



Animal Welfare Assessment Policy

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) welcomes opportunities to observe and assess the operation of new or modified technologies or systems used in the handling, transport or killing of animals farmed for food, or kept for other purposes. Based on such observations, the charity has produced guidance notes on operation of various systems and methods of relevance for the industry. These guidance and technical notes (available at [the HSA website](https://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 practices.

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

The HSA is often approached for advice on animal welfare aspects regarding the operation of equipment or systems for handling, transport or killing of livestock. Where the charity agrees to undertake to review equipment or systems, the procedure includes the following:

- At the invitation of the Food Business Operator only, the HSA will provide a confidential written report. This will be based on its observations (typically including numbers of animals, methods used and outcomes) and on information provided at the time of the assessment, or through subsequent discussions and includes, where appropriate, advice and information based on this.
- The HSA will charge a fee for the assessment visit and provision of the report, plus accommodation (if necessary), travel and subsistence. Should there be extensive travel involved the HSA can, at its discretion, also charge for travel time. If more than one assessor is required, additional costs will be charged accordingly.
- The report will be provided to the client for comment in draft form before being finalized. An invoice will be raised and sent at the time of providing the draft report. If the clients identify any factual inaccuracies in the report, they must inform the HSA within one month of receipt of the draft report. The HSA has final edit of the report, which will be sent to the client by the HSA, subject to the invoice having been settled in full.
- The report will not constitute endorsement, approval or accreditation by the HSA of any procedure, equipment, system, business or other related matter.

The HSA cannot make statements in its reports, which may imply endorsement of organizations, nor that particular facilities, equipment or brands will always be satisfactory, as this can be affected by technological faults or incorrect operation.

The HSA is an independent organization, not influenced by political, industrial, emotional or financial pressures and is thus able to play an unbiased role in promoting the humane treatment of livestock from the farm-gate until the animals are dead.

Humane Slaughter Association

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