



Red Tractor Pigs Standards v4.4

Guidance Note – Euthanasia Standards

The requirements of the Red Tractor Pigs Scheme Standards around euthanasia are aimed at ensuring that euthanasia, where required, is carried out

- promptly, to avoid unnecessary suffering
- by competent persons, in an appropriate and humane way
- in accordance with agreed procedures for the farm

<p>AH.j Key Livestock that do not respond to treatment or require emergency euthanasia must be promptly and humanely euthanased by a trained and competent person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Decision for the requirement for euthanasia made by a trained and competent stockperson ■ Trained and competent person is defined in the Appendix 	<p>R</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mortality records kept for three years
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There are two main elements to standard AH.j (Key). Firstly, it requires that livestock identified as requiring euthanasia are culled promptly, and secondly that the euthanasia is carried out by a trained and competent person.

A non-conformance should be raised against this standard if the assessor identifies a pig that should have been euthanised sooner. The PVS Casualty Pig* document should be referred to for guidance on scenarios where euthanasia is appropriate, for example where the pig is unfit to be transported for casualty slaughter or where there is no hope of treatment being successful. Assessors should familiarise themselves with the content of this document and have an open discussion with the relevant stockperson about any pigs of concern, to identify whether any veterinary advice has been given about the pig(s) in question and to determine the producer’s planned next steps.

A non-conformance should also be raised against AH.j if the assessor finds evidence that euthanasia has been carried out by someone who is not trained or competent, unless they were being supervised at the time by a person signed off as competent.

The ‘R’ for mortality records against AH.j is there because the assessor may wish to check mortality records to verify who performs euthanasia. However, if no or incomplete mortality records are kept this should be raised as a non-conformance against AH.b not AH.j. The RT Pigs Standards do not currently require farms to record who euthanised a pig - so assessors may have to verify who has carried out euthanasia by other means.

- **Objective evidence against this standard should cover: whether or not any ‘no hope’ pigs were identified; whether or not euthanasia has been carried out by trained and competent persons.**

* Please note, this document is currently being reviewed by Pig Veterinary Society and a revised version is expected to be published in Autumn 2020

<p>AH.j.1 Documented procedures must be in place for euthanasia and methods used must be permitted by legislation and the PVS Casualty Pig</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PVS Casualty Pig is available ■ Documented procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – details methods used for all classes of pigs and names of persons signed off as competent in each method – includes details of how to carry out all methods and checks to ensure effectiveness – details what to do if method used was ineffective – is signed off by the named person responsible for euthanasia – contains annual written assurance that any outside contractors used (other than vets) hold a slaughterman's licence 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0f0ff;"> <div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">R</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PVS Casualty Pig ■ Work Instruction for Euthanasia </div>
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Standard AH.j.1 requires there to be a documented procedure/work instruction/euthanasia policy in place that includes the listed elements. Assessors should check that the document has been signed off by the named person responsible for euthanasia (see standard AH.i.1). The person is signing to confirm they have read the policy, which is important as they are the person that is responsible for ensuring it is implemented.

Assessors should also look to verify that euthanasia on the unit is carried out in accordance with the documented procedure. If there is evidence, through talking to stockpersons and/or witnessing their activities, that alternative methods to those detailed in the euthanasia policy are used, then a non-conformance should be raised against AH.j.1.

It is not a requirement that the euthanasia policy be signed off by the vet, although it may be on some farms. The policy may sit within the Veterinary Health Plan, but it does not have to.

- **Objective evidence: whether or not PVS Casualty Pig is available; whether or not a documented euthanasia work instruction is in place; whether or not euthanasia is carried out in accordance with the policy; and whether or not the named person responsible for euthanasia has signed it.**

<p>AH.j.2 All staff that euthanase must be trained and signed off as competent by a vet (Revised)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whilst staff are being trained, they are always under direct supervision when undertaking euthanasia by either a vet or a suitably trained & experienced person as signed off by a vet
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Appendix AH.j outlines more details around the training and competency requirements in relation to euthanasia.

For any new, or recently trained staff, assessors should look to see evidence of **both**

1. Euthanasia training (either in VHP or training records)
2. Competence, as signed off by a RT registered vet (either in VHP or training records)

For any staff that were trained more than 5 years ago, as long as there is evidence that they have been deemed competent by a RT registered vet (either in the VHP or training records), evidence of the original euthanasia training is not necessary. Vets must ensure they are satisfied persons have undertaken the necessary training before signing them off as competent.

As outlined in Appendix AH.j:

- Competence of the person with responsibility for euthanasia on site must be re-evaluated by a vet, once every three years. Once successfully re-evaluated, the person with responsibility for euthanasia must, if applicable, reassess their staff, once every three years.

The requirement is for re-assessment every three years, not re-training. Re-training would only be required if the assessment determined it was necessary. Assessors should look to verify that the competence of all persons carrying out euthanasia has been assessed within the last 3 years (either by the vet or named person responsible for euthanasia, as required). This requirement may be met by, for example:

- An entry detailing 're-assessment of euthanasia competence' into the person's training records, or receipt of a certificate every 3 years
 - Vet signature confirming competence in euthanasia in the VHP, re-certified at least every 3 years, but may be more frequent (e.g. at every quarterly review of the VHP)
- **Objective evidence: whether or not there is evidence of training (for staff carrying out euthanasia that began work on the unit <5 years ago); whether or not there is evidence of a veterinary signature confirming competence dated within the last 3 years, for all persons carrying out euthanasia; named examples and dates should be given.**

Additional points

- Assessors should verify who carries out euthanasia at weekends and when persons competent in euthanasia are off sick or on holiday (particularly for sole operators).
- Where euthanasia is carried out by a fieldsperson rather than farm staff, a record of training and competency in euthanasia for the fieldsperson is required.

AH.j.3

A person with training and competence in relevant methods of euthanasia must be present on unit or able to attend as soon as possible and no longer than 60 minutes

- If no one on site is competent in euthanasia, or equipment for euthanasia is held at another site, compliance with standard AH.j.3 (attendance within 60 minutes) should be scrutinised.