



Euthanasia Policy (standard 3.11)

QMS Pig Assurance standard 3.11 requires that a documented procedure must be in place for on-site euthanasia and must include the following:

- Details of euthanasia methods used for all classes of pigs on site, and the name of the person(s) signed off by vet for each method.
- Contingency procedures in the event such persons are unavailable.
- Standard operating procedure for each of the methods and how to carry out checks to ensure effectiveness.
- How to deal with any issues if the method was not effective.
- PVS casualty pig document is available.

The following template that can be completed to be site specific. If you would like to develop your own procedure, then this is likely to be acceptable provided it covers the areas listed above. The PVS Casualty Pig document should be reviewed when completing this.

- Each unit must have at least two named persons trained and signed off as competent to euthanise by the vet. A trained and competent person could include the vet or knackerman. Where a stockperson is the named person, they must be deemed competent by the vet and this must be recorded in the VHWP.
- Refresher training must be undertaken at least every two years as a minimum and records kept.



SITE NAME & ADDRESS					
PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR EUTHANASIA	NAMES		PHONE NUMBERS		
CLASS OF STOCK	METHOD OF RESTRAINT REQUIRED (if applicable)	METHOD OF HUMANE EUTHANASIA USED	NAME OF PERSONS WHO UNDERTAKE THIS METHOD OF EUTHANSIA	SIGNED OFF BY VET	DATE SIGNED OFF BY VET
Piglets no older than 4 weeks and no more than 5kg*					
Nursery pigs over 4 weeks or heavier than 5kg and up to 30kg					
Growers/ finishers (30kg to slaughter weight)					
Adult sows/ boars					

* Members should consider an alternative method to manual blunt force trauma such as mechanical blunt force trauma using a non-penetrating captive bolt which delivers a minimum 27.7 joules (J) energy (as described in the manufacturers specification).



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES. It is essential that pigs are killed quickly and humanely. Any method used to euthanise a pig must result in immediate loss of consciousness.		
CLASS OF PIG	METHOD	SOPs
Piglets no older than 4 weeks and no more than 5kg.		
Nursery pigs over 4 weeks or heavier than 5kg and up to 30kg.		
Growers / finishers		
Adult sows / boars		



SIGNS OF AN EFFECTIVE KILL The person undertaking euthanasia must remain with the animal until death is confirmed.	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF AN INEFFECTIVE STUN / KILL

STORAGE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE Euthanasia equipment must be stored and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.		
Equipment	Storage location	Maintenance Frequency



NAMES OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ON-SITE EUTHANASIA*	
SIGNED	
SIGNED	
DATE	
DATE	

*Your predominant responsibility is to the welfare of animals under your care.

EMERGENCY CONTACT(S) IF COMPETENT PERSONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE.		