

TRAINING AND COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EMERGENCY KILLING OF PIGS

Note: This Appendix may need to be reviewed in the light of possible future changes to legislation

Any pig with an injury or disease associated with severe pain or suffering where there is no other practical possibility of alleviating the pain or suffering must be euthanased as soon as possible. Only a trained and competent person is permitted to kill pigs. On RTA farms, trained and competent Veterinary Surgeons, slaughtermen and staff are the only persons permitted to carry out euthanasia or emergency killing of pigs. The training and competency requirements and criteria are outlined below.

Veterinary Surgeon Training and Competency Requirements

Veterinary surgeons who euthanase pigs and/ or who train persons to euthanase pigs must:

- Be suitably experienced
- Be registered with the Scheme

Stockman Training and Competency Requirements

All stockmen who euthanase pigs must be both trained and assessed as competent as outlined in the table below. Stockmen killing pigs in a non-emergency situation must also hold a slaughterman's licence, in addition to the training and competency requirements below.

Training		Competence	
Delivered By	Record Requirements	Assessed By	Record Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vet ■ BPEX – Emergency Killing Workshop ■ Humane Slaughter Association On-Farm Killing of Red Meat Animals – Theory and Practice ■ Suitably trained and experienced person, as signed off by the vet 	Recorded and signed by Vet in VHP <i>Or</i> Declaration (by vet) of training on PIPR <i>Or</i> Recorded in farm training records	Vet	Recorded and signed by Vet in VHP <i>Or</i> Declaration (by vet) of competence on PIPR <i>Or</i> Recorded and signed by Vet in farm training records

Stockman Training and Competency Criteria:

- Training must be delivered and competence assessed against the following key criteria:
 - The recommendations of the latest version of the PVS Casualty Pig (specifically the scenarios where killing is essential to avoid prolonging suffering).
 - The handling and restraint of pigs before they are killed.
 - The acceptable methods of emergency killing pigs of different sizes.
 - The parameters for the different methods (e.g. position of shot).
 - The signs of an effective kill and what to do if the method is ineffective.
 - Maintenance of equipment.
 - And emergency procedures.



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- From April 2014 only stockmen who have been formally trained and assessed as competent may carry out euthanasia.
- Competence must be assessed as soon as practically possible after training.
- The competence assessment must include a practical element. The killing of pigs requiring euthanasia must not be delayed in order for competency to be assessed.
- Only persons that are considered competent against these criteria can be recorded/ signed by the vet or declared on PIPR as competent.
- Competence must be re-evaluated by the person with responsibility for euthanasia, once every three years.

Slaughterman Competency Requirements

Slaughtermen (e.g. knacker men) who are not employed by the farm, who euthanase pigs must hold a slaughterman's licence (relevant to the methods used and species slaughtered). If an external slaughterman is to be used, annual written assurance that they are competent must be provided from their employer.