



Humane Slaughter Association

The Humane Slaughter Association's policy on assessment of animal handling, transport and killing 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 killing of farmed 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 organisations or to specific products, 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 or killing of livestock. Where the charity agrees to undertake to review equipment or systems in order to help operators consider how to achieve 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. Clients must respond within one month to inform the HSA if they believe that any changes are required. The final report will then be sent by the HSA and the client will be invoiced at that time.
- 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 endorsement of organisations or that particular facilities, equipment or brands will always be satisfactory because this can be affected, for example, 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
April 2016

The Old School • Brewhouse Hill
Wheathampstead • Hertfordshire • AL4 8AN •
t: +44(0)1582 831919 • f: +44(0)1582 831414
w: www.hsa.org.uk • e info@hsa.org.uk

Registered in England Charity No 1159690 Charitable Incorporated Organisation