

SAFE TRANSPORT OF PIGS

Pork producers, transporters and processors follow high standards to ensure the health, safety and quality of their animals. Food safety and animal welfare start at the farm and continue through the entire system.

Under the Health of Animal Regulations, which governs the humane transportation of animals in Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) responsibility is to verify compliance and to take appropriate action when non-compliance is found. The pork industry adheres to these requirements.

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Pork producers and transporters ensure that the hogs are in good condition and fit for transport before loading. The farmers own the pigs until they arrive at the processing plant. It is in the best interest of the farmers and transporters to ensure that the pigs arrive in a healthy state.

Indications of a healthy pig

- Normal stance
- Back straight, relaxed
- Mouth not salivating
- Eyes clear and bright
- Regular breathing
- Alert, curious and looking around
- Interacting with other pigs
- Moist nose

Pigs have a fasting period (no food, but access to water) prior to being transported. This reduces animal stress and the risk of contamination and improves food safety.

MANAGING DURING TRANSPORT

Drivers ensure the well-being and safety of pigs during transportation. Vehicles are designed specifically to ensure the safety of pigs during transportation. Pigs are fed, watered and rested at CFIA-regulated intervals.

In extreme weather conditions

- Loading and transportation is delayed during extremely hot periods
- Sufficient ventilation is provided at all times
- Loading densities are adjusted in cold and hot weather conditions
- Bedding is adjusted based on the temperature to ensure the well-being and safety of the pigs



LOADING

Pork producers and transporters take special caution when loading the vehicle to avoid causing any injury or undue suffering to the pigs.

Conditions of the ramp or other apparatus used by the carrier

- Slope should be approximately 20 degrees
- Strength and height is sufficient to prevent animals from falling off the ramp
- No unprotected gap between ramp and vehicle

Loading density

- The maximum pig load density is calculated based on the compartment area and average weight of the pigs
- Overcrowding that can likely cause injury or undue suffering to the pigs is prohibited and punishable by law



UNLOADING

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulates livestock transportation and deploys inspectors on site to monitor the health of animals when they arrive.

