

GUIDANCE NOTE

The RTA Pig farm standard AH.i.1 requires that each site must have a documented Work Instruction that outlines euthanasia requirements and conditions for that site. Overleaf is a template that could be amended to be company and site specific. The PVS Casualty Pig booklet should be reviewed when completing this.

You do not have to use this template – if you would like to develop your own Work Instruction, or have one in existence, then this is likely to be acceptable provided it covers the following key areas:

- The Work Instruction must be signed-off by the person with overall responsibility for euthanasia, to confirm their approval of the Work Instruction and the business' commitment to following it.
- It documents the methods used on site, for all classes of pigs and the names of persons competent to use the different methods. If an outside contractor other than a vet is used to euthanase pigs, written assurance must be obtained from the contractor confirming relevant personnel hold slaughterman's licences.
- It lists the parameters for each method that must be observed to ensure that the method is effective and welfare is protected. The PVS Casualty Pig booklet will help with this – but an example is included for reference.
- It lists the checks made to ensure the pig was effectively stunned and/or killed
- It lists the actions to be taken if the stunning or killing was ineffective

Persons who undertake euthanasia must be trained and competent. See AH.j and the relevant Appendix (AH.j) for more information on these requirements.

WORK INSTRUCTION FOR EUTHANASIA TEMPLATE

SITE DETAILS			
SITE NAME/ ADDRESS			
	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	
PERSON WITH OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUTHANASIA POLICY			
EMERGENCY CONTACTS			
	METHOD OF RESTRAINT REQUIRED (if applicable)	METHODS OF EUTHANASIA USED	NAME OF PERSON(S) AUTHORISED TO CARRY OUT THIS METHOD OF EUTHANASIA
Piglets no older than 4 weeks and no more than 5kg			
Pigs over 4 weeks or heavier than 5kg and up to 30kg			
Growers/ finishers (30kg to slaughter weight)			
Adult sows/ boars			

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IF A PIG REQUIRES EMERGENCY EUTHANASIA/ KILLING

1. If you are signed off as competent for the type of pig, carry out the appropriate euthanasia procedure without delay.
2. If you are not signed off as competent for the type of pig, promptly contact the relevant person (relevant to pig type and method)
 - if they cannot be on the site within 60 minutes an alternative trained and competent person (e.g. vet) **must** attend to the pig

The trained and competent person must:

3. Confirm that euthanasia is the best course of action for the welfare of the pig
4. Restrain the pig (in a way appropriate to the size – note holding by the ears/ between your knees is not appropriate)
5. Kill the pig as soon as possible with a method relevant to the pig type
6. Check that the kill (or stun/kill) has been effective
7. If the kill (or stun/kill) has been ineffective re-administer and re-check it has been effective
8. Move the carcase to secure storage prior to disposal

Signs of an effective kill

If a kill has been effective, the pig should have:

- i. Lost posture (Fallen over)
- ii. Stopped rhythmic breathing
- iii. Lost corneal reflex (i.e. it should not blink when you touch the cornea (the clear surface) of the eye with a finger)
- iv. A fixed, glazed expression to its eyes, with no eye movement

You must quickly decide if the kill has been effective - if it has been ineffective you must **immediately** re-administer emergency euthanasia.

Actions to be taken in the event of an ineffective stun/ kill

- i. If an alternative method is **not** available (and the equipment is working), re-administer using the same equipment in a slightly different position (1cm higher and 5mm to one side of the previous shot)
- ii. If an alternative method or a stronger cartridge (shotgun/ stunning only) is quickly available, use it. You must be trained for the method and depending on the method you may need to administer in a slightly different position (as above), and follow with pithing/ bleeding

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. Where possible pigs should be killed away from public view and the view of other pigs - **but must not be moved if it will cause it unnecessary suffering.**
2. **Before** you attempt to carry out euthanasia ensure you have:
 - a. **enough ammunition** (including spares)
 - b. **the right equipment** (including a pithing rod / knife as necessary)
 - c. **well maintained equipment** (using mal-functioning equipment could jeopardise the pig's welfare).
3. Consider **your health and safety** when carrying out euthanasia – with regard to the animal you are euthanasing (could it attack, should you restrain it)? and the equipment you are using (beware of shot ricocheting off floors or walls - are you likely to injure yourself using a shotgun in the location you are in)?

Class of Pig	Method	Key Parameters
<i>EXAMPLE Sow</i>	<i>12 bore shotgun</i>	<i>Position of shot – just above eye-level, middle of the forehead, aim towards the back of the throat.</i> <i>Muzzle must be 5-25cm from the sows head.</i> <i>Can be used for all adult sows.</i>

STORING AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment must be stored correctly to ensure it is only used by the appropriate person and it must be cleaned and maintained to ensure it works effectively. Listed below are the normal storage and maintenance requirements for each piece of euthanasia equipment used on this site.

Equipment	Storage location	Maintenance Frequency

Signed		Date	
Name			