

# Global Animal Partnership's Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Pig Collection Points v1.0



## About GAP's Animal Welfare Rating Program

The Animal Welfare Rating program assesses the level of welfare of animals on-farm, at collection points, during transport, and at slaughter.

The on-farm standards are designed as a multi-tiered program, which promotes continuous improvement in animal agriculture; engages a broad spectrum of producers; allows for wider product selection for greater consumer options; provides more detailed information about the level of welfare of farm animals; and informs consumers about the production systems they may choose to support.

These Collection Point standards are not tiered, but any Step-rated operation that wishes to use a Collection Point must ensure that it is certified under these standards. As the standard-setter, Global Animal Partnership (GAP) does not conduct audits nor make certification decisions. Authorized, third-party certification companies perform the audits and issue certificates, as appropriate. As such, producers, consumers, and retailers alike can be confident that certification is fair, accurate, and free of conflict of interest.

## About the Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Pig Collection Points v1.0

The original standards for Pig Collection Points was issued on December 5, 2014 as part of the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Pigs v2.0. During the revision of the Pig Standards (v2.2), the Collection Point Section was made into its own standard and issued on October 3, 2016. Any Collection Points audited on or after October 3, 2016, including those undergoing re-certification, will be audited to this version. The development process included consultation with pork industry representatives and producers, guidance from animal welfare scientific experts, an extensive public consultative process, and review and approval by the Global Animal Partnership Board of Directors.

After four (4) certification cycles, the standards will be reviewed and revised based on key learnings, as well as any new, relevant scientific findings. The review and revision process will again involve guidance from scientific experts and producers, and public comment, before the draft revision is presented to the Board of Directors for final review and approval. Thereafter, the standards will be reviewed and revised according to the protocol outlined in the GAP Pilot Policy Manual.

At any time throughout the above-mentioned period, GAP may amend or clarify parts of the standard as issues with implementation arise, new technologies become available, or new scientific findings are made.

## About Global Animal Partnership

Global Animal Partnership, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2008, brings together farmers, scientists, ranchers, retailers, and animal advocates—a diverse group with the common goal of wanting to improve the welfare of animals in agriculture.

For more information, contact us at [info@globalanimalpartnership.org](mailto:info@globalanimalpartnership.org) or 877.427.5783 (+1.202.540.9880 if calling from outside the United States).

## Collection Point Overview

Collection Points, also known as assembly yards, are defined as a location where producers deliver pigs that are then shipped from this location to the slaughter facility. Collection Points may be used to batch small groups of pigs from different farms together ready to ship as one load to the slaughter facility. Collection Points benefit farmers and ranchers, as the access to some farms and ranches may not allow for large trucks to get to the farm, or dirt tracks may only allow for access in dry weather, plus the distance farmers and ranchers have to travel to deliver animals to the Collection Point will generally be shorter than driving to the slaughter facility. Collection Points also benefit marketing groups and processors by allowing the organization of small numbers of animals into single truck loads.

Collection Points may have covered or open pens and provide a range of facilities depending on their frequency of use and the time for which animals are normally held there.

Collection Points must pass an audit before a Step-rated pig operation can use their facilities. Collection Points will not be assigned a Step-rating, but rather will be granted a pass/fail designation and will hold a 'GAP Certified' certificate.

## Program Requirements

The following applies to each Collection Point applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership's Animal Welfare Rating program for Pig Collection Points.

### 1. General

- a. The standards in this document are requirements.
- b. The Collection Point must have read the standards and prepared for the audit or they cannot be certified.
- c. Each Collection Point must be audited once every certification cycle. A certification cycle is 15 months.
- d. Each Collection Point must follow record keeping requirements outlined in Section C1.8 to ensure that the chain of custody program that is also maintained by the operation that animals originated from, the processor and any further processor that will be using a Step-rating label is not broken. Details on chain of custody requirements are shown in Section 9 of the GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0.
- e. The GAP Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond that which is included in the standards (see [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/)).
- f. No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.

### 2. Applications


- a. Each Collection Point is required to complete GAP's Collection Point Application for Pigs v2.2 each certification cycle.
- b. Applications, as well as this document, and the GAP Pilot Policy Manual can be downloaded at [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/) or received by contacting your GAP-accredited certifier.


### 3. Audit and Certification

- a. Each Collection Point must be audited once every certification cycle.
- b. Collection Points must have pigs on-site in order to be audited. Note that the pigs on-site do not have to come from Step-rated operations.
- c. At the time of audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the Collection Point and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with a Supplier may also be present at the time of the audit.
- d. Each Collection Point applying for GAP certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available at the time of audit, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. transport).
- e. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another (e.g. a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity; slaughter facility), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the Collection Point prior to the final determination of approval.
- f. GAP supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations. Please refer to GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 and contact your Certifier for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- g. Auditors do not make determinations of approval nor provide consultative service to Collection Points on meeting standards requirements. Approval determinations are made by reviewers or other agents of authorized certification companies.
- h. If a standard has not been met for all animals on the Collection Point at the time of initial audit, approval will not be granted until evidence is provided confirming that the standard has been met.
- i. If in a particular situation or circumstance, a standard as written might compromise the welfare of the animals in the Collection Point's care, the Collection Point should contact their certifier to discuss applying to GAP for a deviation.

### 4. Non-Conformances

- a. If a Collection Point fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance.
- b. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical.
- c. If a Collection Point receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification decision (see Repeat Non-conformances in GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v 1.0).

In the example below, the  indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a major non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard is still not in compliance, then it would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0, Section 5 Repeat Non-conformances for further information).

| STANDARD   |   |
|--|---|
| C1.9 Euthanasia  |   |
| C1.9.5  | If an animal is identified as requiring euthanasia, this must be carried out within 24 hours. |

In the example below, as there is no **M** beside the standard, this means that the standard is classified as a minor non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard was still not in compliance, then it would be considered a major non-conformance (see GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0, Section 5 Repeat Non-conformances for further information).

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>STANDARD</b>      |  |
| <b>C1.6 Handling</b> |  |
| <b>C1.6.4</b>        | Only low stress handling aids may be used when moving pigs (such as nylon flags, sorting boards, rattle/shaker paddles). |

- d. If a Collection Point is issued a non-conformance, it needs to be addressed and the response submitted to the certifier by the Collection Point within 3 weeks from the date the certifier issues the audit report, and be accepted by the certifier as an acceptable response to the non-conformance, before a certificate is issued. If the Collection Point does not respond to the non-conformance within 3 weeks, it will result in a shortened certificate once an acceptable response is provided (see GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v 1.0 Section 5 Non-conformances).

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## COLLECTION POINT STANDARDS

①: Operations are permitted, but are not required, to submit video recordings, or to utilize electronic surveillance technology to show compliance to Standards C1.3.1, C1.3.2, C 1.5.1-C 1.7.3. Any operation submitting video recordings must follow the guidelines stipulated in the GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0.

| STANDARD                         |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>C1.1 Certification</b>        |  |
| <b>C1.1.1</b>                    | Any Collection Point being used by Step-rated operations must be audited once every 15 months.   |
| <b>C1.1.2</b>                    | Collection Points must have a written protocol outlining how they maintain segregation of animals by Step-rating. The auditor must see evidence of implementation of the protocol.   |
|                                  | ① <b>[C1.1.2]</b> : Segregation protocols could be by Step-rating (e.g. Step 1 and Step 4) and/or by Step-rated animals and non-Step-rated animals.  |
| <b>C1.2 Employees</b>            |  |
| <b>C1.2.1</b>                    | Collection Points must utilize employees who have been trained as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. training is written and/or hands on;</li> <li>b. is presented in all necessary languages;</li> <li>c. describes all aspects of the individual's responsibilities;</li> <li>d. includes instruction on recognizing signs of normal and abnormal pig appearance and behavior;</li> <li>e. describes emergency procedures;</li> <li>f. is provided prior to the individual's handling of any pigs on the operation;</li> <li>g. is on-going as necessary and, at a minimum, when any changes affecting the care and management of pigs are implemented.</li> </ol> |
|                                  | Pigs must be checked at least twice daily.   |
| <b>C1.2.2</b>                    | ① <b>[C1.2.2]</b> : The twice daily checks do not have to be at set times as in any case this will depend on when animals arrive and depart. Additionally if people are working in and around the Collection Point pens for large parts of the day this would meet the requirement for checks.   |
|                                  |  |
| <b>C1.3 Condition of Animals</b> |  |
| <b>C1.3.1</b>                    | Any pigs that meet any of the following conditions when delivered to the Collection Point must not be off-loaded from transport trucks, and be euthanized immediately according to Section C1.9: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. pigs that are sick, injured, weak, disabled or fatigued;</li> <li>b. pigs that are lame and unable to bear weight on one or more leg(s) (see Appendix I);</li> <li>c. pigs in poor body condition (BCS &lt; 2) (see Appendix II).</li> </ol>  |
|                                  |  |
| <b>C1.3.2</b>                    | Any pigs that meet any of the following conditions during their time at the Collection Point must not be reloaded. They are either to be treated and allowed time to recover, or euthanized according to Section C1.9: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. pigs that are sick, injured, weak, disabled or fatigued;</li> <li>b. pigs that are lame and unable to bear weight on one more leg(s) (see Appendix I);</li> <li>c. pigs in poor body condition (BCS &lt; 2) (see Appendix II).</li> </ol>   |
|                                  |  |

| STANDARD               |   |
|------------------------|---|
| C1.4 Feed and Water    |   |
| C1.4.1                 | All pigs must have continuous access to drinking water at the Collection Point; <u>OR</u><br>Pigs held more than 4 hours at the Collection Point must meet all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. be provided continuous access to water after 4 hours;</li> <li>b. demonstrate how they provide water after 4 hours;</li> <li>c. provide records showing arrival and departure times of pigs at the Collection Point; AND</li> <li>d. provide records showing when pigs were provided water.</li> </ul> |
| C1.4.2                 | If pigs are kept overnight at the Collection Point, they must be fed.   |
| C1.5 Shelter           |   |
| C1.5.1                 | All pigs must have protection from the elements while at the Collection Point. This includes the provision of shade, misters/sprinklers/wallows, fans, bedding and/or windbreaks depending on the season and external temperatures.   |
| C1.6 Handling          |   |
| C1.6.1                 | Pigs must not be mistreated. Mistreatment includes, but is not limited to rough physical contact, throwing, kicking and hitting.  |
| C1.6.2                 | Pigs must always be handled calmly.   |
| C1.6.3                 | The use of electric prods is prohibited.<br>① [C1.6.3]: <i>Electric prods may only be used if there is an imminent risk of injury to the animal or handler. Prods must not be routinely carried by the handler. If it is necessary, only the muscles of the pig's hindquarters are permitted to be touched with the prod.</i>   |
| C1.6.4                 | Only low stress handling aids may be used when moving pigs (such as nylon flags, sorting boards, rattle/shaker paddles).  |
| C1.7 Loading/Unloading |   |
| C1.7.1                 | Loading/unloading ramps and chutes must be in good condition.   |
| C1.7.2                 | Ramp slopes for the first deck must be no more than 20 degrees (incline angle).<br>① [C1.7.2]: <i>Where possible ramp slopes (incline angle) for higher decks should be no more than 20 degrees.</i>  |
| C1.7.3                 | Ramps must be fitted with cleats, treads, non-slip surfaces or stair steps to minimize the risk of slips and falls during loading and unloading.  |
| C1.8 Records           |   |
| C1.8.1                 | The Collection Point must keep records of each shipment of pigs arriving and departing. The record must include at a minimum, the name of the source operation, number of pigs, and Step-rating.  |

| STANDARD   |   |
|--|---|
| C1.9 Euthanasia  |   |
|  | All euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian or other trained person(s).  |
| C1.9.1   | ① [C1.9.1]: <i>Collection Points will not be required to euthanize an animal in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal.</i>  |
| C1.9.2  | Euthanasia technique(s) must cause rapid insensibility and be immediately followed by death.<br>① [C1.9.2]: <i>The Collection Point must be able to articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of death, and the physical parameters that confirm this.</i>  |
| C1.9.3   | Animal handling associated with euthanasia must minimize distress experienced by the animal prior to loss of consciousness. If it is necessary to relocate an animal to conduct euthanasia, only ambulatory animals, where movement would not cause distress, discomfort or pain may be relocated.<br>① [C1.9.3]: <i>An animal may be moved onto a conveyance such as a tarp, sled, or cart and that conveyance may be dragged or moved.</i>  |
| C1.9.4   | The person performing euthanasia must remain with the animal(s) until death is confirmed.   |
| C1.9.5  | If an animal is identified as requiring euthanasia, this must be carried out within 24 hours.   |
| C1.9.6   | Acceptable methods of euthanasia for pigs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. shot to the head with a firearm;</li> <li>b. penetrating captive bolt (PCB) to the head, immediately followed by a secondary method to ensure death (such as exsanguination or pithing); or</li> <li>c. barbiturates or barbituric acid derivatives administered by a veterinarian or by personnel who are registered with the relevant authority. If pregnant animals are euthanized using this method and the fetus is not to be saved, then additional time (as much as 20-25 minutes) is required to ensure death of the fetus.</li> </ul> ① [C1.9.6]: <i>If a Collection Point would like to use a method of euthanasia not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to use in order to meet this standard.</i> |
| C1.9.7   | Euthanasia equipment must be maintained, cleaned and stored according to manufacturer's specifications.   |
| C1.9.8   | All euthanized animals must be immediately removed from pens.<br>① [C1.9.8]: <i>It is the responsibility of the Collection Point to dispose of dead animals according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations. Removal can include burial, or composting in a designated area.</i>   |



## Appendix I: Lameness Scoring Pigs

The following lameness identification system is courtesy of AssureWel ([www.assurewel.org](http://www.assurewel.org)).

Lameness should be measured in both the breeding herd (including any replacement animals) and market animals. When walking or scanning the pens, any pig observed to meet the following criteria should be marked as exhibiting lameness. Randomly select 4-5 pens of breeding animals and market animals to conduct the assessment. Ensure that the sample is not just formed of pigs already standing.

### Criteria:

When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:

- standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes; and/or
- walking with a shortened stride with minimum weight-bearing on the affected limb and a swagger of the hindquarters (may still be able to trot or gallop); and/or
- severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb. These may also need to be recorded under 'pigs needing further care'.
- **do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait.**

## Appendix II: Body Condition Scoring

The following body condition scoring system is courtesy of AssureWel ([www.assurewel.org](http://www.assurewel.org)).

Visually assess from the side and behind. Manual assessment can help distinguish borderline scores.



| 1 EMACIATED                          | 2 THIN   | 3 IDEAL   | 4 FAT   | 5 OVERLY FAT  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Ribs, spine, H and pin bones obvious | Ribs, spine, H and pin bones easily detected with pressure | Ribs, spine, H and pin bones barely visible or barely felt with firm pressure | No detection of ribs, spine, H or pin bones and cannot be felt even when pressure is applied. | No detection of ribs, spine, H or pin bones and cannot be felt even when pressure is applied. Fat deposits clearly visible. |