

Pig Veterinary Society
THE CASUALTY PIG

Interim Update April 2013

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Introduction

It is inevitable that on every pig farm some animals will become sick or injured and have to be treated as “casualties”. The treatment of a casualty pig is in the hands of the producer and they should be influenced by animal welfare and public health considerations, and not by economics. The pig’s welfare should always be the first consideration. This opinion is the official policy of the Pig Veterinary Society.

The welfare of such animals is covered by the [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#), which basically states that a person commits an offence if they carry out an act, or **fail** to act, which causes an animal to suffer unnecessarily, and also they knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act, or failure to act, would have that effect or be likely to do so. This applies to any person who is responsible for an animal (and so includes the owner, manager and stock-keepers). So failing to do something that is likely to prevent suffering is just as much an offence as directly causing suffering.

The despatch of a casualty pig to, and its acceptance by, an abattoir is governed by [EC regulation EC1099/2009 \(the protection of animals at the time of killing\)](#) and [EC regulation EC853/2004 \(Food Chain Information \[FCI\]\)](#). These require an owner’s written declaration which must accompany any animal that is known to be, or is suspected of being diseased or injured at the time it is consigned to a slaughterhouse. This is part of the mandatory food chain information, and the “Additional Food Chain Information” document must be completed if any treated or casualty animals are included in the consignment.

In addition, [The Welfare of Animals \(Transport\) Order 2006](#) prohibits the carriage of any animal if this is likely to cause them unnecessary suffering; (i.e. if they are “unfit”). Under this legislation, the owner and the person in charge have a joint responsibility for the correct disposal of casualty animals. For example, it is illegal to load a lame pig onto a haulier’s wagon and transport it a long distance simply to get the best price. Therefore casualty animals may need to be killed on the farm. On no account may any casualty be disposed of through a livestock market ([The Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990](#)). Most slaughterhouses will not accept for salvage casualty pigs that have been killed on farm, therefore it follows that pigs which are unfit for transport must be regarded as unfit for salvage.

If a slaughterhouse is willing to accept the carcase of a pig slaughtered on farm it must be accompanied by a certificate completed by the veterinary surgeon prior to slaughter; (see Appendix 7 for a suitable format). This certificate is valid for 24 hours during which time the slaughter of the animal must be carried out by a competent licensed slaughterman. If this period is exceeded a further certificate will be required. If such a procedure is anticipated, it is essential that all requirements are fully clarified with the slaughterhouse and their ‘Official Veterinarian’ beforehand, and should not unduly delay the humane destruction of an injured animal. Any undue or unreasonable delay would be an offence under the [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#).

When a casualty animal is being transported it must be penned separately from other stock on the lorry and supplied with deep bedding. It should be taken to **the nearest suitable slaughterhouse** and prior arrangement should have been made so that the animal can be slaughtered without undue delay.

A casualty pig that is kept on the farm for treatment should be housed separately in a warm, well-bedded pen (or with robust rubber mats), with food, and especially water, readily available. General recommendations for a recovery or casualty area are covered in more detail in a later section. **The withdrawal period for any medicines administered must be allowed to elapse before the animal can be sold or supplied for slaughter.** Information about recent treatments is also required for the food chain information on the “Additional Food Chain Information” document that accompanies casualty pigs to slaughter. Records of all medicines purchased and used are required under [The Animals and Animal Products \(Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits\) Regulations 1997](#), and [The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2011](#), and any subsequent amendments).

Decision Options

When making a decision on the correct action to take with a casualty pig you should consider:-

- 1) **Is the pig fit to travel?** – It is an offence to cause or permit an animal to be transported in a way that causes or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering to the animal. Items you should consider are -
 - a. Can the pig be loaded unassisted or without the need for more than usual encouragement?
 - b. Can the animal fully bear weight on all four legs, and, if it is likely to stand during the journey, can it do so without pain or distress?
 - c. Does the pig have any open wounds or a prolapse?
 - d. Will transport cause the condition of the pig to deteriorate?

- e. How far does the pig have to travel? Is there a suitable slaughterhouse near enough? (The animal should be sent to the nearest available slaughterhouse **that will accept the animal** not necessarily the one to which you usually market pigs).
- f. Will the animal be penned separately on the lorry and be provided with suitable and adequate bedding for the journey?

2) Will the carcase be fit for human consumption?

Is there likely to be a condition such as septicaemia, abscesses, emaciation, jaundice, known or suspected zoonotic disease? - see Appendix 4. [Regulation \(EC\) No 852/2004](#) and [Regulation \(EC\) No 853/2004](#). It is illegal to send a pig to slaughter that is knowingly diseased.

If the answer to either of these two questions is 'No' then :-

3) Is the animal suitable for treatment?

or should it be killed on the farm on humane grounds?

If you are unsure about any of these points then your veterinary surgeon should be contacted for advice. Your veterinary surgeon may wish to contact the abattoir operator and/or the Official Veterinarian (OV) at the abattoir to discuss the matter and ascertain what conditions they would be prepared to accept, before giving you advice on any individual animal. The welfare of the pig is paramount. The availability of slaughterhouse services and even the location of the slaughterhouse may affect whether a pig is sent for slaughter or killed on the farm.

Possible Outcomes

There are four possible outcomes for a casualty:-

- 1) Treat** - Give suitable treatment with veterinary advice and review progress daily. If the pig does not improve then it must be euthanased promptly and humanely. (Under most circumstances a significant improvement should be seen within a maximum of five days).
- 2) Casualty slaughter** - The pig may be suitable for transport and slaughter in the nearest suitable slaughterhouse. It must be accompanied by an owner's written declaration (FCI).
- 3) Euthanase** - The on-farm humane killing of the pig, where the pig is unfit to be transported alive or where there is no hope of treatment being successful. This may include on-farm slaughter where indicated and practical.
- 4) Sell** - Normal slaughter or sale through other normal outlets, as appropriate (if the ailment is minor). The 2006 transport regulations state; "animals may be considered fit for transport if they are slightly injured or ill and transport will not cause additional suffering".

IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT AS TO WHICH COURSE OF ACTION IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR VETERINARY SURGEON

Treatment

Any pig that appears to be ill or injured should be cared for without delay and, where they do not respond to this care, veterinary advice should be obtained as soon as possible ([The Welfare of Farmed Animals \(England\) Regulations 2007](#)). Sick or injured pigs should be housed in suitable 'casualty' accommodation (treatment or 'hospital' pens), with a dry comfortable bed and easy access to water, food, treatment and nursing. Isolation and separation from the main group is important as it will prevent further injury to that pig, reduce distress, and reduce the risk of spread of infection to the main group. It also allows easy identification and observation of the affected animal(s) and facilitates appropriate treatment. In some circumstances, pigs with minor ailments can be treated within their usual pen group, but this should be constantly reviewed (at least daily), and the pig removed to a treatment pen if any deterioration is noted.

As well as specific treatments, also pain-killers/ anti-inflammatories should **always** be considered to help alleviate pain and discomfort. There are now several NSAID medicines (anti-inflammatory pain killers) available and licensed for pigs.

Small pens, which are well drained, deep bedded, with easy access to food and water, are ideal as a treatment and recovery pen. Additional heat may be needed for smaller pigs, and good lighting is essential for ease of inspection by the stockman. Ideally, several pens should be available so that they can be filled and emptied on an all-in, all-out basis in order to reduce the build-up of disease-causing organisms in these pens. Preferably supervision of the casualty areas should be the responsibility of one named individual to ensure a continuity of care for the sick pigs, and ease time-based assessment of progress.

All casualty pigs and pigs on treatment should be routinely assessed daily and **euthanased if realistic recovery is unlikely** or no progress is apparent. Comprehensive and clear records should be kept of each individual's treatment and progress. Ideally these records should be on or adjacent to each pen.

It is also a legal requirement that permanent records of treatment must be kept, including the name of the product, the supplier, the date of purchase and administration, the quantity administered, the identity of the individual, and the withdrawal period.

Although it is not a legal requirement, it is recommended that pigs treated in the finishing stage are ear tagged. This allows easy identification of the treated animal and confident completion of the FCI "additional declaration". It also allows monitoring and assessment of treatment outcomes.

If there is no response to treatment, or response is poor, **prompt** euthanasia is indicated. Stock-keepers should always seek a "second-opinion" from a colleague or a veterinary surgeon if they are uncertain about the best course of action.

Sending a Casualty Pig to Slaughter

Reasons

There are only relatively few conditions that render a pig suitable for casualty slaughter requiring an owner's FCI written declaration. Ideally pigs will be treated successfully, recover, and later be sent for slaughter in the usual way. Many other conditions will result in pigs being unsuitable for slaughter, either because welfare considerations prevent them from being transported, or because the condition would render the carcass unfit for human consumption. Also be aware that different slaughterhouses may have differing "house rules" as to what they will accept. It is always advisable to check with the abattoir operator and/or Official Veterinarian (OV) before sending any casualty; it may be better if this is done via your own veterinary surgeon.

The following section presents some of the more common reasons for **considering** the casualty slaughter of a pig, and provides guidelines for the possible other actions that can be taken in each case. The final decision will depend on the circumstances and on the condition of the individual pig.

IF IN ANY DOUBT ALWAYS ASK FOR A VETERINARY OPINION

Assessments and Decisions of Common Conditions

Sows

Prolapse

- 1) Uterus:- Correct immediately or euthanase
- 2) Vagina:- Correct and retain; or casualty slaughter for very recent undamaged smaller prolapses
- 3) Rectum:- Correct for very recent undamaged prolapses, or immediate casualty slaughter

Wounds

- 1) Traumatic injuries, cuts and open wounds
 - a. If severe (deep lacerations, multiple wounds, burns) – euthanase
 - b. If not severe – treat then retain in herd or sell when healed. You cannot transport animals with open sores or wounds.
- 2) Shoulder sores / ulcerated hocks:- Treat and move to a well-bedded area. When healed retain in herd and return to usual accommodation. If you wish to sell only do so when completely healed. These may require euthanasia if the sore has progressed into deep tissues with or without infection, or if there is joint involvement.

Lameness

- 1) Unable to stand on hind legs – euthanase
- 2) Acutely lame – e.g. swollen or infected joints
 - a. Severe (if cannot stand) - then euthanase
 - b. Not severe (able to stand voluntarily) - then consider treatment
- 3) No obvious cause – (no open wounds or gross swelling and no raised temperature)
 - a. Not severe – Casualty slaughter provided the pig can bear weight on all four legs and is willing to walk and be loaded unaided without being forced
 - b. Severe (cannot bear weight on a leg) - treat or euthanase
 - c. Unresponsive to treatment - euthanase

Emaciation

If sows are of body condition score 1 – with ribs visible the sow should be euthanased

Dystocia (difficult farrowing)

- a. Treat and assist, and then retain only if sow expels pigs and recovers; (otherwise option b).
- b. Euthanase – Sows cannot be sent for slaughter within one week of farrowing on welfare grounds. They must not be sent with retained piglets.

Note, it is also prohibited for sows to be transported if they are more than 104 days in-pig; (transport regulations state that not more than 90% of gestation should have passed).

Growing and Finishing pigs

Lameness

- 1) Unable to stand on hind legs
 - a. Treat – ensure that they are housed separately in a suitable environment, and assess response to treatment carefully (maximum of 5 days)

- b. Euthanase
- 2) Acutely lame e.g. swollen and infected joints
 - a. Severe – euthanase
 - b. Not severe – treat and house in recovery area
- 3) Lame with no obvious cause, – no open wounds or no gross swelling and no raised temperature
 - a. Not severe – casualty slaughter provided the pig can bear weight on all four legs and is willing to walk and be loaded unaided and without being forced
 - b. Severe – treat or euthanase
- 4) Severely damaged claw
 - a. Euthanase if no reasonable prospect of rapid healing
 - b. Possibly treat if good chance of recovery
- 5) Broken legs, severe sprains and dislocations
 - a. Euthanase, (as short term recovery is not possible)
- 6) Pigs with multiple joint infections or with large swollen joints are likely to be condemned at meat inspection and should be euthanased.

Injuries

NOTE – With many of the following conditions it is advised that, once the wound has healed, you should sell the pig as soon as possible or practical, as many conditions may recur or relapse, and frequently growth will be retarded. Some abattoirs may request an FCI owner's written declaration for these conditions even when healed.

- 1) Tail Bitten
 - a. No tail with open wound – euthanase
 - b. Swollen with or without open wound – treat and then sell with an FCI casualty declaration once the swelling has gone, the wound has healed and pig is outside the withdrawal period
 - c. Minor damage with no swelling or open wound – treat or send for slaughter
 - d. Previously bitten but fully healed - send for slaughter (Note that some slaughterhouses may require an FIC declaration, and that there may be a variation between different abattoirs and/or OV's as to what they will accept particularly if there is a significant amount of tail missing)
- 2) Severe Traumatic Injuries e.g. recent open wound
 - a. Euthanase
 - b. Treat and send for slaughter once healed and outside the withdrawal period

Note - These animals are not suitable to go to slaughter until the wound has healed
- 3) Ear-bitten, flank-bitten, other recent wounds
 - a. Treat and send for slaughter once healed and outside the withdrawal period
- 4) Pigs with numerous superficial skin wounds from fighting
 - a. Treat – it is essential that these cases are isolated immediately and are kept isolated during treatment to avoid further bullying
- 5) Aural Haematoma
 - a. Recent – treat, and sell with an FCI owner's written declaration once recovered.
 - b. Older cases that have fully healed can be sent to the abattoir in the normal way

Rectal Prolapse

- a. Casualty slaughter immediately if fresh and undamaged
- b. Treat and then sell for slaughter as soon as possible
- c. Euthanase

Ruptures

- 1) Small, undamaged (smaller than a grapefruit)
 - a. Sell with an FCI owner's written declaration as soon as possible because they may enlarge at any time.
- 2) Small, damaged
 - a. Treat, and then sell with FCI owner's written declaration as soon as possible once healed
 - b. Euthanase
- 3) Large, undamaged
 - a. Consult operators and/or OV at slaughterhouse, some may be accepted for slaughter with an FCI owner's written declaration
 - b. Euthanase
- 4) Large with ulcerated skin
 - a. Euthanase

Runts, poor pigs, PMWS etc

- 1) Euthanase as recovery is unlikely

PDNS

- 1) Euthanase as recovery is very unlikely
- 2) Some pigs may show minor skin lesions of PDNS but are otherwise healthy, these may be sent for slaughter

Rectal Strictures, ('Barrel' or 'Pot-bellied' pigs)

- 1) Euthanase

Disease outbreaks in the Finishing Period

Where there has been a previous disease outbreak in the finishing period, it is advisable to consult with the OV at the abattoir before sending in large batches of pigs. Damage and resolved lesions from previous outbreaks of disease e.g. pneumonia and pleurisy, may cause considerable difficulties in processing, although the pigs are still likely to be fit for human consumption. It may be necessary to market them in smaller batches.

The Humane Euthanasia (killing) of Pigs on the Farm

Never attempt to kill a pig unless you have received suitable training.

It is strongly recommended that anyone intending to kill a pig obtains suitable training and thereafter has their competency assessed by a (their) veterinary surgeon, and obtains a suitable signed certificate from that Veterinary surgeon (this is a requirement for most assurance schemes). Training can be obtained from your veterinary surgeon, the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA), or other course providers such as BPEX.

Any method of killing a pig humanely must ensure that the pig becomes unconscious immediately and remains unconscious until it is dead (this is the legal requirement), that the pig is not handled roughly or frightened before it is killed, and that the method chosen does not endanger human life.

The method used will depend on the size of the pig, where it is to be killed and whether it is to be killed by the veterinary surgeon, the farmer, or stockman.

There are a number of weapons that are commonly used on farms to kill pigs humanely. These include shotguns, rifles, and other 'suitable' firearms. All of these weapons are appropriate, provided that the person involved (whether it is the veterinary surgeon, a licensed slaughterman, the owner, or a stockman) is familiar with the weapon and holds a valid shotgun and/or firearm certificate.

Captive-bolt equipment is designed to stun animals – and does not require a firearm certificate. However, other than in an emergency, a slaughterman's official "Certificate of Competence" must be held if a captive bolt is used to kill a pig (more information regarding the obtaining of a slaughterman's "Certificate of Competence" is given later). This is because a captive bolt is legally only a method of stunning, and further procedures i.e. bleeding or pithing) must be carried out in order to ensure an humane kill. This is a must for any carcase that is then submitted for sale for human consumption ([EC regulation EC853/2004 Food Chain Information and EC regulation EC1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing](#)).

When using a captive bolt, the difference between 'emergency killing' and 'slaughter' is very important legally. Once the decision has been made that the pig is unlikely to recover then it can be considered as requiring to be an "Emergency Kill". When making this judgement it can help to use the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) definition "a life not worth living".

The following are Definitions of Emergency Killing

- Any animal that is injured or ill and has an injury or disease associated with severe pain or suffering and is not responding to treatment is considered an emergency where it is then necessary to kill the animal as soon as possible to alleviate that pain or suffering.
- Pigs can be treated and subsequently determined as emergencies if they have an injury or disease associated with severe pain or suffering and do not respond to treatment, making it necessary to kill the animal as soon as possible to alleviate that pain or suffering.

Once the decision has been made, those pigs deemed as emergencies must be euthanased as soon as possible (effectively this means immediately, because once a responsible member of staff has taken the decision then the pig has – by definition - become an emergency).

In an emergency a pig can be killed by any means as long as that means is effective and kills the animal humanely without causing any avoidable pain, distress or suffering and the legal requirements are met. For piglets this includes the use of a non-penetrative device like the Cash Poultry Killer (providing you have been trained to use it). There are circumstances in which killing with a firearm or stunning with a captive bolt may be either undesirable or dangerous, for example when a sow is wedged in a crate. Under these circumstances it may be necessary to ask your veterinary surgeon to kill the pig humanely with an overdose of anaesthetic. A pig killed in this way cannot be used for human **or** animal consumption.

It is strongly recommended that **every** site of pig keeping (farm) has a named person responsible for animal welfare and for the euthanasia of any stock on that site. This person would have overall responsibility for decision making, the outcome of the decisions, and the humane euthanasia of any animal. This person would not necessarily have to carry out the euthanasia, but would bear the ultimate responsibility for what happens on the site/farm. Regardless of this the euthanasia of any distressed animal should not be delayed if this named person is not on-site.

It is also recommended that a competent and trained person responsible for euthanasing pigs should be able to attend the site/farm within 60 minutes in order that in urgent cases euthanasia is not delayed (this is at all times, i.e. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This provision could be from the local veterinary practice).

Methods of Humane Euthanasia

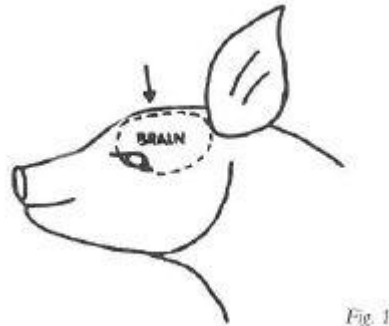
The following descriptions are intended as guidelines only. Please discuss them with your veterinary surgeon.

It is essential that pigs are killed quickly and humanely. This requires patience, preparation, time and confidence. Where a pig is to be shot or stunned, the pig should first be restrained with a wire noose or rope around its upper jaw, with the person holding the rope standing in front of the pig and thus behind the operator. **Never restrain a pig by holding its ear in one hand and using the captive-bolt / humane killer with the other. Never**

attempt to shoot an unrestrained pig, as it might move at the time of firing and receive an off site shot which injures, but does not render it unconscious.

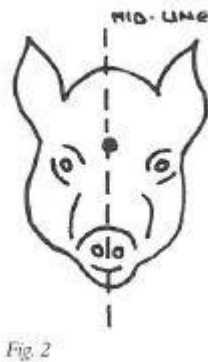
1) External trauma

A sharp firm blow on the top of the head over the brain, sufficient to break and depress the cranium of the skull, is an effective way of humanely killing pigs that are no older than four weeks of age, or more than 5kg in weight. It is essential that the blow is administered swiftly, firmly and with absolute determination. If there is any doubt whether the pig is dead, the blow should be immediately repeated. The blow must cause immediate loss of consciousness.



2) Captive-bolt stunner

The site of stunning is on the mid-line of the forehead, one finger's width above eye level, and the muzzle of the stunner should be placed against the head and directed towards the brain, aiming for the back of the pig's throat.



It is recommended that the most powerful cartridge available be used. Using the appropriate sized captive-bolt is an effective way to stun all pigs, and may kill outright pigs up to 24 weeks of age; (but remember that legally it is only a method of stunning, not killing). However, it will only stun adult pigs. After the pig has been stunned it should be **in all cases** either pithed (a process requiring considerable skill) or bled out before it regains consciousness. In practice, all pigs stunned with a captive-bolt should be bled by means of a deep cut across the throat from ear to ear with a sharp knife in order to sever all the major blood vessels to bring about fast and continuous bleeding so that the pig 'bleeds out'; or if you have been trained, stuck through the base of the neck into the chest to sever the major thoracic blood vessels, as is done in abattoirs. It is strongly recommended that you are trained to use this method as it is the most reliable as it results in rapid blood loss. **This process does not necessarily render the carcass fit for human consumption.** For smaller pigs a restraint frame can be used to prevent movement.

3) Shotgun

Where the operator is competent in the use of a shotgun, this is probably the ideal way to kill any pig humanely. The site of shooting is either the same as for the captive bolt (the preferred site), or through an eye, or from behind an ear, pointing in the direction of the brain. In each case the muzzle of the gun should be held between 10 and 25 cm away from the head. A 12-bore is only appropriate for adult / finishing pigs. A 0.410 shotgun is more appropriate for younger pigs

4) 0.22 rim fire rifle

The site of shooting is the same as for the captive-bolt, but the muzzle of the rifle should be held between 10 and 25 cm away from the head. This is only suitable for pig up to 24 weeks of age (approximately 110 Kg).

This should be used only in extreme emergency when no other firearm is available. By law 0.22 rim-fire rifles may only be used for the purposes specified on the firearm certificate.

5) Free bullet humane killer

The site of shooting is the same as for the captive bolt. It is very important to ensure that if the bullet should pass out of the pig's body it will not ricochet off concrete floors or walls (these are prohibited weapons and **do** require a firearms certificate, and licences are restricted to a very small number of professions).

- 6) Regardless of all regulations and advice, in an absolute emergency, if the usual method of euthanasia is unavailable, any method may be used to kill a pig so long as it immediately renders it unconscious.

Disposal of Dead Stock

Animals which are humanely destroyed on farm can no longer be buried, or burnt in the open. Dead stock must be disposed of by collection by a licensed operator, taken to or collected by a knackerman, hunt kennel, renderer, or be incinerated on-farm in a licensed incinerator ([The Animal By-Products Regulations 2005](#)).

Obtaining a Slaughterman's "Certificate of Competence"

Currently a Slaughterman's Licence is required under [The Welfare of Animals \(Slaughter or Killing\) Regulations 1995 \(SI No 1995/731\)](#), but the EU regulation [\(\(EC\) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing\)](#) will soon be in force (before the end of 2013) and these will be replaced by the 'Certificate of Competence'.

Firstly you need to receive (or have had) training. Then you will need to apply for a temporary certificate of competence, which will allow you to apply for a full certificate. This temporary certificate is issued by an authorised veterinary surgeon, an OV or a Defra veterinary officer (VO). You will then need to be assessed by a Defra VO (who has been specifically trained to carry out the assessment) who will assess your competence in carrying out the operations for which you are seeking a certificate, and your understanding of relevant statutory requirements (including Codes of Practice) and how they work to protect the welfare of animals. You will be assessed only on those species, operations or equipment for which you have applied (i.e. only for pigs and the use of a captive bolt and subsequent bleeding or pithing of the 'stunned' animal). Your assessment will not be a formal examination. Usually your practical skills will be observed during normal working conditions. There is a charge for this assessment visit by a VO to your premises. The standard fee quoted (at the time of printing) is £117.80p and up to five people can be assessed at one visit. It may be possible to arrange for your assessment to be carried out by a Defra veterinary officer (VO) during a visit to your premises for other reasons; however, this is not guaranteed. Then you have to apply to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for your Certificate of Competence. The FSA will supply details of all that is required, but the current fee is a once only charge of £26.00. Further information can be obtained from Defra, or the FSA, "Guidance Note on the Licensing and Training of Slaughtermen".

APPENDIX 1

Cardinal Points

- 1)** Your predominant responsibility is to the welfare of the animals under your care
- 2)** Never attempt to kill a pig unless you have received suitable training
- 3)** Any method you use to kill a pig must result in its immediate loss of consciousness
- 4)** Any pig rendered unconscious should never be allowed to regain consciousness
- 5)** It is offence to keep alive an animal that is suffering (pain or distress) when there is no realistic prospect of recovery
- 6)** Regardless of all regulations and advice, in an absolute emergency, if the usual method of euthanasia is unavailable, any method may be used to kill a pig so long as it immediately renders it unconscious
- 7)** All methods of killing a pig are potentially dangerous to humans, (and other livestock), and due diligence to safety must be shown
- 8)** "Ignorance of the Law is no excuse!"

APPENDIX 2

General Rules for the Safe Use of Firearms

- 1) Farmers who are competent handlers of shotguns should seek instruction from their veterinary surgeon on their use as a humane killer, but where one is not available, and particularly on large units staffed by young personnel, it is better to purchase and then receive instruction and be assessed for competence by a (your) veterinary surgeon on the use of a captive-bolt device.
- 2) Never point any gun, loaded or unloaded, at anything you do not intend to shoot.
- 3) Always treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- 4) Obtain instruction from a trained firearms instructor before using any gun.
- 5) Keep your finger off the trigger until you are aiming at the target.
- 6) Be certain the gun is unloaded before cleaning it, and always clean it after use.
- 7) Always unload the gun before entering a place where there are people, and ideally have a second person to confirm that you have unloaded it.
- 8) Never leave any gun unattended.
- 9) Store guns and ammunition locked away separately, and out of reach of children.
- 10) Before you shoot be sure your backstop area is safe, that shot(s) cannot ricochet off a solid floor or wall, and that there is no-one in range. Be prepared for a bullet to travel clean through a pig's head and hit the ground below the pig. It may ricochet from there.
- 11) Do not handle a gun while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 12) Never pull a gun towards you by the muzzle.
- 13) Do not climb over a gate, wall, or fence whilst carrying a loaded gun.
- 14) Load and unload with the muzzle pointing in a safe direction.
- 15) If a gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, keep it pointed at the target for at least 30 seconds. Sometimes slow primary ignition will cause a hang-fire and the cartridge will go off after a short pause.
- 16) Never put your hand over the muzzle of a gun.
- 17) Check the ammunition is the right size and calibre, and is not dented.
- 18) Never allow any firearm to point at any part of your body or at another person.
- 19) Always hold a pistol in your dominant hand and use the other for cocking.

APPENDIX 3

Relevant Legislation

Note:- Legislation can be amended or repealed and new legislation can be enacted at any time. Do not consider this to be a permanent or definitive list. The regulations as quoted apply to England. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland may have their own regulations, which although usually basically the same, may differ in detail. Most of these regulations will be based on the same original EU regulation. It is each person's own responsibility to be aware of any current regulations. "Ignorance of the Law is no excuse!".

Welfare:

- Animal Welfare Act 2006
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents>
- Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended 2010)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/2078/contents/made>
- The Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 (as amended 1993)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1990/2628/contents/made>

Welfare at slaughter/ killing legislation:

- COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:303:0001:0030:EN:PDF>
- The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (as amended 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1995/731/contents/made> (about to be repealed)

Transport legislation:

- The welfare of Animals (Transport) England Order 2006
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/3260/pdfs/uksi_20063260_en.pdf
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations
<http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/eur69655.pdf>

Residues:

- The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2011
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/2159/contents/made>
- Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 (as amended 2006 & 2009)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1729/introduction/made>

Food Hygiene

- Regulation (EC) no 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:139:0001:0054:en:PDF>
- Regulation (EC) no 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for on the hygiene of foodstuffs of animal origin (includes Food Chain Information (FCI) requirements in Section 3, and Annex III outlines specific requirements related to transport, slaughter and cutting hygiene, emergency slaughter, storage and transport)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:226:0022:0082:EN:PDF>

Animal By-Products

- The Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 (covers the disposal of fallen stock and ABPs not intended for human consumption)
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/2347/contents/made>
- The Animal By-Products (Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2011
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/881/contents/made>
- The Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/2965/contents/made>
- The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2010 (as amended)
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/801/pdfs/uksi_20100801_en.pdf

Updates can be downloaded from:-

Defra www.defra.gov.uk

The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), formerly the HMSO; www.opsi.gov.uk; or 020 7276 5229

Further information from:-

BPEX; www.bpex.org.uk

Humane Slaughter Association; www.hsa.org.uk; or 01582 831 919

APPENDIX 4

Conditions that Render an Animal Unsuitable for Slaughter

Regulation (EC) no 853/2004 of the European parliament and of the council of 29 April 2004 On the Hygiene of Foodstuffs and

Regulation (EC) no 853/2004 of the European parliament and of the council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for on the hygiene of foodstuffs of animal origin

This not the complete list – only those which apply to pigs.

Actinobacillosis (generalised)

Actinomycosis (generalised)

Anaemia (advanced)

Anthrax

Botulism

Bruising (extensive and severe)

Brucellosis

Caseous lymphadenitis (generalised or with emaciation)

Cysticercus cellulosae

Decomposition

Emaciation

Enteritis (acute)

Fever

Foot and Mouth Disease

Jaundice

Lymphadenitis (generalised)

Mastitis (acute septic)

Melanosis (generalised)

Metritis (acute septic)

Abnormal odour associated with disease or other conditions prejudicial to health or pronounced sexual odour

Oedema (generalised)

Pericarditis (acute septic)

Peritonitis (acute diffuse septic)

Pleurisy (acute diffuse septic)

Pneumonia (acute septic)

Pyæmia (including joint-ill)

Rabies

Salmonellosis (acute)

Salmonellosis (generalised)

Septicaemia

Swine erysipelas (acute)

Swine fever

Tetanus

Toxaemia

Trichenellosis

Tuberculosis (generalised)

Tuberculosis (with emaciation)

Tumours (malignant or with secondary growths or multiple growths)

Uraemia

Viraemia

APPENDIX 5

Pertinent Extracts or Definitions from Legislation

A) Extracts taken from the Animal Welfare Act 2006, detailing Animal welfare act offences

“Prevention of harm”

4:- Unnecessary suffering

- 1) A person commits an offence if—**
 - a. an act of his, or a failure of his to act, causes an animal to suffer,
 - b. he knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act, or failure to act, would have that effect or be likely to do so,
 - c. the animal is a protected animal, and
 - d. the suffering is unnecessary.
- 2) A person commits an offence if—**
 - a. he is responsible for an animal,
 - b. an act, or failure to act, of another person causes the animal to suffer,
 - c. he permitted that to happen or failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening, and
 - d. the suffering is unnecessary.
- 3) The considerations to which it is relevant to have regard when determining for the purposes of this section whether suffering is unnecessary include—**
 - a. whether the suffering could reasonably have been avoided or reduced;
 - b. whether the conduct which caused the suffering was in compliance with any relevant enactment or any relevant provisions of a licence or code of practice issued under an enactment;
 - c. whether the conduct which caused the suffering was for a legitimate purpose, such as—
 - (i) the purpose of benefiting the animal, or
 - (ii) the purpose of protecting a person, property or another animal;
 - d. whether the suffering was proportionate to the purpose of the conduct concerned;
 - e. whether the conduct concerned was in all the circumstances that of a reasonably competent and humane person.
- 4) Nothing in this section applies to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.**

Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare

- 1) A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.**
- 2) For the purposes of this Act, an animal’s needs shall be taken to include—**
 - a. its need for a suitable environment,
 - b. its need for a suitable diet,
 - c. its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
 - d. any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
 - e. its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
- 3) The circumstances to which it is relevant to have regard when applying subsection (1) include, in particular—**

- a. any lawful purpose for which the animal is kept, and
 - b. any lawful activity undertaken in relation to the animal.
- 4) Nothing in this section applies to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

B) Extracts from the Slaughter regulations EC 1009/2009853/2004

- 1) "Stunning" means any intentionally induced process which causes loss of consciousness and sensibility without pain, including any process resulting in instantaneous death. (Note animals should never be allowed to regain consciousness after stunning.)
- 2) "Killing" means any intentionally induced process which causes the death of an animal
- 3) "Slaughtering" means the killing of animals intended for human consumption.
- 4) "Emergency killing" refers to the killing of animals on welfare grounds and not for human consumption.

APPENDIX 6

Food Chain Information [FCI] EC No 853/2004

This states that 'Slaughterhouse operators must not accept animals into the slaughterhouse premises unless they have requested and been provided with relevant food safety information contained in the records kept at the holding of provenance in accordance with Regulation EC No 853/2004'

Remember

It is an offence to transport a sick or injured animal if this is likely to cause it unnecessary suffering. If in doubt you should consult a veterinary surgeon.

Examples of the forms are given on the following pages:

FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION: PIGS – EXAMPLE FOR GUIDANCE

1) Production site details

This information should be received initially and retained for each site supplying pigs to the slaughterhouse, and up-dated whenever changes occur.

FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION - PIGS	
PRODUCTION SITE DETAILS	
Business ownerⁱ	
Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
E-mail address	
Production site	
Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
E-mail address	
Herdmark ⁱⁱ	
Assurance scheme name ⁱⁱⁱ (if applicable)	
Assurance scheme membership number	
Is the herd in the ZAP scheme? ^{iv}	YES / NO
Does the site operate a batch finishing system (AI-AO)? ^v	YES / NO
Veterinary surgeon responsible for site^{vi}	
Name	
Number (if known)	
Practice address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
E-mail address	
Production system^{vii}	
Born and reared under controlled housing conditions ^{viii}	
Born outdoors and reared under controlled housing conditions since weaning	
Born and reared outdoors	
All other systems	

2) Consignment details

Information to be received for each consignment of pigs.

FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION - PIGS				
CONSIGNMENT DETAILS				
Production site				
Name				
Address				
Contact details^{ix}				
Name				
Position				
Telephone				
e-mail				
Slaughterhouse to which pigs are being consigned				
Name				
Address				
Slaughterhouse approval number (if known)				
Intended date of slaughter				
Consignment				
Identification – Slapmark				
Intended number of pigs in consignment ^x				
Type of pigs	Finished pigs	Cull sows or boars	Wild boars	
Is this the last consignment of pigs from the current production batch?	YES	NO	N/A	
If the herd is in the ZAP Scheme, please give current ZAP score.				
Have withdrawal periods for veterinary medicines and other treatments been met?	YES	NO		
Has the consignment of pigs been treated with any veterinary medicinal products or other treatments in the past 28 days? ^{xi} If 'yes', please provide details on additional document.	YES	NO		
Are any pigs showing signs of abnormality? ^{xii} If 'yes', please provide details on additional document.	YES	NO		
Is the holding or area under restrictions for animal health or other reasons? ^{xiii} If 'yes', please provide details on additional document.	YES	NO		
Has any analysis of samples shown that any animal may have been exposed to substances likely to result in residues in meat? ^{xiv} If 'yes', please provide details on additional document.	YES	NO		
Reports about previous ante- and post-mortem inspections of pigs from the same site				
If you have previously sent pigs to this slaughterhouse, the operator will have access to the inspection reports for them.				

3) Additional FCI

This information is only required if indicated by answers to questions about the consignment.

ADDITIONAL FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION, WHERE REQUIRED	
Identification – Slapmark	
Veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to the <u>consignment</u> of pigs in the past 28 days?	
Name of medicine or product	
Date of administration	
Withdrawal period	
Reason for administration	
Details of any pigs showing signs of abnormality?	
Identification of pig(s)	
Description of abnormality	
Record all veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to the above pig(s) within the last 28 days	
Name of medicine or product	
Date of administration	
Withdrawal period	
Reason for administration	
Details of holding or area restrictions for animal health or other reasons?	
Slaughterhouse operator and Official Veterinarian must be informed before pigs are transported to slaughterhouse.	
Details about analysis of samples that have shown that any animal may have been exposed to substances likely to result in residues in meat?	
Slaughterhouse operator and Official Veterinarian must be informed before pigs are transported to slaughterhouse.	

APPENDIX 7

Example of a Suitable Declaration

This is one drawn up and agreed (by the FSA) for cattle; there is not an agreed format for pigs but there is no reason why the same format should not be used for pigs.

MODEL DECLARATION TO ACCOMPANY THE BODY OF CATTLE SUBJECT TO EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER OUTSIDE THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Regulation 853/2004 Annex III, Section I, Chapter VI, paragraphs 5 & 6

Owner's name, address and holding number	
Production site address and holding number (if different)	
Contact name, telephone number and email address of owner/owner's agent	
Identification details - ear tag number - breed - age - sex	

A. Veterinary Surgeon's Declaration

Reason for emergency slaughter	
Record any treatment administered by the veterinary surgeon.	

After carrying out ante-mortem inspection, it is my opinion that the animal from which this body was derived was not showing clinical signs of:

- any disease or condition that may be transmitted to animals or humans through handling or eating meat or;
- of systemic disease or emaciation.

Name and address of slaughterhouse to which carcase will be transported	
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Practice Name and Address	
Telephone number	
Email address	
Signature	
Name of veterinary surgeon	
Time and date of emergency slaughter	

Note:

The Hygiene Regulations permit the emergency slaughter of animals outside the slaughterhouse if they fulfil the condition:

An otherwise healthy animal must have suffered an accident that prevented its transport to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons.

B. Owner/Agent's Declaration

Record all veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to the animal, from which the body is derived within the last 6 months, dates of administration and withdrawal periods	
Tuberculosis Is the animal a reactor or inconclusive reactor to the TB test? Is the holding under a TB restriction order?	
Brucellosis Is the animal a Brucellosis reactor? Is the holding under a Brucellosis restriction order?	
Is the holding/area under restrictions for other animal health or other reasons?	
Have any analyses shown that the animal may have been exposed to food-borne zoonoses or substances likely to result in residues in meat? If so attach a copy.	
Signature	
Name	
Status (e.g. owner, manager, stockman)	
Time and date	

ⁱ Owner of the pigs

ⁱⁱ Official herdmark of the site, including any suffix(es) e.g. AB1234 or AB1234/01

ⁱⁱⁱ e.g. ABP, Genesis QA, QMS Pigs

^{iv} British Pig Executive (BPEX) Zoonosis Action Plan <http://www.bpex.org.uk/2ts/health/ZNCP.aspx>

^v Required to ensure that quarterly ZAP testing is carried out for AI/AO producers.

^{vi} Contact details of the site's veterinary surgeon are required if the plant operator or OV needs to contact him/her if problems are identified, and to feedback inspection results.

^{vii} Information about production systems to determine if testing for *Trichinella* is required, and to assess eligibility for simplified, visual only inspection.

^{viii} Controlled housing conditions: fully enclosed houses, including houses with external runs, that are constructed and managed to prevent the access of pets, wild animals and unauthorised persons.

^{ix} The contact person is the person nominated by the owner of the pigs to provide Food Chain Information for the pigs on the site. The contact person must have, or be provided with, all the relevant information about the site and the pigs in the consignment.

^x This may differ from the number of pigs actually consigned

^{xi} Information about veterinary medicines is required to ensure that withdrawal periods have been respected. It also provides information about the health status of the pigs and about diseases that may affect the safety of meat.

^{xii} This information is equivalent to that required under Schedule 18 of the old Regulations. All pigs in this category must be identified in some manner.

^{xiii} If the answer is yes, the plant operator and OV should be contacted before the pigs are consigned.

^{xiv} If the answer is yes, the plant operator and OV should be contacted before the pigs are consigned.