

Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2016, Minimum Standards



A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, 15 December 2016

Only minimum standards relevant to pigs are included

Minimum Standard No. 1: Competency and Stockmanship

At every stage of transport, animals must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who collectively possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with this code.



Minimum Standard No. 2: Conveyance and Container Design and Maintenance

- (a) Conveyances and containers used for the transport of animals must be designed and maintained so that they are suitable for carrying the species, size and weight of the animals to be transported over the terrain or seas and under the conditions in which they are expected to function.
- (b) Conveyances must be designed so that the faeces or urine from animals on upper levels do not soil any animals, feed or water on lower levels.
- (c) Containers must be constructed and maintained to ensure they present no hazards that are likely to cause injury to the animals.
- (d) Containers must be designed to ensure enough room to enable animals to travel in a natural posture.
- (e) Conveyances and containers must be designed to ensure adequate ventilation or oxygenation to allow the free flow of air or oxygen to all animals, even when stationary, to prevent the build-up of harmful concentrations of gases or impurities, water vapour or temperature.
- (f) Conveyances and containers must be designed to provide protection from adverse weather that may be a risk to the animal's health and welfare.
- (g) Containers must be secured so that they do not move when underway.

Minimum Standard No. 3: Loading and Unloading Facilities

- (a) Loading and unloading facilities must be constructed and maintained so that they allow unhindered passage of the animals, do not present a hazard to animal welfare and are appropriate for the condition, species and number of animals.
- (b) Loading and unloading facilities must allow close alignment between the conveyance and the loading ramp.
- (c) While waiting to be loaded and following unloading, animals must be provided with protection from adverse environmental conditions that is appropriate to the animals and the circumstances, to reduce the risk to their health and welfare caused by exposure to heat or cold.



Minimum Standard No. 4: Journey Planning and Documentation

- (a) Transport must be planned to minimise the risk of injury, fatigue or metabolic and nutritional disorders.
- (b) Operators of conveyances, or their agents, must hold details of the number, type and any special requirements of animals that they transport.
- (c) All required documentation must be completed and accessible to the relevant personnel prior to embarking and during travel, so that incomplete or inaccessible documentation does not cause any delay in animals reaching the destination or being unloaded at the destination.
- (d) There must be a contingency plan in place that allows the needs of animals to be met in the event of any delays arising during the part of the journey for which the transport operator is responsible.
- (e) Operators of commercial conveyances must be briefed on the contingency plan in advance of journeys.
- (f) Any deaths occurring during travel must be recorded.

Minimum Standard No. 5: Preparation of Animals for Transport

- (a) Animals must be appropriately prepared for transport, including through the provision of sufficient food and water, as appropriate to the species, age, condition and expected length and conditions of the journey, so that pain, injury or distress to themselves or other animals is avoided.
- (b) Before undertaking a journey during which the animals will be fed and watered, animals must be familiarised with the feed to be offered and the methods by which the feed and water are given.

Minimum Standard No. 6: Selecting and Accepting Animals for Transport

- (a) Proper care must be taken when deciding whether it is appropriate to transport young, old, pregnant or otherwise physiologically or behaviourally compromised animals.
- (b) Animals must not be transported if they are likely to give birth during the journey or be affected by metabolic complications of late pregnancy as a result of the journey.
- (c) Animals must not be transported unless they are fit enough to withstand the entire journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
- (d) Animals to be transported must be able to stand and to bear weight evenly on all limbs.
- (f) Animals must not be transported within seven days of being castrated or tail docked.
- (g) Animals must not be transported if they display any injuries, signs of disease, abnormal behavior or physical abnormalities that could compromise their welfare during the journey, unless a veterinary declaration of fitness for transport has been completed.

Note: Only the minimum standards relevant to pigs are included, therefore some numbers and sub-sections are omitted. Numbers and sub-sections align with those in the Code.

Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2016, Minimum Standards



A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, 15 December 2016

Only minimum standards relevant to pigs are included

Minimum Standard No. 7: Loading and Unloading

- (a) Animals must be loaded and unloaded in a way that minimises the risk of pain, injury or distress to the animals.
- (b) Only the minimum force required must be used when moving animals.
- (c) Goads, including electric prodders, must only be used where there is sufficient room for the animals to move away from the goad, and where—
 - i) the safety of the handler or another person is at risk; or
 - ii) they are essential to move difficult animals.
- (d) Goads must not be used on the most sensitive areas of animals, including eyes, nose, anus, vulva, udder and testicles.
- (e) Electric prodders must not be used on animals other than adult cattle.
- (f) Animals that are likely to cause injury or distress to other animals must be kept separate prior to and during loading, and when loaded into transport containers, unless there is sufficient space for the other animals to escape injury. This includes animals with horns, tusks or antlers, and animals known to be aggressive.
- (g) Animals in pens or yards must not be overcrowded to the extent that it prevents them from being able to move from handlers or other animals where this is likely to contribute to distress and injury.
- (h) Animals must not be thrown or dropped, or be lifted or dragged by their tail, head, ears, or limbs.
- (i) Animals must not be secured to conveyances or containers by a nose ring.
- (j) Stocking density must be sufficient to allow animals to adopt a natural posture during the journey without injuring their heads or backs if they stand, and to allow animals to rest, if this is necessary during the journey.
- (k) Animals of different species must not be transported in the same container, except where individual animals are known to be compatible.

Minimum Standard No. 8: Ventilation

- (a) Ventilation or oxygenation must be sufficient to prevent the build-up of noxious gases or impurities to an extent that causes pain or harm to the animals' health during travel and rest.
- (b) Ventilation during travel and rest must be appropriate to maintain the body temperature within the normal range for the species.
- (c) Where animals show signs of heat or cold stress or distress from exposure to noxious gases, immediate corrective action must be taken.



Minimum Standard No. 9: Monitoring Animals

- (a) Animals must be inspected for injury or signs of pain or distress at regular intervals during the journey, including at rest breaks taken by the operator of the conveyance and at refuelling stops.
- (b) Animals found to have fallen down, to be injured, distressed or with a limb protruding from the container or conveyance, must be assisted, treated or euthanased as soon as practicable.
- (c) The time and place of inspection, and any deaths and incidents causing pain or distress to animals, must be recorded.

Minimum Standard No. 10: Food Water and Rest

- (a) The provision of food and water must be appropriate to the species, age, physical state and condition of the animals to allow them to regulate body temperature and meet their health needs.
- (b) If animals are to be fed during the journey, they must either be offered the feed they are accustomed to during the journey; or, if the food to be offered during transport differs from that to which the animals are accustomed, a period of pre-conditioning to the new feed must be undertaken prior to transport.
- (c) Animals must be rested as required for the species, age, physical state and condition of the animal. If animals are not able to rest during travel, they must be unloaded and rested as frequently and for as long as is required to meet their needs.
- (d) Unweaned animals must be fed within a maximum of 28 hours after loading for transport, if not slaughtered beforehand.

Minimum Standard No. 11: Transport by Road

Vehicles carrying animals must be operated in a manner that does not cause animals to fall or be injured during travel.

Minimum Standard No. 12: Transport within New Zealand Waters

- (a) For a journey longer than 24 hours (including any travel on land), the following requirements relating to the provision of food and water must be met:
 - ii) animals must be loaded in such a manner that they can be provided with food and water on board, unless they are to be unloaded for feeding and watering; and
 - iii) food and water must be available to all animals on board after departure, or at resting points if animals are to be unloaded for feeding and watering; and
 - iv) food and water consumption must be monitored and recorded daily; and
 - v) animals must be loaded to a density that allows them to rise unassisted and move freely within the pen to access food and water.
- (b) The driver and/or stock attendant must be available during the voyage to provide care during transit. The master must allow these people access to the animals for inspections and appropriate treatment, if circumstances allow.
- (c) Drivers of vehicles on a roll-on roll-off vessel must carry out an inspection of animals before leaving the vehicle deck at the start of the sea journey and before driving the vehicle off or within 15 minutes after leaving the vessel.
- (d) Ventilation or oxygenation, including ventilation in enclosed vehicles and the vehicle deck on ships, must be sufficient to maintain air or water quality and air or water temperature at levels that avoid pain, distress or lasting harm.
- (e) If animals are shipped on unmanned barges, there must be adequate provision for regular monitoring and any remedial action that is required, to ensure welfare is not compromised.

Minimum Standard No. 13: Emergency Humane Destruction

- (a) Equipment kept for emergency humane destruction must be well maintained in order to operate efficiently.
- (b) Animals to be killed must be handled, restrained and killed in a manner that minimises unnecessary pain and distress prior to death.
- (c) Animals being killed must be rapidly rendered insensible and remain in that state, until death has occurred.
- (d) The spinal cord must not be severed or broken in any hoofed animal, until death has occurred.
- (e) Animals rendered insensible by a blow to the head or a shot to the brain from a firearm must be bled out immediately to ensure death occurs before recovery from stunning.

Note: Only the minimum standards relevant to pigs are included, therefore some numbers and sub-sections are omitted. Numbers and sub-sections align with those in the Code.