise injury through falling or slipping. Performance standards should be established where numerical scoring of the prevalence of *animals* slipping or falling is used to evaluate whether animal

moving practices and/or facilities should be improved. In properly designed and constructed facilities with competent *animal handlers*, it should be possible to move 99 percent of *animals* without their falling.

- d) *Animals* for *slaughter* should not be forced to walk over the top of other *animals*.
- e) *Animals* should be handled in such a way as to avoid harm, distress or injury. Under no circumstances should *animal handlers* resort to violent acts to move *animals*, such as crushing or breaking tails of *animals*, grasping their eyes or pulling them by the ears. *Animal handlers* should never apply an injurious object or irritant substance to *animals* and especially not to sensitive areas such as eyes, mouth, ears, anogenital region or belly. The throwing or dropping of *animals*, or their lifting or dragging by body parts such as their tail, head, horns, ears, limbs, wool, hair or feathers, should not be permitted. The manual lifting of small *animals* is permissible.
- 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, kicking, 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.
- 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

*Stocking density* in transport crates should be optimum to suit climatic conditions and to maintain species-specific thermal comfort within *containers*.

Care is especially necessary during *loading* and *unloading* to avoid body parts being caught on crates, leading to dislocated or broken bones in conscious birds. Such injuries will adversely affect *animal welfare*, carcass and *meat* quality.

Modular systems that involve tipping of live birds ~~are not conducive~~ require best management practices to maintain~~ing~~ good *animal welfare*. These systems, when used, should be incorporated with a mechanism to facilitate birds sliding out of the transport system, rather than being dropped or dumped on top of each other from heights of more than a metre.

**Rationale:** As originally written, the phrase “are not conducive” effectively eliminates modular systems that involve tipping as an acceptable OIE standard; hence reference to such systems should be removed from this Article. Alternatively, we have offered language that better reflects the content of Article 7.5.2.2.

Birds may get trapped or their wings or claws may get caught in the fixtures, mesh or holes in poorly designed, constructed or maintained transport systems. Under this situation, operators *unloading* birds should ensure gentle release of trapped birds.

Drawers in modular systems and crates should be stacked and de-stacked carefully so as to avoid injury to birds.

Birds should have sufficient space so that all can lie down at the same time without being on top of each other.

Birds with broken bones and/or dislocated joints should be humanely killed before being hung on shackles for processing.

The number of *poultry* arriving at the processing plant with broken bones and/or dislocated joints should be recorded in a manner that allows for verification. For *poultry*, the percentage of chickens with broken or dislocated wings should not exceed 2 percent, with less than 1 percent being the goal (under study).

### 3. Provisions relevant to animals delivered in containers

- a) *Containers* in which *animals* are transported should be handled with care, and should not be thrown, dropped or knocked over. Where possible, they should be horizontal while being loaded and unloaded mechanically, and stacked to ensure ventilation. In any case they should be moved and stored in an upright position as indicated by specific marks.
- b) *Animals* delivered in *containers* with perforated or flexible bottoms should be unloaded with particular care in order to avoid injury. Where appropriate, *animals* should be unloaded from the *containers* individually.
- c) *Animals* which have been transported in *containers* should be slaughtered as soon as possible; mammals and ratites which are not taken directly upon arrival to the place of *slaughter* should have drinking water available to them from appropriate facilities at all times. Delivery of *poultry* for *slaughter* should be scheduled such that they are not deprived of water at the premises for longer than 12 hours. *Animals* which have not been slaughtered within 12 hours of their arrival should be fed, and should subsequently be given moderate amounts of food at appropriate intervals.

### 4. Provisions relevant to restraining and containing animals

- a) Provisions relevant to *restraining animals* for *stunning* or *slaughter* without *stunning*, to help maintain *animal welfare*, include:
  - i) provision of a non-slippery floor;
  - ii) avoidance of excessive pressure applied by *restraining* equipment that causes struggling or vocalisation in *animals*;
  - iii) equipment engineered to reduce noise of air hissing and clanging metal;

- iv) absence of sharp edges in *restraining* equipment that would harm *animals*;
  - v) avoidance of jerking or sudden movement of *restraining* device.
- b) Methods of *restraint* causing avoidable suffering should not be used in conscious *animals* because they cause severe pain and stress:
- i) suspending or hoisting *animals* (other than *poultry*) by the feet or legs;
  - ii) indiscriminate and inappropriate use of *stunning* equipment;
  - iii) mechanical clamping of the legs or feet of the *animals* (other than shackles used in *poultry* and ostriches) as the sole method of *restraint*;
  - iv) breaking legs, cutting leg tendons or blinding *animals* in order to immobilise them;
  - v) severing the spinal cord, for example using a puntilla or dagger, to immobilise *animals* using electric currents to immobilise *animals*, except for proper *stunning*.

#### Article 7.5.3.

### Lairage design and construction

#### 1. General considerations

The *lairage* should be designed and constructed to hold an appropriate number of *animals* in relation to the throughput rate of the *slaughterhouse* without compromising the *welfare* of the *animals*.

In order to permit operations to be conducted as smoothly and efficiently as possible without injury or undue stress to the *animals*, the *lairage* should be designed and constructed so as to allow the *animals* to move freely in the required direction, using their behavioural characteristics and without undue penetration of their flight zone.

The following recommendations may help to achieve this.

#### 2. Design of lairage

- a) The *lairage* should be designed to allow a one-way flow of *animals* from *unloading* to the point of *slaughter*, with a minimum number of abrupt corners to negotiate.
- b) In red meat *slaughterhouses*, pens, passageways and races should be arranged in such a way as to permit inspection of *animals* at any time, and to permit the removal of sick or injured *animals* when considered to be appropriate, for which separate appropriate accommodation should be provided.
- c) Each *animal* should have room to stand up and lie down and, when confined in a pen, to turn around, except where the *animal* is reasonably restrained for safety reasons (e.g. fractious bulls). Fractious *animals* should be slaughtered as soon as possible after arrival at the *slaughterhouse* to avoid *welfare* problems. The *lairage* should have sufficient accommodation for the number of *animals* intended to be held. Drinking water should always be available to the *animals*, and the method of delivery should be appropriate to the type of *animal* held. Troughs should be designed and installed in such a way as to minimise the risk of fouling by faeces, without introducing risk of bruising and injury in *animals*, and should not hinder the movement of *animals*.
- d) Holding pens should be designed to allow as many *animals* as possible to stand or lie down against a wall. Where feed troughs are provided, they should be sufficient in number and feeding space to allow adequate access of all *animals* to feed. The feed trough should not hinder the movement of *animals*.
- e) Where tethers, ties or individual stalls are used, these should be designed so as not to cause injury or distress to the *animals* and should also allow the *animals* to stand, lie down and access any food or water that may need to be provided.
- f) Passageways and races should be either straight or consistently curved, as appropriate to the animal species. Passageways and races should have solid sides, but when there is a double race, the shared partition should allow adjacent *animals* to see each other. For pigs and sheep, passageways should be

wide enough to enable two or more *animals* to walk side by side for as long as possible. At the point where passageways are reduced in width, this should be done by a means which prevents excessive bunching of the *animals*.

- g) *Animal handlers* should be positioned alongside races and passageways on the inside radius of any curve, to take advantage of the natural tendency of *animals* to circle an intruder. Where one-way gates are used, they should be of a design which avoids bruising. Races should be horizontal but where there is a slope, they should be constructed to allow the free movement of *animals* without injury.
- h) In *slaughterhouses* with high throughput, there should be a waiting pen, with a level floor and solid sides, between the holding pens and the race leading to the point of *stunning* or *slaughter*, to ensure a steady supply of *animals* for *stunning* or *slaughter* and to avoid having *animal handlers* trying to rush *animals* from the holding pens. The waiting pen should preferably be circular, but in any case, so designed that *animals* cannot be trapped or trampled.
- i) Ramps or lifts should be used for the *loading* and *unloading* of *animals* where there is a difference in height or a gap between the floor of the *vehicle* and the *unloading* area. Unloading ramps should be designed and constructed so as to permit *animals* to be unloaded from *vehicles* on the level or at the minimum gradient achievable. Lateral side protection should be available to prevent *animals* escaping or falling. They should be well drained, with secure footholds and adjustable to facilitate easy movement of *animals* without causing distress or injury.

### 3. Construction of lairage

- a) *Lairages* should be constructed and maintained so as to provide protection from unfavourable climatic conditions, using strong and resistant materials such as concrete and metal which has been treated to prevent corrosion. Surfaces should be easy to clean. There should be no sharp edges or protuberances which may injure the *animals*.
- b) Floors should be well drained and not slippery; they should not cause injury to the feet of the *animals*. Where necessary, floors should be insulated or provided with appropriate bedding. Drainage grids should be placed at the sides of pens and passageways and not where *animals* would have to cross them. Discontinuities or changes in floor, wall or gate colours, patterns or texture which could cause baulking in the movement of *animals* should be avoided.
- c) *Lairages* should be provided with adequate lighting, but care should be taken to avoid harsh lights and shadows, which frighten the *animals* or affect their movement. The fact that *animals* will move more readily from a darker area into a well-lit area might be exploited by providing for lighting that can be regulated accordingly.
- d) *Lairages* should be adequately ventilated to ensure that waste gases (e.g. ammonia) do not build up and that draughts at animal height are minimised. Ventilation should be able to cope with the range of expected climatic conditions and the number of *animals* the *lairage* will be expected to hold.
- e) Care should be taken to protect the *animals* from excessively or potentially disturbing noises, for example by avoiding the use of noisy hydraulic or pneumatic equipment, and muffling noisy metal equipment by the use of suitable padding, or by minimising the transmission of such noises to the areas where *animals* are held and slaughtered.
- f) Where *animals* are kept in outdoor *lairages* without natural shelter or shade, they should be protected from the effects of adverse weather conditions.

#### Article 7.5.4.

### Care of animals in lairages

*Animals* in *lairages* should be cared for in accordance with the following recommendations:

- 1) As far as possible, established groups of *animals* should be kept together and each *animal* should have enough space to stand up, lie down and turn around. *Animals* hostile to each other should be separated.
- 2) Where tethers, ties or individual stalls are used, they should allow *animals* to stand up and lie down without causing injury or distress.

- 3) Where bedding is provided, it should be maintained in a condition that minimises risks to the health and safety of the *animals*, and sufficient bedding should be used so that *animals* do not become soiled with manure.
- 4) *Animals* should be kept securely in the *lairage*, and care should be taken to prevent them from escaping and from predators.
- 5) Suitable drinking water should be available to the *animals* on their arrival and at all times to *animals* in *lairages* unless they are to be slaughtered without delay.
- 6) Waiting time should be minimised and should not exceed 12 hours. If *animals* are not to be slaughtered within this period, 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.
- 7) In order to prevent heat stress, *animals* subjected to high temperatures, particularly pigs and *poultry*, should be cooled by the use of water sprays, fans or other suitable means. However, the potential for water sprays to reduce the ability of *animals* to thermoregulate (especially *poultry*) should be considered in any decision to use water sprays. The risk of *animals* being exposed to very cold temperatures or sudden extreme temperature changes should also be considered.
- 8) The *lairage* area should be well lit in order to enable the *animals* to see clearly without being dazzled. During the night, the lights should be dimmed. Lighting should also be adequate to permit inspection of all *animals*. Subdued lighting, and for example blue light, may be useful in *poultry lairages* in helping to calm birds.
- 9) The condition and state of health of the *animals* in a *lairage* should be inspected at least every morning and evening by a *veterinarian* or, under the *veterinarian's* responsibility, by another competent person, such as an *animal handler*. *Animals* which are sick, weak, injured or showing visible signs of distress should be separated, and veterinary advice should be sought immediately regarding treatment or the *animals* should be humanely killed immediately if necessary.
- 10) Lactating dairy *animals* should be slaughtered as soon as possible. Dairy *animals* with obvious udder distension should be milked to minimise udder discomfort.
- 11) *Animals* which have given birth during the *journey* or in the *lairage* should be slaughtered as soon as possible or provided with conditions which are appropriate for suckling for their *welfare* and the *welfare* of the newborn. Under normal circumstances, *animals* which are expected to give birth during a *journey* should not be transported.
- 12) *Animals* with horns, antlers or tusks capable of injuring other *animals*, if aggressive, should be penned separately.
- 13) *Poultry* awaiting *slaughter* should be protected from adverse weather conditions and provided with adequate ventilation.
- 14) *Poultry* in transport *containers* should be examined at the time of arrival. *Containers* should be stacked with sufficient space between the stacks to facilitate inspection of birds and air movement.
- 15) Forced ventilation or other cooling systems may be necessary under certain conditions to avoid build up of temperature and humidity. Temperature and humidity should be monitored at appropriate intervals.

Recommendations for specific species are described in detail in Articles 7.5.5. to ~~and to~~ 7.5.9~~69~~.

Article 7.5.5.

**Management of fetuses during slaughter of pregnant animals**

Under normal circumstances, pregnant *animals* that would be in the final 10 percent of their gestation period at the planned time of *unloading* at the *slaughterhouse* should be neither transported nor slaughtered. If such an event occurs, an *animal handler* should ensure that females are handled separately, and the specific procedures described below are applied. In all cases, the *welfare* of fetuses and dams during *slaughter* should be safeguarded.

Foetuses should not be removed from the uterus sooner than 5 minutes after the maternal neck or chest cut, to ensure absence of consciousness. A foetal heartbeat will usually still be present and foetal movements may occur at this stage, but these are only a cause for concern if the exposed foetus successfully breathes air.

If a live mature foetus is removed from the uterus, it should be prevented from inflating its lungs and breathing air (e.g. by clamping the trachea).

When uterine, placental or foetal tissues, including foetal blood, are not to be collected as part of the post-*slaughter* processing of pregnant *animals*, all foetuses should be left inside the unopened uterus until they are dead. When uterine, placental or foetal tissues are to be collected, where practical, foetuses should not be removed from the uterus until at least 15–20 minutes after the maternal neck or chest cut.

If there is any doubt about consciousness, the foetus should be killed with a captive bolt of appropriate size or a blow to the head with a suitable blunt instrument.

The above recommendations do not refer to foetal rescue. Foetal rescue, the practice of attempting to revive foetuses found alive at the evisceration of the dam, should not be attempted during normal commercial *slaughter* as it may lead to serious *welfare* complications in the newborn *animal*. These include impaired brain function resulting from oxygen shortage before rescue is completed, compromised breathing and body heat production because of foetal immaturity, and an increased incidence of infections due to a lack of colostrum.

Article 7.5.6.

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

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[DELETE TABLE]

	<u>Presentation of animals</u>	<u>Specific procedure</u>	<u>Specific purpose</u>	<u>Animal welfare concerns/ implications</u>	<u>Key animal welfare requirements</u>	<u>Applicable species</u>
<u>No restraint</u>	<u>Animals are grouped</u>	<u>Group container</u>	<u>Gas stunning</u>	<u>Specific procedure is suitable only for gas stunning</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers in lairage; facilities; stocking density</u>	<u>Pigs, poultry</u>
		<u>In the field</u>	<u>Free bullet</u>	<u>Inaccurate targeting and inappropriate ballistics not achieving outright kill with first shot</u>	<u>Operator competence</u>	<u>Deer</u>
		<u>Group stunning pen</u>	<u>Head-only electrical Captive bolt</u>	<u>Uncontrolled movement of animals impedes use of hand operated electrical and mechanical stunning methods</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers in lairage and at stunning point</u>	<u>Pigs, sheep, goats, calves</u>

	<u>Presentation of animals</u>	<u>Specific procedure</u>	<u>Specific purpose</u>	<u>Animal welfare concerns/ implications</u>	<u>Key animal welfare requirements</u>	<u>Applicable species</u>
<u>Restraining methods</u>	<u>Head restraint, upright</u>	<u>Halter/ head collar/bridle</u>	<u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Free bullet</u>	<u>Suitable for halter-trained animals; stress in untrained animals</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Cattle, buffalo, horses, camelids</u>
	<u>Individual animal confinement</u>	<u>Stunning pen/box</u>	<u>Electrical and mechanical</u> <u>Stunning methods</u>	<u>Loading of animal; accuracy of stunning</u> <u>Method, slippery floor and animal falling down</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Cattle, buffalo, Sheep, goats, Horses, pigs, deer, camelids, ratites</u>
	<u>Head restraint, upright</u>	<u>Neck yoke</u>	<u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Electrical- head only</u> <u>Free bullet</u> <u>Slaughter without stunning</u>	<u>Stress of loading and neck capture; stress of prolonged restraint, horn configuration; unsuitable for fast line speeds, animals struggling and falling due to slippery floor, excessive pressure</u>	<u>Equipment; competent animal handlers, prompt stunning or slaughter</u>	<u>Cattle</u>
	<u>Leg restraint</u>	<u>Single leg tied in flexion (animal standing on 3 legs)</u>	<u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Free bullet</u>	<u>Ineffective control of animal movement, misdirected shots</u>	<u>Competent animal handler</u>	<u>Breeding pigs (boars and sows)</u>
	<u>Upright restraint</u>	<u>Beak holding</u>	<u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Electrical- head only</u>	<u>Stress of capture</u>	<u>Sufficient competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Ostriches</u>
		<u>Head restraint in electrical stunning box</u>	<u>Electrical- head only</u>	<u>Stress of capture and positioning</u>	<u>Competent animal handler</u>	<u>Ostriches</u>
	<u>Holding body upright- manual</u>	<u>Manual restraint</u>	<u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Electrical- head only</u> <u>Slaughter without stunning</u>	<u>Stress of capture and restraint; accuracy of stunning/ slaughter</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Sheep, goats, calves, ratites, small camelids, poultry</u>
	<u>Holding body upright- mechanical</u>	<u>Mechanical clamp/crush/ squeeze/ V- restrainer (static)</u>	<u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Electrical methods</u> <u>Slaughter without stunning</u>	<u>Loading of animal and overriding; excessive pressure</u>	<u>Proper design and operation of equipment</u>	<u>Cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, deer, pigs, ostriches</u>
	<u>Lateral restraint- manual or mechanical</u>	<u>Restrainer/ cradle/crush</u>	<u>Slaughter without stunning</u>	<u>Stress of restraint</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Sheep, goats, calves, camelids, cattle</u>
	<u>Upright restraint- mechanical</u>	<u>Mechanical straddle (static)</u>	<u>Slaughter without stunning</u> <u>Electrical methods</u> <u>Captive bolt</u>	<u>Loading of animal and overriding</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs</u>
<u>Upright restraint- manual or mechanical</u>	<u>Wing shackling</u>	<u>Electrical</u>	<u>Excessive tension applied prior to stunning</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Ostriches</u>	

	<u>Presentation of animals</u>	<u>Specific procedure</u>	<u>Specific purpose</u>	<u>Animal welfare concerns/ implications</u>	<u>Key animal welfare requirements</u>	<u>Applicable species</u>
	<u>Head restraint, upright</u>	<u>Nose snare</u>	<u>Captive bolt, free bullet</u>	<u>Stress of prolonged restraint, snare must be positioned correctly around the upper mandible.</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>swine</u>
<u>Restraining and /or conveying methods</u>	<u>Mechanical – upright</u>	<u>V–restrainer</u>	<u>Electrical methods</u> <u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Slaughter</u> <u>without stunning</u>	<u>Loading of animal and overriding; excessive pressure, size mismatch between restrainer and animal</u>	<u>Proper design and operation of equipment</u>	<u>Cattle, calves, sheep, goats, pigs</u>
	<u>Mechanical – upright</u>	<u>Mechanical straddle–band restrainer (moving)</u>	<u>Electrical methods</u> <u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Slaughter</u> <u>without stunning</u>	<u>Loading of animal and overriding, size mismatch between restrainer and animal</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers; proper design and layout of restraint</u>	<u>Cattle, calves, sheep, goats, pigs</u>
	<u>Mechanical – upright</u>	<u>Flat bed/deck</u> <u>Tipped out of containers on to conveyors</u>	<u>Presentation of birds for shackling prior to electrical stunning</u> <u>Gas stunning</u>	<u>Stress and injury due to tipping in dump-module systems</u> <u>height of tipping</u> <u>conscious poultry</u> <u>broken bones and dislocations</u>	<u>Proper design and operation of equipment</u>	<u>Poultry</u>
	<u>Suspension and/or inversion</u>	<u>Poultry shackle</u>	<u>Electrical stunning</u> <u>Slaughter</u> <u>without stunning</u>	<u>Inversion stress; pain from compression on leg bones</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers; proper design and operation of equipment</u>	<u>Poultry</u>
	<u>Suspension and/or inversion</u>	<u>Cone</u>	<u>Electrical – head-only</u> <u>Captive bolt</u> <u>Slaughter</u> <u>without stunning</u>	<u>Inversion stress</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers; proper design and operation of equipment</u>	<u>Poultry</u>
	<u>Upright restraint</u>	<u>Mechanical leg clamping</u>	<u>Electrical – head-only</u>	<u>Stress of resisting restraint in ostriches</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers; proper equipment design and operation</u>	<u>Ostriches</u>
	<u>Restraining by inversion</u>	<u>Rotating box</u>	<u>Fixed side(s) (e.g. Weinberg pen)</u>	<u>Slaughter</u> <u>without stunning</u>	<u>Inversion stress; stress of resisting restraint, prolonged restraint, inhalation of blood and ingesta</u> <u>Keep restraint as brief as possible</u>	<u>Proper design and operation of equipment</u>
<u>Rotating box (contd)</u>		<u>Compressible side(s)</u>	<u>Slaughter</u> <u>without stunning</u>	<u>Inversion stress, stress of resisting restraint, prolonged restraint</u> <u>Preferable to rotating box with fixed sides</u> <u>Keep restraint as brief as possible</u>	<u>Proper design and operation of equipment</u>	<u>Cattle</u>

**Rationale:** Snout snares for swine are a common and safe practice, and should be included. These snares are typically constructed of wire or rope. The handler places the looped end into the mouth of the pig and closes the loop around the upper mandible by pulling back and tightening. The pig is then restrained and the method of stunning/slaughter can be applied. If used, this method of restraint is most appropriate for captive bolt or free bullet. The use of this restraint method requires the animal handler to properly position the snare and to minimize the length of time the pig is restrained. The use of these snares greatly increases reliability of applying the euthanasia method (i.e., penetrating captive bolt or free bullet) to the correct location on the head. Use of these snares also improves worker safety.

	<u>Presentation of animals</u>	<u>Specific procedure</u>	<u>Specific purpose</u>	<u>Animal welfare concerns/ implications</u>	<u>Key animal welfare requirements</u>	<u>Applicable species</u>
<u>Body restraint</u>	<u>Casting/hobbling</u>	<u>Manual</u>	<u>Mechanical stunning methods Slaughter without stunning</u>	<u>Stress of resisting restraint; animal temperament; bruising. Keep restraint as short as possible</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Sheep, goats, calves, small camelids, pigs</u>
		<u>Rope casting</u>	<u>Mechanical stunning methods Slaughter without stunning</u>	<u>Stress of resisting restraint; prolonged restraint, animal temperament; bruising. Keep restraint as short as possible</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Cattle, camelids</u>
<u>Leg restraints</u>		<u>Tying of 3 or 4 legs</u>	<u>Mechanical stunning methods Slaughter without stunning</u>	<u>Stress of resisting restraint; prolonged restraint, animal temperament; bruising. Keep restraint as short as possible</u>	<u>Competent animal handlers</u>	<u>Sheep, goats, small camelids, pigs</u>

Article 7.5.767.

## 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:

- the *animal* is adequately restrained;
- animals* in *restraint* are stunned as soon as possible;
- 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*;
- the equipment is applied correctly;
- stunned *animals* are bled out (slaughtered) as soon as possible;
- animals* are not stunned when *slaughter* is likely to be delayed; and
- 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<sup>56</sup>, 7.6.7<sup>67</sup>, and 7.6.8<sup>78</sup>. The following diagrams illustrate the proper application of the device for certain species.

**Cattle**

**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.

**Cattle**

**Stunning with a penetrative captive bolt stunning gun**

The optimum position for stunning cattle with a penetrative captive bolt stunning gun is at the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn from the rear outside corner of the eyes to the base of the opposite horn buds or an equivalent position in polled animals. Gun has to be positioned in a right angle so that the muzzle is perpendicular to the skull.

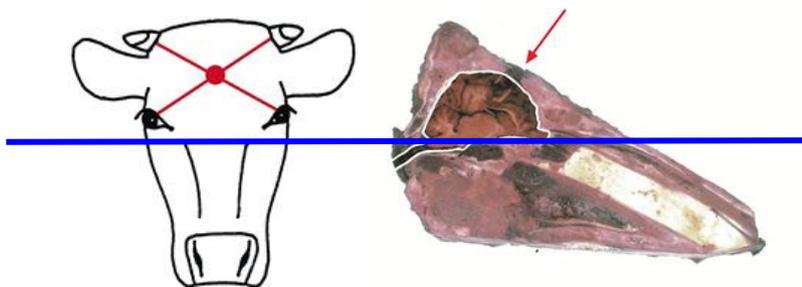
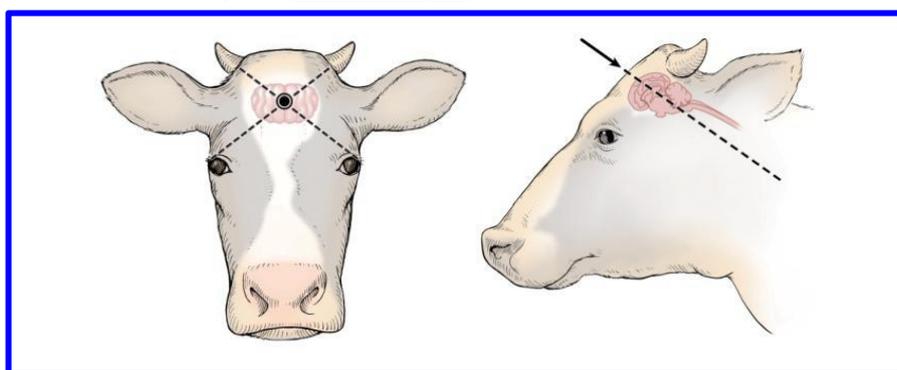


Figure source: Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, United Kingdom ([www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)).



**Rationale:** The recommended text reflects the most recent research on positioning firearms for cattle. The material currently cited by the Code is almost a decade old. In addition, 'right angle' does not provide sufficient guidance because it does not specify an orientation point from which the right angle should be achieved. The United States also recommends updating the figures, and will be happy to assist with obtaining the needed permission for publication.

**Figure 2. Stunning with a non-penetrative captive bolt stunning gun**

The optimum position for stunning cattle with a non-penetrative captive bolt stunning gun is 2 cm above the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn from the rear outside corner of the eyes to the base of the opposite horn buds or an equivalent position in polled animals. Gun has to be positioned in a right angle so that the muzzle is perpendicular to the skull.

△

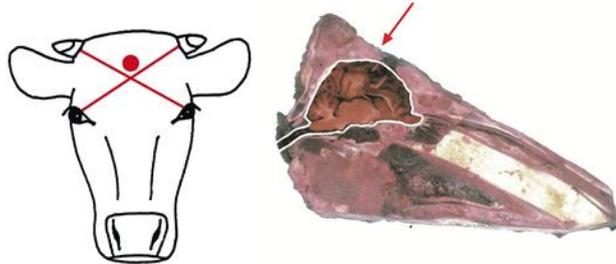


Figure source : Temple Grandin. [www.grandin.com](http://www.grandin.com)

**Rationale:** The recommended text reflects the most recent research on positioning of firearms for cattle. The material currently cited in the *Code* is almost a decade old. In addition, 'right angle' does not provide sufficient guidance because it does not specify an orientation point from which the right angle should be achieved.

**Pigs**

**Figure 23.** The optimum position for pigs is on the midline just with the shot directed down the line of the spinal cord. Using a face-on approach (A) the ideal target is 3.5 to 4 centimetres above eye level, on the midline of the forehead and aiming toward the tail of the pig. There is also a temporal site (B) and a caudal site (C) aiming from behind the ear so that the projectile enters the skull from behind the ear and travels toward the opposite eye.

**Pigs**

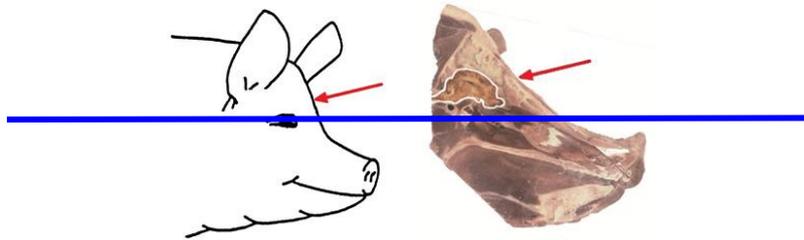
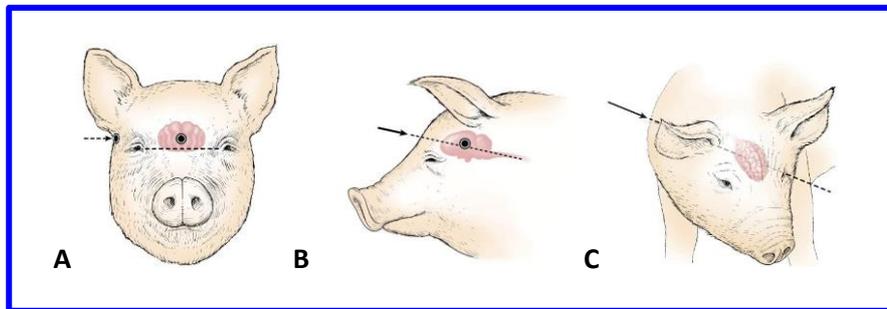


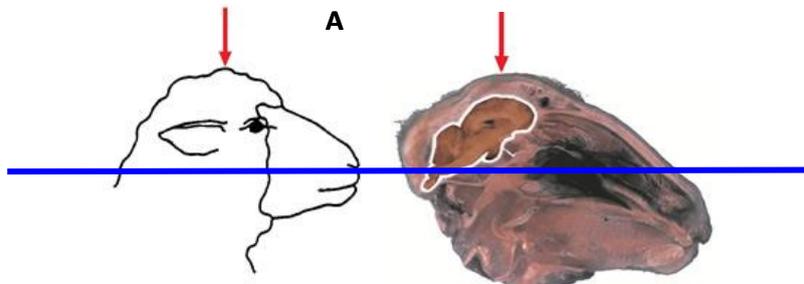
Figure source: Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, United Kingdom (www.hsa.org.uk).



**Rationale:** The United States recommends replacing the figures as shown and is happy to assist with obtaining permission for publication. The recommended text reflects the most recent research on positioning of firearms for swine.

**Sheep and Goats**

**Figure 34.** The optimum position for hornless sheep and goats is on the top of the head on the midline. An alternate site is the frontal region. The optimum position for heavily horned sheep and horned goats is behind the poll, aiming towards the angle of the jaw.



**Sheep**

Figure source: Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, United Kingdom (www.hsa.org.uk).

**Figure 45.** The optimum position for heavily horned sheep and horned goats is behind the poll, aiming towards the angle of the jaw.

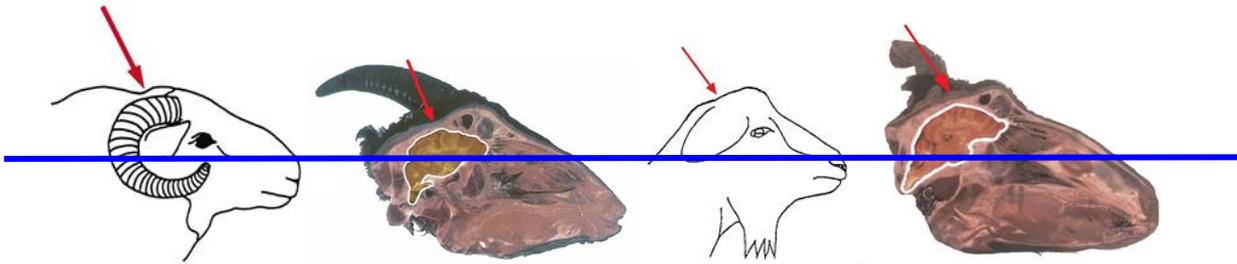
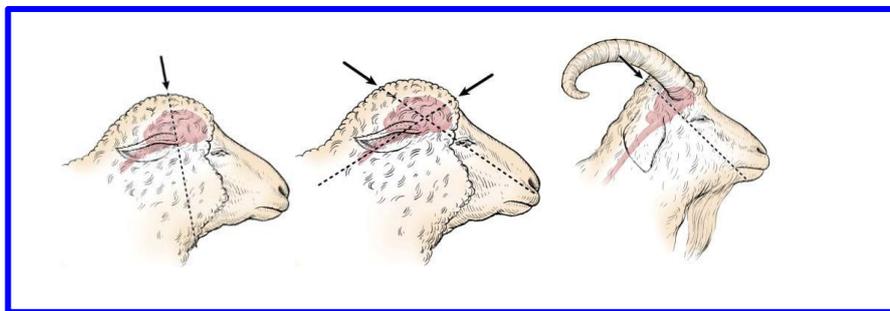


Figure Source: Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, United Kingdom ([www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)).



**Rationale:** The United recommends combining and replacing figures 4 and 5, and revising text. We are happy to assist with obtaining permission for publication of figures. The recommended text reflects the most recent research on positioning of firearms for sheep and goats.

### Horses

**Figure 56.** 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 at the intersection of two imaginary lines, each drawn from the outside corner of the eye to the center of the base of the opposite ear.

### Horses

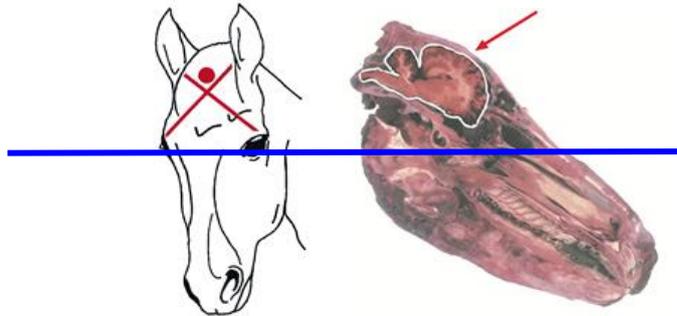
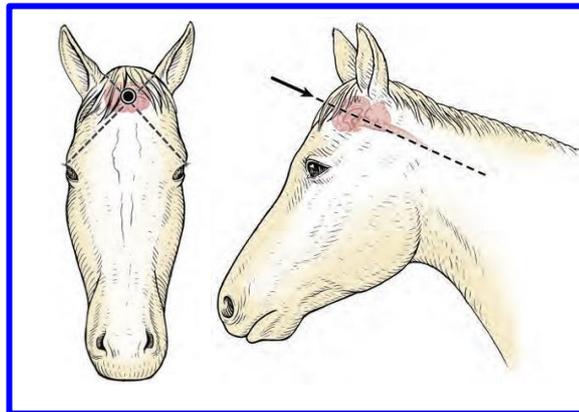


Figure Source: Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, United Kingdom (www.hsa.org.uk).



**Rationale:** The United recommends replacing figure 6, and revising the text. We are happy to assist with obtaining permission for publication of figures. The recommended text reflects the most recent research on positioning of firearms for horses.

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

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

### Figure 6. Poultry

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 according to the manufacturers' instructions should lead to immediate destruction of the skull and the brain and, as a result, immediate death.

**Poultry Figure 7**



Figure Source: Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, United Kingdom ([www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)).

**Poultry Figure 8**



Figure Source: Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, United Kingdom ([www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)).

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 according to the manufacturers' instructions should lead to immediate destruction of the skull and the brain and, as a result, immediate death.

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.

### 3. Electrical stunning

#### a) General considerations

An electrical device should be applied to the *animal* in accordance with the following recommendations.

Electrodes should be designed, constructed, maintained and cleaned regularly to ensure that the flow of current is optimal and in accordance with manufacturing specifications. They should be placed so that they span the brain. The application of electrical currents which bypass the brain is unacceptable unless the *animal* has been stunned. The use of a single current leg-to-leg is unacceptable as a *stunning* method.

If, in addition, it is intended to cause cardiac arrest, the electrodes should either span the brain and immediately thereafter the heart, on the condition that it has been ascertained that the *animal* is adequately stunned, or span brain and heart simultaneously.

Electrical *stunning* equipment should not be applied on *animals* as a means of guidance, movement, *restraint* or immobilisation, and shall not deliver any shock to the *animal* before the actual *stunning* or *killing*.

Electrical *stunning* apparatus should be tested prior to application on *animals* using appropriate resistors or dummy loads to ensure the power output is adequate to stun *animals*.

The electrical *stunning* apparatus should incorporate a device that monitors and displays voltage (true RMS) and the applied current (true RMS) and that such devices are regularly calibrated at least annually.

Appropriate measures, such as removing excess wool or wetting the skin only at the point of contact, can be taken to minimise impedance of the skin and facilitate effective *stunning*.

The *stunning* apparatus should be appropriate for the species. Apparatus for electrical *stunning* should be provided with adequate power to achieve continuously the minimum current level recommended for *stunning* as indicated in the table below.

In all cases, the correct current level shall be attained within one second of the initiation of stun and maintained at least for between one and three seconds and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Minimum current levels for head-only *stunning* are shown in the following table.

Species	Minimum current levels for head-only stunning
Cattle	1.5 amps
Calves (bovines of less than 6 month of age)	1.0 amps
Pigs	1.25 amps
Sheep and goats	1.0 amps
Lambs	0.7 amps
Ostriches	0.4 amps

b) Electrical stunning of birds using a water bath

There should be no sharp bends or steep gradients in the shackle line and the shackle line should be as short as possible consistent with achieving acceptable line speeds, and ensuring that birds have settled by the time they reach the water bath. A breast comforter can be used effectively to reduce wing flapping and calm birds. The angle at which the shackle line approaches the entrance to the water bath, and the design of the entrance to the water bath, and the draining of excess 'live' water from the bath are all important considerations in ensuring birds are calm as they enter the bath, do not flap their wings, and do not receive pre-stun electric shocks.

In the case of birds suspended on a moving line, measures should be taken to ensure that the birds are not wing flapping at the entrance of the stunner. The birds should be secure in their shackle, but there should not be undue pressure on their shanks. The shackle size should be appropriate to fit the size of the shanks (metatarsal bones) of birds.

Birds should be hung on shackles by both legs.

Birds with dislocated or broken legs or wings should be humanely killed rather than shackled.

The duration between hanging on shackles and *stunning* should be kept to the minimum. In any event, the time between shackling and *stunning* should not exceed one minute.

Water baths for *poultry* should be adequate in size and depth for the type of bird being slaughtered, and their height should be adjustable to allow for the head of each bird to be immersed. The electrode immersed in the bath should extend the full length of the water bath. ~~Birds should be immersed in the bath up to the base of their wings.~~

**Rationale:** This sentence should be deleted as it contradicts information in the first sentence of this paragraph that states “the head of each bird to be immersed.” During commercial slaughter the head of the bird is immersed, not the full head/neck/shoulder “to the base of the wing”.

The water bath should be designed and maintained in such a way that when the shackles pass over the water, they are in continuous contact with the earthed rubbing bar.

The control box for the water bath stunner should incorporate an ammeter which displays the total current flowing through the birds.

The shackle-to-leg contact should be wetted preferably before the birds are inserted in the shackles. In order to improve the electrical conductivity of the water, it is recommended that salt be added in the water bath as necessary. Additional salt should be added regularly as a solution to maintain suitable constant concentrations in the water bath.

Using water baths, birds are stunned in groups and different birds will have different impedances. The voltage should be adjusted so that the total current is the required current per bird as shown in the table hereafter, multiplied by the number of birds in the water bath at the same time. The following values have been found to be satisfactory when employing a 50 Hertz sinusoidal alternating current.

Birds should receive the current for at least 4 seconds.

While a lower current may also be satisfactory, the current shall in any case be such as to ensure that unconsciousness occurs immediately and lasts until the bird has been killed by cardiac arrest or by bleeding. When higher electrical frequencies are used, higher currents may be required.

Every effort shall be made to ensure that no conscious or live birds enter the scalding tank.

In the case of automatic systems, until fail-safe systems of *stunning* and bleeding have been introduced, a manual back-up system should be in place to ensure that any birds which have missed the water bath stunner and/or the automatic neck-cutter are immediately stunned and/or killed immediately, and they are dead before entering scald tank.

To lessen the number of birds that have not been effectively stunned reaching neck cutters, steps should be taken to ensure that small birds do not go on the line amongst bigger birds and that these small birds are stunned separately. The height of the water bath stunner should be adjusted according to the size of birds to ensure even the heads of small birds are immersed in the water bath up to the base of the wings.

**Rationale:** Suggested changes are consistent with the previous comments.

Water bath *stunning* equipment should be fitted with a device which displays and records the details of the electrical key parameter.

Minimum current for *stunning poultry* when using 50Hz is as follows:

Species	Current (milliamperes per bird)
Broilers	100
Layers (spent hens)	100
Turkeys	150
Ducks and geese	130

Minimum current for *stunning poultry* when using high frequencies is as follows:

<u>AC sinusoidal type current</u>	Minimum current (milliamperes per bird)	
	Chickens	Turkeys
Frequency (Hz)		
From 50 to 200 Hz	100 mA	250 mA
From 200 to 400 Hz	150 mA	400 mA
From 400 to 1500 Hz	200 mA	400 mA

For direct current, parameters should be developed and applied on the basis of outcomes, such as observable stun posture, no rhythmical breathing, etc.

#### 4. Gas stunning (under study)

##### a) Stunning of pigs by exposure to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)

The concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> for *stunning* should be preferably 90 percent by volume but in any case no less than 80 percent by volume. After entering the *stunning* chamber, the *animals* should be conveyed to the point of maximum concentration of the gas as rapidly as possible and be kept until they are dead or brought into a state of insensibility which lasts until *death* occur due to bleeding. Ideally, pigs should be exposed to this concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> for 3 minutes. Sticking should occur as soon as possible after exit from the gas chamber.

In any case, the concentration of the gas should be such that it minimises as far as possible all stress of the *animal* prior to loss of consciousness.

The chamber in which *animals* are exposed to CO<sub>2</sub> and the equipment used for conveying them through it shall be designed, constructed and maintained in such a way as to avoid injury or unnecessary stress to the *animals*. The animal density within the chamber should be such to avoid stacking *animals* on top of each other.

The conveyor and the chamber shall be adequately lit to allow the *animals* to see their surroundings and, if possible, each other.

It should be possible to inspect the CO<sub>2</sub> chamber whilst it is in use, and to have access to the *animals* in emergency cases.

The chamber shall be equipped to continuously measure and display register at the point of *stunning* the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and the time of exposure, and to give a clearly visible and audible warning if the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> falls below the required level.

Emergency *stunning* equipment should be available at the point of exit from the *stunning* chamber and used on any pigs that do not appear to be completely stunned.

##### b) Inert gas mixtures for stunning pigs

Inhalation of high concentration of carbon dioxide is aversive and can be distressing to *animals*. Therefore, the use of non-aversive gas mixtures is being developed.

Such gas mixtures include:

- i) a maximum of 2 percent by volume of oxygen in argon, nitrogen or other inert gases, or
- ii) to a maximum of 30 percent by volume of carbon dioxide and a maximum of 2 percent by volume of oxygen in mixtures with carbon dioxide and argon, nitrogen or other inert gases.

Exposure time to the gas mixtures should be sufficient to ensure that no pigs regain consciousness before *death* supervenes through bleeding or cardiac arrest is induced.

##### c) Gas stunning of poultry

The main objective of gas *stunning* is to avoid the pain and suffering associated with shackling conscious *poultry* under water bath *stunning* and *killing* systems. Therefore, gas *stunning* should be limited to birds contained in crates or on conveyors only. The gas mixture should be non-aversive to *poultry*.

Live *poultry* contained within transport modules or crates may be exposed to gradually increasing concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> until the birds are properly stunned. No bird should recover consciousness during bleeding.

Gas *stunning* of *poultry* in their transport *containers* will eliminate the need for live birds' handling at the processing plant and all the problems associated with the electrical *stunning*. Gas *stunning* of *poultry* on a conveyor eliminates the problems associated with the electrical water bath *stunning*.

Live *poultry* should be conveyed into the gas mixtures either in transport crates or on conveyor belts.

The following gas procedures have been properly documented for chickens and turkeys but do not necessarily apply for other domestic birds. In any case the procedure should be designed as to ensure that all *animals* are properly stunned without unnecessary suffering. Some monitoring points for gas *stunning* could be the following:

- ensure smooth entry and passage of crates or birds through the system;
  - avoid crowding of birds in crates or conveyors;
  - monitor and maintain gas concentrations continuously during operation;
  - provide visible and audible alarm systems if gas concentrations are inappropriate to the species;
  - calibrate gas monitors and maintain verifiable records;
  - ensure that duration of exposure is adequate to prevent recovery of consciousness;
  - make provision to monitor and deal with recovery of consciousness;
  - ensure that blood vessels are cut to induce *death* in unconscious birds;
  - ensure that all birds are dead before entering scalding tank;
  - provide emergency procedures in the event of system failure.
- i) Gas mixtures used for stunning *poultry* include:
- a minimum of 2 minutes exposure to 40 percent carbon dioxide, 30 percent oxygen and 30 percent nitrogen, followed by a minimum of one minute exposure to 80 percent carbon dioxide in air; or
  - a minimum of 2 minutes exposure to any mixture of argon, nitrogen or other inert gases with atmospheric air and carbon dioxide, provided that the carbon dioxide concentration does not exceed 30 percent by volume and the residual oxygen concentration does not exceed 2 percent by volume; or
  - a minimum of 2 minutes exposure to argon, nitrogen, other inert gases or any mixture of these gases in atmospheric air with a maximum of 2 percent residual oxygen by volume; or
  - a minimum of 2 minutes exposure to a minimum of 55 percent carbon dioxide in air; or
  - a minimum of one minute exposure to 30 percent carbon dioxide in air, followed by a minimum of one minute exposure to at least 60 percent carbon dioxide in air.
- ii) Requirements for effective use are as follows:
- Compressed gases should be vaporised prior to administration into the chamber and should be at room temperature to prevent any thermal shock; under no circumstances, should solid gases with freezing temperatures enter the chamber.
  - Gas mixtures should be humidified.
  - Appropriate gas concentrations of oxygen and carbon dioxide should be monitored and displayed continuously at the level of the birds inside the chamber to ensure that anoxia ensues.

Under no circumstances, should birds exposed to gas mixtures be allowed to regain consciousness. If necessary, the exposure time should be extended.

## 5. Bleeding

From the point of view of *animal welfare*, *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 (full cut or chest stick when possible). 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. In any case the following time limits should be applied.

Stunning method	Maximum stun–stick interval
Electrical methods and non-penetrating captive bolt	20 seconds
CO <sub>2</sub>	60 seconds (after leaving the chamber)

All *animals* should be bled out by incising both carotid arteries, or the vessels from which they arise (e.g. chest stick). However, when the *stunning* method used causes cardiac arrest, the incision of all of these vessels is not necessary from the point of view of *animal welfare*.

It should be possible for staff to observe, inspect and access the *animals* throughout the bleeding period. Any *animal* showing signs of recovering consciousness should be re-stunned.

After incision of the blood vessels, no scalding carcass treatment or dressing procedures should be performed on the *animals* for at least 30 seconds, or in any case until all brain-stem reflexes have ceased.

~~Article 7.5.8.~~ Article 7.5.8.

~~Summary analysis of stunning methods and the associated animal welfare issues~~

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~~[DELETE TABLE]~~

<u>Method</u>	<u>Specific method</u>	<u>Animal welfare concerns/ implications</u>	<u>Key animal welfare requirements applicable</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Comment</u>
<u>Mechanical</u>	<u>Free bullet</u>	<u>In accurate targeting and inappropriate ballistics</u>	<u>Operator competence; achieving outright kill with first shot</u>	<u>Cattle, calves, buffalo, deer, horses, pigs (boars and sows)</u>	<u>Personnel safety</u>
	<u>Captive bolt – penetrating</u>	<u>Inaccurate targeting, velocity and diameter of bolt</u>	<u>Competent operation and maintenance of equipment; restraint; accuracy</u>	<u>Cattle, calves, buffalo, sheep, goats, deer, horses, pigs, camelids, ratites, poultry</u>	<u>(Unsuitable for specimen collection from TSE suspects). A back-up gun should be available in the event of an ineffective shot</u>
	<u>Captive bolt – non-penetrating</u>	<u>Inaccurate targeting, velocity of bolt, potentially higher failure rate than penetrating captive bolt</u>	<u>Competent operation and maintenance of equipment; restraint; accuracy</u>	<u>Cattle, calves, sheep, goats, deer, pigs, camelids, ratites, poultry</u>	<u>Presently available devices are not recommended for young bulls and animals with thick skull. This method should only be used for cattle and sheep when alternative methods are not available.</u>

Method	Specific method	Animal welfare concerns/ implications	Key animal welfare requirements applicable	Species	Comment
Mechanical (contd)	Manual percussive blow	Inaccurate targeting; insufficient power; size of instrument	Competent animal handlers; restraint; accuracy. Not recommended for general use	Young and small mammals, ostriches and poultry	Mechanical devices potentially more reliable. Where manual percussive blow is used, unconsciousness should be achieved with single sharp blow delivered to central skull bones
Electrical	Split application: 1. across head then head to chest; 2. across head then across chest	Accidental pre-stun electric shocks; electrode positioning; application of a current to the body while animal conscious; inadequate current and voltage	Competent operation and maintenance of equipment; restraint; accuracy	Cattle, calves, sheep, goats and pigs, ratites and poultry	Systems involving repeated application of head-only or head-to-leg with short current durations (<1 second) in the first application should not be used.
	Single application: 1. head only; 2. head to body; 3. head to leg	Accidental pre-stun electric shocks; inadequate current and voltage; wrong electrode positioning; recovery of consciousness	Competent operation and maintenance of equipment; restraint; accuracy	Cattle, calves, sheep, goats, pigs, ratites, poultry	
	Water bath	Restraint, accidental pre-stun electric shocks; inadequate current and voltage; recovery of consciousness	Competent operation and maintenance of equipment	Poultry only	
Gaseous	CO <sub>2</sub> , air/O <sub>2</sub> mixture; CO <sub>2</sub> inert gas mixture	Aversiveness of high CO <sub>2</sub> ; respiratory distress; inadequate exposure	Concentration; duration of exposure; design, maintenance and operation of equipment; stocking density management	Pigs, poultry	
	Inert gases	Recovery of consciousness	Concentration; duration of exposure; design, maintenance and operation of equipment; density management	Pigs, poultry	

~~Article 7.5.9.~~ Article 7.5.9.

~~Summary analysis of slaughter methods and the associated animal welfare issues~~

Summary analysis of slaughter methods and the associated animal welfare issues

[DELETE TABLE]

<u>Slaughter methods</u>	<u>Specific method</u>	<u>Animal welfare concerns/ implications</u>	<u>Key requirements</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Bleeding out by severance of blood vessels in the neck without stunning</u>	<u>Full frontal cutting across the throat</u>	<u>Failure to cut both common carotid arteries; occlusion of cut arteries; pain during and after the cut</u>	<u>High level of operator competency. A very sharp blade or knife of sufficient length so that the point of the knife remains outside the incision during the cut; the point of the knife should not be used to make the incision. The incision should not close over the knife during the throat cut.</u>	<u>Cattle, buffalo, horses, camelids, sheep, goats, poultry, ratites</u>	<u>No further procedure should be carried out before the bleeding out is completed (i.e. at least 30 seconds for mammals). The practice to remove hypothetical blood clots just after the bleeding should be discouraged since this may increase animal suffering.</u>
<u>Bleeding with prior stunning</u>	<u>Full frontal cutting across the throat</u>	<u>Failure to cut both common carotid arteries; occlusion of cut arteries; pain during and after the cut.</u>	<u>A very sharp blade or knife of sufficient length so that the point of the knife remains outside the incision during the cut; the point of the knife should not be used to make the incision. The incision should not close over the knife during the throat cut.</u>	<u>Cattle, buffalo, horses, camelids, sheep, goats</u>	
	<u>Neck stab followed by forward cut</u>	<u>Ineffective stunning; failure to cut both common carotid arteries; impaired blood flow; delay in cutting after reversible stunning</u>	<u>Prompt and accurate cutting</u>	<u>Camelids, sheep, goats, poultry, ratites</u>	
	<u>Neck stab alone</u>	<u>Ineffective stunning; failure to cut both common carotid arteries; impaired blood flow; delay in cutting after reversible stunning</u>	<u>Prompt and accurate cutting</u>	<u>Camelids, sheep, goats, poultry, ratites</u>	
	<u>Chest stick into major arteries or hollow-tube knife into heart</u>	<u>Ineffective stunning; inadequate size of stick wound; inadequate length of sticking knife; delay in sticking after reversible stunning</u>	<u>Prompt and accurate sticking</u>	<u>Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs</u>	
	<u>Neck skin cut followed by severance of vessels in the neck</u>	<u>Ineffective stunning; inadequate size of stick wound; inadequate length of sticking knife; delay in sticking after reversible stunning</u>	<u>Prompt and accurate cutting of vessels</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	
	<u>Automated mechanical cutting</u>	<u>Ineffective stunning; failure to cut and misplaced cuts. Recovery of consciousness following reversible stunning systems</u>	<u>Design, maintenance and operation of equipment; accuracy of cut; manual back-up</u>	<u>Poultry only</u>	

	<u>Manual neck cut on one side</u>	<u>Ineffective stunning; recovery of consciousness following reversible stunning systems</u>	<u>Prior non-reversible stunning</u>	<u>Poultry only</u>	<u>N.B. slow induction of unconsciousness under slaughter without stunning</u>
<u>Bleeding with prior stunning (contd)</u>	<u>Oral cut</u>	<u>Ineffective stunning; recovery of consciousness following reversible stunning systems</u>	<u>Prior non-reversible stunning</u>	<u>Poultry only</u>	<u>N.B. slow induction of unconsciousness in non-stun systems</u>
<u>Other methods without stunning</u>	<u>Decapitation with a sharp knife</u>	<u>Pain due to loss of consciousness not being immediate</u>		<u>Sheep, goats, poultry</u>	<u>This method is only applicable to Jhatka slaughter</u>
	<u>Manual neck dislocation and decapitation</u>	<u>Pain due to loss of consciousness not being immediate; difficult to achieve in large birds</u>	<u>Neck dislocation should be performed in one stretch to sever the spinal cord</u>	<u>Poultry only</u>	<u>Slaughter by neck dislocation should be performed in one stretch to sever the spinal cord. Acceptable only when slaughtering small numbers of small birds.</u>
<u>Cardiac arrest in a waterbath electric stunner</u>	<u>Bleeding by evisceration</u>		<u>Induction of cardiac arrest</u>	<u>Quail</u>	
	<u>Bleeding by neck cutting</u>			<u>Poultry</u>	

Article 7.5.10 7.10.

**Methods, procedures or practices unacceptable on animal welfare grounds**

- 1) The restraining methods which work through electro-immobilisation or immobilisation by injury such as breaking legs, leg tendon cutting, and severing the spinal cord (e.g. using a puntilla or dagger) cause severe pain and stress in *animals*. Those methods are not acceptable in any species.
- 2) The use of the electrical *stunning* method with a single application leg to leg is ineffective and unacceptable in any species.
- 3) The *slaughter* method of brain stem severance by piercing through the eye socket or skull bone without prior *stunning* is not acceptable in any species.

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