



Humane Slaughter Association

Registered in England, Charity Number 209563

The Humane Slaughter Association's policy on assessment of animal handling, transport and slaughter equipment and systems

The HSA welcomes opportunities to observe and assess the operation of new or modified technologies or systems used in the handling, transport or slaughter or killing of food animals. Based on such observations, the charity has at times produced guidance notes on operation of various systems and methods for others in the industry. These guidance and technical notes (details of which are provided at the website www.hsa.org.uk) have been taken up widely by the industry and have been found to be very helpful for training and promotion of humane operation practices.

In developing and publishing such guidance, the HSA may indicate its support for *methods* which it believes to be humane but *does not give endorsement to specific makes or brands of equipment*.

The HSA is often approached for advice on animal welfare aspects of the operation of equipment or systems for handling, transport and slaughter or killing of livestock. Where the charity agrees to undertake to review equipment or systems in order to help operators ensure good welfare standards, the review and advice procedure includes the following:

- The HSA will provide a confidential written report of its observations (typically including numbers of animals, methods used and outcomes) and on information provided at the time of the inspection or appraisal or through subsequent discussions, and includes, where appropriate, advice and information based on this.
- The report will be provided to the client for comment in draft form before being finalised.
- The report will not constitute endorsement, approval or accreditation of any procedure, equipment, system, business or other matter.

In making its reports, the HSA is unable to make generalisations implying that particular equipment or brands will always be satisfactory because this can be affected through technological faults or incorrect operation.

The HSA is an independent organisation beholden to neither political nor trade nor emotional pressures and is thus able to play an unbiased role in promoting the humane treatment of livestock.

Welfare assessment policy
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