CODE OF PRACTICE ON FARM

PIGS

February 2024

Contents

“Humans are obliged to show gratitude and respect to animals.
Healthy and safe food can only be obtained from healthy animals
kept in conditions that guarantee the highest possible level of welfare."

1. Entry

"SOKOŁÓW" SA is one of the largest companies in Poland engaged in slaughter and meat processing. It has been a pioneer of change for many years and sets new, increasingly higher standards in the industry . The greatest ambition of "SOKOŁÓW" SA is to produce food in a responsible and sustainable manner and to meet the growing expectations of both customers and consumers. "SOKOŁÓW" SA, as one of the leaders, remembers its duties and responsibility towards the environment. The basic values of "SOKOŁÓW" SA emphasize continuous commitment and responsibility for striving to improve production conditions, food safety, sustainable development and animal welfare in cooperation with suppliers.

"SOKOŁÓW" SA has eight modern production plants. Three plants slaughter pigs, two slaughter cattle, and the remaining three plants only process raw materials.
The highest quality raw materials are used for production, mainly obtained through cooperation programs with breeders.
Maintaining animal welfare at the stage of breeding, transport, reception of animals, storage, stunning and slaughter is the basis of our treatment of pigs. Employees who handle live animals in plants must participate in cyclical training on the humane treatment, welfare and behavior of animals and their physiological needs.

"SOKOŁÓW" SA has been working closely with farmers for years and is looking for new solutions, support and knowledge by participating in meetings and conferences with scientists and organizations in the agricultural sector. It is committed to achieving the goal of low-emission and sustainable production of high-quality pigs, with particular emphasis on animal welfare at all stages of the supply chain. As the first meat industry company on the Polish market, it has developed and implemented an innovative program of direct cooperation with farmers "Together in the Future", which provides participants with access to knowledge and new technologies, transparency and control over the breeding process in the supply chain, and obliges farmers and all participants to exercise particular care when implementing and complying with animal welfare requirements.
"SOKOŁÓW" SA, in cooperation with clients and consumers, applies animal welfare requirements in standard production. These requirements are mainly based on current legislation and industry suggestions, but can be broadened to enable special product concepts with a higher sustainable agriculture and animal welfare status.

The Code of Practice implements and supplements the Animal Welfare Policy of "SOKOŁÓW" SA
and is an expression of the implementation of the sustainable development strategy of the Danish Crown Group. It was created
to define the requirements for suppliers supplying animals to "SOKOŁÓW" SA. Compliance with the Code of Practice is a key condition of cooperation for suppliers of pigs.

This document is updated on an ongoing basis based on applicable provisions of national and European Union law or the requirements of "SOKOŁÓW' SA" in accordance with the version history.

The organizational unit responsible for the development and ongoing updating of the Code of Practice is the Office of Sustainable Development and Animal Welfare "SOKOŁÓW" SA

2. Sustainable development

"SOKOŁÓW" SA is committed to achieving the goal of low-emission, environmentally and climate neutral sustainable production of the highest quality pork.

To meet social expectations, "SOKOŁÓW" SA creates valuable products for customers and consumers.

Sustainable Agriculture is an element of Sustainable Development and includes all activities in both plant and animal production that limit the impact
on the environment or are in harmony with the natural functioning of given environments.

This is an entire process that at the same time affects climate protection by reducing the production of greenhouse gases and, consequently, is expected to lead
to climate neutrality in animal production.

An important role is to maintain the economic aspects of production as well as obtain social acceptance for its implementation.

3. General Animal Welfare Principles

Animal Welfare is defined as the state of physical and mental health achieved in optimal environmental conditions. This means that the breeding method meets the basic needs of animals, primarily in terms of nutrition, access to water, providing the company of other animals and living space, as well as prevention and treatment.

3.1 The Five Freedoms Principle

The pillar of animal welfare is the "Five Freedoms" principle, recognized and respected worldwide
, included in the Animal Welfare Code. It was developed by English specialists from the Farm Animals Welfare Council.
It is the basis for many national, EU and international legal acts.

Five Freedoms:

1. **Freedom from hunger and thirst** - through constant access to fresh drinking water and an appropriate diet needed for full health and strength.
2. **Freedom from discomfort** – by providing appropriate living conditions, including shelter and a comfortable space for relaxation.
3. **Freedom from pain, injuries and diseases** – through prevention, quick diagnosis and appropriate treatment.
4. **Freedom to express natural behavior** - by providing sufficient space, appropriate conditions and the company of animals of the same species.
5. **Freedom from fear and stress** - by providing care and treatment that does not cause animals mental suffering.

Compliance with applicable laws regarding welfare, humane treatment of animals and providing them with the best possible conditions at all stages of production and marketing are the strong priorities of "SOKOŁÓW" SA

3.2 Animal Welfare Management

Within the structures of the Raw Materials Division of "SOKOŁÓW" SA, the Office of Sustainable Development and Animal Welfare was established, whose task is to implement strategic goals for the development of animal welfare, proper organization and coordination in the field of animal welfare on farms, transport and slaughter plants, and to introduce solutions that reduce the negative impact on the climate and environment in the supply chain of "SOKOŁÓW" SA
In addition to the Office of Sustainable Development and Animal Welfare, there are teams that deal with animal welfare:

- The Pig Purchase Office - in particular through field representatives - is responsible for communicating animal welfare requirements to farmers and carriers, as well as enforcing and verifying compliance with animal welfare in the process of turnover and delivery to the plant.
- Plant Animal Welfare Inspectors, who are responsible for verifying compliance with animal welfare rules from arrival at the plant, through unloading, storage and slaughter.
- Managers of the Slaughter Department and Managers of the Livestock Warehouse organize and are responsible for the correct course of the reception, storage and slaughter process.

To meet the requirements of customers and consumers, a quality management system and HACCP procedures are in place throughout the company. This system is the foundation for other systems implemented in the "SOKOŁÓW" SA plants, such as BRC, IFS and ISO 14001 standards, which take into account meeting the highest standards, including compliance with

the principles of animal welfare. Having them is a condition for cooperation with our most demanding customers.

3.3 Key Legal Acts

- Act of August 21, 1997 on animal protection (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1580, as amended),
- Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of February 15, 2010 on the requirements and procedures for keeping farm animal species for which protection standards are specified in the European Union regulations (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 56, item 344, as amended).),
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related activities and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (Journal of Laws of 2005, No. 3, page 1, as amended),
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 of 16 March 2023 laying down specific disease control measures in respect of African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605 (OJ 2023 r. No. 79, p. 65, as amended),
- Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of August 10, 2021 on measures taken in connection with the occurrence of African swine fever (Journal of Laws, item 1485, as amended).

4. Key issues of animal welfare in breeding

Thanks to close cooperation with farmers, "SOKOŁÓW" SA promotes good breeding practices to ensure the highest level of animal welfare. Together, we strive to ensure that animals are healthy, safe and kept in appropriate conditions.
"SOKOŁÓW" SA monitors the level of pig welfare at every stage - during breeding, after fattening, during loading, transport, unloading at the plant, until slaughter.
"SOKOŁÓW" SA wants to make sure that the animals that come to its plants develop properly and that their biological and behavioral needs are met.
We pay special attention to ensuring that all animals are treated humanely throughout their lives and that animal welfare is always at the highest level.

4.1 Requirements for buildings, rooms and equipment

Animals' well-being is ensured if the buildings and breeding system meet their basic needs, primarily in terms of: necessary living space, nutrition, access to water, treatment, maintenance hygiene, room microclimate, light conditions, providing the company of other animals, preventing injuries, ensuring shelter from bad climatic conditions, appropriate transport conditions and humane slaughter.

The farm where animals are kept must be registered, meet the appropriate legal requirements and have the necessary technical and organizational infrastructure. It is important that the farm has defined boundaries (gate and fence) and the surrounding area is properly maintained.
In order to provide animals with optimal development conditions and a high level of well-being, the buildings and rooms in which they stay must have an appropriate structure and must not pose a threat to their health and life. Protruding elements, sharp surfaces and edges are not allowed. Pig passage corridors should be equipped with solid walls, without stairs or

steps. They should not narrow or have sharp bends.

All materials used to construct rooms, pens, boxes, partitions, floors, feeders, drinkers and additional equipment must be easy to clean, wash and disinfect. The floor in pig rooms should be hard, even and stable, and its surface should be smooth and non-slip.

Depending on the scale of production, the building should have at least one emergency exit.

Rodent control

A farm breeding pigs must have a rodent protection program. The presence of rodents in the pigsty means threats such as: contamination of feed, damage to equipment, and the spread of various diseases.

The most common method of rodent control is currently chemical. In addition to selecting a specific substance and attractant, choosing the right place to spread the poison is very important. Rodent control stations should be located both inside and outside buildings, in places where rodents stay and move. The farm must have a plan indicating the location of rodent control stations and a register containing the name and date of application of the measure.

4.2 Space requirements in buildings

It is important that the surface where animals stay is appropriate. It is necessary to provide farm animals with freedom of movement, the ability to lie down and stand up, access to feed and water, and to meet their physiological needs.

Minimum floor area for animals kept in groups

Body weight kg	**m ^{2}/pcs.**	**Permissible changes (m ^{2} /pcs.)**
Piglets, weaners, fattening pigs		
Up to 10	0.15	
Over 10 to 20	0.20	
Over 20 to 30	0.30	
Above 30 to 50	0.40	
Over 50 to 85	0.55	
Above 85 to 110	0.65	
Over 110	1.00	
Breeding boars and gilts		
over 30 to 110	1.40	
Dungeons	2.25	(+10%) 2.48 to **5** pieces (-10%) 2.02 over 39 pieces
Pregnant sows	2.25 (in a slatted system, at least 1.3 m^2 of the pen surface should be full substrate and no more than 15% of this substrate - gaps)	(+10%) 2.48 to **5** pieces (-10%) 2.02 over 39 pieces
Gilts after mating	1.64 (in a slatted system, at least 1.3 m^2 of the pen surface should be full substrate and no more than 15% of this substrate - gaps)	(+10%) 1.80 to **5** pieces (-10%) 1.48 over 39 pieces

Minimum floor area for single-housed pigs

Body weight kg	m^2/pcs.
An adult boar without breeding in a pen	6
An adult boar if mating takes place in a pen	10
Sows during parturition and rearing of suckling piglets	3.5
Breeding boars and gilts (from 30 to 110 kg)	2.7

Dimensions of the pen for sows kept individually :

- length – the length of the animal increased by 0.3 m, not less than 2.0 m,
- width 0.6 m.

Sows and gilts requirements :

- Sows and gilts are kept in groups from the 4th week after mating until a week before the expected farrowing date,
- If at least 10 sows or gilts are kept on the farm during the period referred to in the point above, the length of each side of the pen should be, in the case of groups:
  - Up to 5 pieces - at least 2.41 m;
  - More than 5 pieces - at least 2.81 m.

The farrowing pen should be designed and built in a way that allows piglets free access to the nursing sow, prevents the sow from crushing the piglets and ensures appropriate thermal and hygienic conditions.

Weaning of piglets

Piglets are weaned no earlier than 28 days after farrowing, unless there is a threat to the life of the sow or piglet. Piglets may also be weaned for reasons other than those mentioned above, but not earlier than on the 21st day after birth, provided that after weaning they are placed in a room that is cleaned, disinfected and isolated from the rooms where sows are kept.

4.3 Requirements environmental in buildings

Functional and operational solutions of livestock buildings are subordinated to the organization of work and animal production technology. An important element in the production cycle are microclimatic conditions in animal buildings. Therefore, livestock buildings are also intended to provide an appropriate environment that enables the proper development of animal organisms.

Shaping the environment in animal housing depends on the following factors:

- temperature of livestock rooms,
- relative humidity,
- chemical composition of air,
- sunlight.

Temperature and relative humidity

The temperature and humidity in livestock buildings and the requirements for the recommended range depend mainly on the age and group of animals. They should be maintained at an optimal level to ensure the most favorable conditions for growth and development.

Too high a temperature in rooms may cause thermal stress, which manifests itself in an increase in the number of breaths, dullness, unsteady gait and excessive excretion of urine and saliva. It can also lead to reduced productivity, heat stroke and even animal deaths. Too low a temperature increases production costs and exposes animals to cold, and consequently increases their susceptibility to infections.

Increased air humidity may have a negative impact on their health, e.g. promote the development of lung diseases, mycosis and rheumatic diseases. However, too low humidity has a negative impact on the respiratory tract, irritating the mucous membranes and causing dust to float in the air.

Temperature and humidity levels are not regulated by law, but based on experience and good manufacturing practice, the recommended range is shown in the table below.

Recommended thermal and humidity range:

Animal category	Temperature in °C			Relative humidity in %		
	Min.	Opt.	Max	Min.	Opt.	Max
Breeding boars and gilts	14	17	17	60	70	80
Loose sows	12	15	20	60	70	80
Lactating sows	18	20	27	60	70	80
Piglets 1-2 days		34-32		50	60	70
Piglets 4-14 days		32-28				
Piglets 15-21 days		27-23				
Piglets 22-28 days		25-23				
Piglets29-56 days		23-21				
Weaners	17	19	25	50	60	70
Pigs for fattening 65 kg	15	18	22	60	70	80
Pigs for fattening 95 kg	15	17	20	60	70	80
Pigs for fattening 115 kg	12	16	20	60	70	80

Chemical composition of air

Animals staying in a closed livestock building emit carbon dioxide when breathing. The carbon dioxide content in the building is much higher than its content in the atmosphere and may have a negative impact on animal health.

A similar effect on pigs is caused by ammonia produced in the process of decomposition of urea present in the excreted urine and putrefaction of undigested protein residues present in the feed. Increased levels of ammonia in the air may lead to damage to the upper respiratory

tract and lungs. A decrease in appetite is also observed in animals staying in rooms with increased levels of this gas.

Another harmful gas that may be present inside livestock buildings is hydrogen sulphide. It is produced as a result of the breakdown of proteins containing sulfur amino acids. When present in high concentrations, it paralyzes the central nervous system, causes inflammation of the mucous membranes of the respiratory system and conjunctivitis.

The permissible concentration of harmful gases cannot exceed the standards given below:

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) concentration should not exceed 3000 ppm,
- Ammonia (NH_3) concentration should not exceed 20 ppm,
- Hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) concentration should not exceed 5 ppm.

The basic condition for maintaining the concentration of harmful gases and dust at a level that is not harmful to animals is properly functioning ventilation, which also eliminates unpleasant odors.

Properly functioning ventilation is intended to remove toxic gases, dust and excess heat and moisture, and to introduce fresh air into the building. With automatic ventilation in the pigsty, emergency ventilation should also be used, usually natural, gravity ventilation. A recommended additional element should also be a warning alarm system, which allows for quick activation of emergency ventilation in a situation that requires it.
A good and proven solution is the use of power generators (automatic or manually started).

Insolation

The optimal amount of sunlight has a positive effect on the development of animals, has a bactericidal effect and has a positive effect on the animal's body.

Lighting

It is recommended that rooms where pigs are kept be provided with natural lighting (windows, skylights) and, if necessary, artificial lighting with an intensity of at least 40 lux, for at least 8 hours a day. Lighting of this intensity cannot be used all the time.

Noise

The high level of mechanization (feeding, excrement removal, ventilation system, gates, valves) is the cause of the noise. Noise can cause anxiety in animals, especially when it occurs suddenly. This may result in animal falls.
No animal should be exposed to constant or unexpected noise. The noise level cannot exceed 85dB.

Providing access to water

Pigs over 2 weeks of age must have constant access to drinking water. Watering devices should be installed in a way that protects water against spilling and contamination, and the arrangement should enable animals to have conflict-free access to water. The proper location of watering devices, the distance between them and the height above the floor are very important.

Nutrition

Animals should have free access to feed, which will avoid food competition and fights between individuals. Feed should be provided at least once a day.
If purchased complete feed is used, it must come from feed companies that guarantee its high quality and compliance with applicable legal regulations.
In the case of self-production of feed, all quality, hygiene and legal requirements must be met, and the farm must be entered into the register of entities operating on the feed market by the relevant District Veterinary Officer.

Environmental enrichment

Enriching the environment is one of the basic activities to reduce aggression in animals.
The most common causes of aggression in pigs kept in groups are:

- excessive compaction,
- improper nutrition and limited access to water,
- inadequate insulation of buildings (day-night temperature difference).

All animals should have constant access to "manipulation materials" that absorb their attention, i.e. straw (chaff), hay, sawdust, silage from whole corn plants. As an additional enrichment element, you can also use pieces of wood, balls and chains, the attractiveness of which increases when they are attached to the floor so that pigs can move them using a burrowing movement. All these materials and items must be harmless to animals.

4.4 Systems maintenance animals

Pig housing systems should take into account not only the possibility of achieving high production results, but above all, ensure adequate animal welfare.

We distinguish three maintenance systems:

- mulch-free,
- litter,
- combined (combining the two above systems).

A litterless system is a system in which pigs live on slotted floors made of concrete, cast iron or plastic. This system limits animals' contact with excrement. The ease of maintaining high hygiene standards reduces the risk of disease.
The regulations specify the minimum width of the bar and the maximum width of the opening between the slats for sows, gilts after mating, piglets (from birth to weaning), weaners (from weaning to 10 weeks of age) and adult animals (from 10 weeks to mating or slaughter).

The width of openings in the slotted floor for individual groups of animals should be no more than:

- Piglets – 11mm,
- Weaners, gilts and breeding boars – 14mm,

- Fattening pigs – 18mm,
- Gilts after mating or sows – 20mm.

The width of the beam in the floor should be at least:

- Piglets and weaners – 50mm,
- Fattening pigs, breeding gilts and boars, mated gilts or sows – 80mm.

In the mulching system, the most frequently used material is straw, less frequently sawdust, peat or tree bark. The advantage of this system is obtaining high-quality organic fertilizer, which can later be used in plant production.
It is important that the mulching material is of appropriate quality and in good hygienic condition to avoid the spread of harmful pathogens.
The bedding technology includes shallow and deep bedding, as well as self-cleaning floors.
Due to ASF (African Swine Fever), special attention should be paid to ensure that the straw used for bedding does not come from fields where wild boars may have stayed. Before use, it is recommended that the straw be stored for at least 3 months, under a roof and in an area protected from access by wild animals.

5. Zootechnical treatments

Performing treatments on animals, such as cutting tails, shortening and grinding sprouts, castration, is not recommended in the supply chain of "SOKOŁÓW" SA
Grinding sprouts and cutting piglet tails can only be done for the safety of other animals and to prevent mutual mutilation.
All treatments performed on animals in the supply chain of "SOKOŁÓW" SA must be performed in accordance with EU and national law, with due care and in a way that minimizes the animal's suffering and stress.

5.1 Castration

Males are castrated no later than the 7th day of the piglet's life. The procedure is performed after the 7th day after birth and must be performed under long-term anesthesia.

5.2 Cutting off the tails

Parts of the tail are cut off only for the safety of the pigs and to prevent the animals from mutilating each other. Before the decision to perform the treatment, all possible preventive measures should be taken, i.e. introduce changes in the housing conditions, e.g. reduce the density, prevent mixing of groups and change the type or amount of manipulation materials. If this procedure is performed after the seventh day of life, it must be performed under long-term anesthesia.

5.3 Grinding and germ reduction

Reduction of sprouts in piglets is performed only for the safety of people and animals, preventing injury to staff and other pigs. The procedure must be performed no later than the 7th day of the animal's life.

6. Care for sick and injured animals

Sick or injured animals should be given proper care and, if necessary, isolated from other animals. If the animal owner is unable to help them, call a veterinarian immediately. The consultation, diagnosis and recommendations of the veterinarian, as well as the treatment

administered, must be recorded in the animal treatment book. Each building should be able to isolate animals if their health requires it. Sick animals should be provided with a dry, comfortable surface, preferably with bedding.

7. Disposal of dead animals

Animal falls may be a consequence of injuries, infections, developmental defects or other accidental events, e.g. crushing or stillbirth. All these animals must be removed from the property immediately. It is recommended to provide tight containers for dead animals and to designate an appropriate place and safe access route for their collection. After each collection, the container, container or other storage place should be thoroughly washed and disinfected.

8. Use of antibiotics and prohibited substances

The use of growth-stimulating substances and the preventive, metaphylactic and routine use of antibiotics in pig production in the supply chain of "SOKOŁÓW" SA is strictly prohibited.

The use of antibiotics can only be ordered and performed by a Veterinarian, taking into account the health and well-being of animals. After each use of antibiotics, it is essential to maintain the required withdrawal period before being sold for slaughter. "SOKOŁÓW" SA recommends that by improving environmental conditions, appropriate breeding, zootechnical and nutritional practices introduced on the farms of cooperating farmers, the use of antibiotics in animal breeding should be limited and, consequently, the use of antibiotics should be abandoned.

9. Genetically modified animals

The use of genetically modified animals in the supply chain of "SOKOŁÓW" SA is strictly prohibited.

10. Preparing animals for sale and transport

Proper preparation of animals for sale and transport is one of the most important stages in animal trade. Animals should be appropriately divided into batches by weight, and if possible, animals from one pen should not be separated.

It is very important to remain calm during loading. It should also be remembered that rushing definitely makes the situation worse. Animals worried about an unexpected and incomprehensible situation do not want to leave well-known rooms where they feel safe. The resistance they put up is a natural defensive reaction.

10.1 Animal documentation

The manufacturer is obliged to properly mark the animals (tattoo/earring) and prepare complete, legibly completed documentation:

- health certificate,
- food chain,
- specifications for the receipt and transport of pigs,
- other required.

10.2 Assessment of animals for transportability

Sick, injured animals or animals unable to move independently cannot be transported.
This means an animal that is incapable of:

- staying in a standing position,
- moving independently,
- to maintain balance during transport.

Animal health condition that prevents transport:

Serious open wound, prolapse of internal organs and large hernias:

- falling organs can be easily damaged, causing pain and heavy bleeding,
- large hernias, in which there is a risk of mechanical damage during transport and movement of animals,

Heavy and persistent bleeding indicating injury or disease:

- bleeding may increase during transport,
- heavy bleeding can lead to death,

Animals in advanced pregnancy or just after farrowing:

- sows that farrowed in the week preceding transport,
- pregnant females for more than 90% or more of the expected gestation period (102 days for sows).

10.3 Loading time

The loading time is very important. Transport should be planned for night, morning and morning hours.

It should be optimally adapted to weather conditions and the organization of work of the slaughterhouse. The recommended optimal period of closing access to feed before loading is 5 hours.

10.4 Preparation ramps

Appropriate protection of ramps, disinfection and lining of the driving path (e.g. sawdust, straw, sand) will allow for efficient and safe loading of animals.
The loading ramp should allow animals to freely enter the vehicle. Its angle of inclination should not exceed 20˚.
You should also ensure that the lighting is of appropriate intensity so that animals move from darker to brighter places.
The light should be positioned in a way that prevents shadows and animals from being blinded. The pigs will move smoothly forward without any obstacles in their way.

10.5 Loading animals

Loading begins when the first pig leaves the pen at the farm, assembly point or resting point and ends when all pigs are on the vehicle.
Loading, as an element that rarely occurs in an animal's life, is very stressful and has a negative impact on the animals, both physically and mentally.
The physical impact refers to, for example, aggression due to regrouping of animals, fatigue and possible injuries caused by walking a distance or by obstacles in the pen or along the route. Psychological tension arises as the animals are forced to leave their familiar surroundings and often encounter each other in the process with strangers.

11. Animal Transport

The process of transporting animals is one of the most stressful stages due to the sudden change in the environment. First of all, remember to ensure the highest possible level of welfare and that the animals transported are subject to legal protection. There are regulations in the European Union that regulate issues related to the transport of animals. Every animal experiences transport stress during transport. The degree to which it can be minimized largely depends on the skills of the driver and the knowledge and experience of the carrier, as well as all staff involved in this process.

Animals are transported properly when they are provided with safe and humane transport conditions. A very important issue is proper transport planning.
The route and transport time should be as short as possible. Animals must be provided with an appropriate level of safety during transport to avoid injury.

Additionally, all farmers, suppliers and carriers should remember the principles of biosecurity when handling pigs on farms, when loading and unloading, and about the obligation to wash and disinfect means of transport.

11.1 Transport during unfavorable weather conditions

During periods of high temperatures, pay special attention to the conditions in the vehicle. It is recommended that loading take place in the evening, at night or early in the morning. It should be ensured that the means of transport are equipped with efficient ventilation systems, temperature control systems and warning systems when the maximum temperature is reached for the animals being transported. It is recommended that vehicle roofs be white to prevent excessive heating of the vehicle.

During low temperatures, protect the vehicle against drafts, close all blinds and use it optimally ventilation system to prevent the transported animals from cooling down.

The permissible temperature range inside the vehicle - where animals stay - is 5 - 30 °C (+/- 5 °C) depending on the outside temperature.

12. Unloading animals

12.1 Unloading animals intended for breeding

Unloading begins when you enter the unloading zone at the destination and ends when all animals are in the building, pens or other places intended for breeding a given species.

Unloading should be carried out calmly, efficiently and as quickly as possible after arrival at the destination.

Animals often arrive at their destination stressed and tired, so it is very important that unloading zones are properly prepared and that animal care staff have practical knowledge or are properly trained in animal care.

As with loading, remember to ensure appropriate lighting and the angle of the ramp to minimize the risk of injury to animals and enable them to disembark freely from the vehicle.

The unloading place should be roofed and protected against unfavorable weather conditions.

During unloading, animals should be carefully observed to assess their condition and health.

Employees handling animals should wear clothes in neutral colors, e.g. green, blue, navy blue, gray. Railings, window frames, doors and walls should be of a neutral color. Animals react badly to white, black, red, yellow, orange, as well as to any bright colors that create contrasts.

12.2 The most important rules while staying on the premises of the Plant - unloading in the Livestock Warehouse

From the moment of entering the plant until leaving, the driver and other people in the vehicle must strictly comply with the orders and instructions given by employees and services operating at the plant.

The most important rules during unloading include:

- informing the Żywiec Warehouse employee about the arrival of the means of transport,
- proper positioning of the vehicle (e.g. at a ramp),
- checking the status of the indicated ramp (free, available for unloading with equipment adapted to the species and use group of unloaded animals),
- preparing and setting up safety equipment,
- proper handling of animals,
- use of handling devices available in the Livestock Warehouse,

- checking that all animals have left the vehicle.

13. Movement of animals

When moving, animals should not be rushed, they should move at a leisurely pace. Noise and unnatural behavior should be avoided. First of all, it is forbidden to use force and aggression against animals.

Moving pigs in small groups (unloading compartments one by one) is more efficient, and drivers can more easily reach all the animals in the group.

13.1 Field of vision and animal safety zone

Pigs have a very wide field of vision, but also a blind spot located at the rear of the animal. The person moving animals must remember to avoid approaching animals from behind. Even though they cannot see what is behind them, they can hear because they have a very developed sense of hearing. A person centrally behind the animal causes it to panic.
It should also be remembered that each animal has its own escape zone, the so-called comfort zone around them. If the animal starts to turn away and backs away, it means that the animal's comfort zone has been exceeded.

13.2 Devices for moving animals

Equipment for moving animals should be limited to the minimum necessary. For this purpose, only plastic "patters", oars - rattles, screens/screens should be used. Poles, rods or sharp objects must not be used. If the animal stops and does not want to move forward, the first thing you should do is stay calm and check the reason for the animal stopping. Under no circumstances should you hit, kick or use sharp objects.

It is prohibited to use objects emitting an electrical impulse as tools for moving animals. The exceptions are situations where the life or health of persons handling animals are at risk and when the animal is aggressive.

When using the above-mentioned equipment to move animals, always comply with legal requirements.

14. African Swine Fever (ASF)

African swine fever (ASF) is a rapidly spreading viral disease to which domestic pigs and wild boars are susceptible. People are not sensitive to ASF virus infection, therefore
this disease does not pose a threat to their health and life. The occurrence of ASF among wild boars poses a threat to pigs.
The occurrence of an ASF outbreak on a farm is associated with very large production and economic losses. The District Veterinary Officer takes action to eliminate the outbreak as quickly as possible, determine the source of the disease and whether the disease has been transmitted to other farms.

The basic element preventing the virus from entering the farm is biosecurity, which depends on the actions of the farmer. He is responsible for the health and safety of the flock he keeps. It is recommended to take all possible steps to avoid infection of animals with the ASF virus. It is very important to follow the biosecurity rules, which are a set of basic actions that have a real impact on protecting the farm against an ASF outbreak.

14.1 The most important principles of biosecurity

1. Using a fence that constitutes a barrier separating the farm from free-living animals. This is important in preventing the transmission of the virus from the environment to the farm.
2. Designating a place on the farm for entry, parking and cleaning and disinfection of vehicles entering and leaving the farm.
3. Avoiding allowing vehicles from rendering plants and other vehicles, as well as agricultural machines and tools that may transmit the ASF virus, into the farm.
4. Observing the ban on bringing dead wild boars, wild boar carcasses, their parts, trophies, equipment and materials that may have been contaminated with the ASF virus onto the farm.
5. Securing the entrance to the farm and the entrance to livestock buildings by installing properly maintained and disinfected mats/basins/disinfection gates.
6. Avoiding participation in hunting and trapping animals, collecting forest undergrowth and other work or activities requiring personal contact with an environment potentially contaminated with the ASF virus. If participating, a 48-hour quarantine must be observed.
7. When visiting another farm where pigs are kept, it is recommended to wait 48 hours before entering livestock buildings where other pigs are kept.
8. The number of people entering production facilities should be limited to the necessary minimum.
9. It is recommended that people entering production facilities complete a questionnaire containing a health history and confirmation of 48 hours of quarantine.
10. Please remember to change your work clothes and footwear before each entry to the livestock premises.
11. It is necessary to wash and disinfect hands and shoes before each entrance to livestock premises.
12. Pigs should be isolated in a way that prevents contact with other animals, and the doors and windows of livestock buildings should be protected against access by insects, rodents and other free-living animals.
13. Pigs should be fed with feed that is protected from access by other animals.
14. It is necessary to apply a minimum 30-day quarantine or appropriate thermal/chemical treatment for plant feed raw materials originating from virus occurrence zones in the environment (restricted and hazardous areas).
15. A minimum 90-day quarantine period is required for materials originating from a restricted or threatened area and used as pig litter.

Each producer supplying pigs to "SOKOŁÓW" SA, whose farm is located within areas covered by restrictions II or III, under the applicable biosecurity rules, must have a biosecurity plan approved by the competent District Veterinary Officer. It is also recommended to create such a plan for farms located within restricted areas I.
All detailed guidelines regarding biosecurity and biosecurity plans are included in:

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/594 of 16 March 2023 laying down specific disease control measures in respect of African swine fever and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/605,
- Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of August 10, 2021 on measures taken in connection with the occurrence of African swine fever.

15. Training

"SOKOŁÓW" SA cooperates with farmers, suppliers and carriers who, through many years of work or appropriate training, have extensive knowledge in the field of animal breeding, nutrition, transport and welfare.

"SOKOŁÓW" SA recommends systematically improving qualifications and expanding knowledge
in the field of animal welfare and sustainable development. Thematic training is organized to meet the requirements of cooperation, responding to current needs, changing regulations and emerging more sustainable production practices.
Both the Company's employees, farmers, suppliers, carriers and drivers participate in the training.

The presented Code of Practice is a collection of the most important issues regarding animal welfare on the farm and pre-slaughter trade in pigs.
The legal requirements and recommendations included are intended to support farmers and suppliers
in systematically improving the level of animal welfare and to meet the growing expectations of customers and consumers.

"Together we are creating a more sustainable future for food"