

SECTION 7.9

HANDLING PRACTICES

REQUIREMENTS

1. The personnel responsible for handling, moving and restraining animals must be trained in low-stress pig-handling techniques.
2. If electric prods are used on-farm, they must only be used according with Pig Code of Practice requirements:
 - a. Electric prods must only be used as a last resort and never as the primary driving device.
 - b. When necessary, use of prods must be restricted to the back and hind quarters on lead pigs, but never used in the anal and genital areas and only when there is a clear path for them to move forward.
 - c. Electric prods must not be used in the finishing pen.
 - d. Electric prods must not be used on piglets or nursery pigs, or on pigs that are distressed, sick or injured.

RATIONALE

- a. Using low-stress pig-handling and restraint techniques will reduce stress on the pigs and provide a safer environment for personnel.
- b. Positive human contact is an important factor in animal well-being and productivity.
- c. Pigs with previous positive handling and moving experiences are easier to move.
- d. The presence of behavioural vices and/or aggression usually indicates the well-being of the pigs has been compromised.

GUIDANCE

- a. Producers may wish to develop an SOP for pig handling and to have staff review this SOP and sign that they understand the principles of low-stress handling and restraint.
- b. All personnel responsible for handling, moving or restraining pigs should be competent in low-stress pig-handling methods. They should at least be knowledgeable about the following:
 - i. how to position themselves to encourage calm movement in the pigs
 - ii. when to apply pressure and when to stop applying pressure (pressure and release principle) during handling
 - iii. how to pick up and handle young pigs
 - iv. when and how to use restraint devices
 - v. which handling tools are appropriate to use for the size of pigs they are moving
 - vi. the signs of stress and what to do when a pig becomes distressed during handling
 - vii. it is unproductive to handle pigs aggressively.
- c. See the to Handling Practices fact sheet for further details.

AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Questions and Interpretation	Verification				
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	NC-Critical	N/A
Q7.9.1	Verify that personnel responsible for handling, moving and restraining animals are trained in low-stress pig-handling techniques.	Full and partial validation: > R-B: Training Record > observation, if applicable				
	Are personnel responsible for handling, moving and restraining animals trained in low-stress pig-handling techniques?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Q7.9.2	Verify that personnel who have access to electric prods know how and when to use them according to the requirements under the Pig Code of Practice. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Electric prods must only be used as a last resort and never as the primary driving device. When necessary, use of prods must be restricted to the back and hind quarters on lead pigs, but never used in the anal and genital areas, and only when there is a clear path for them to move forward. Electric prods must not be used in the finishing pen. Electric prods must not be used on piglets or nursery pigs, or on distressed, sick or injured pigs. 	Full and partial validation: > R-B: Training Record > observation (full validation only) > interview				
	If electric prods are used, are they used according to Pig Code of Practice requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

N/A = not applicable



LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

COMPLIANT

- > Training records are complete.
- > There is no evidence that handling, restraint, breeding or mixing practices are causing stress.

MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 60 days**

- > Training records are incomplete or unavailable.

MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 30 days**

- > There is evidence of inappropriate use of electric prods.

CRITICAL NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 24 hours**

- > There has been a wilful act of abuse as described in the Animal Welfare Policy.