



Humane Slaughter Association

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

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 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 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 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 in order to help operators consider how to achieve good welfare standards, the review and advice procedure includes the following:

- At the invitation of the Food Business Operator only, 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 HSA will charge a fee, for the assessment visit and provision of the report, at our current daily rate of £450 per day, plus accommodation, 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. Clients must respond within one month to inform the HSA if they believe any changes are required. The final report will then 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 matter.

In making its reports, the HSA is unable to make general comments which may imply endorsement of organizations, 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 organization, 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 May 2021

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