

Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) to review evidence on the welfare impacts of high concentration CO₂ gas stunning and of alternative stunning methods for pigs

Call for information

If you have comments about the welfare of pigs at the time of killing stunned by high concentration CO₂ or by the variety of alternative stunning methods, please send them to the WAK Secretariat by e-mail to aw.slaughter@defra.gov.uk: **by 9 December 2024**.

Example questions:

1. What are the welfare benefits and adverse welfare effects of preslaughter handling and restraint for high concentration CO₂ stunning and alternative stunning methods for pigs (e.g. inert gases, CO₂ and inert gas mixtures, automated or manual electrical stunning, mechanical methods)?
2. What are the welfare benefits and adverse welfare effects of high concentration CO₂ stunning of pigs and the potential alternatives?
3. What back up methods of stunning are available?
4. What stunning methods are used for cull sows and boars?

Commercial questions for industry:

5. What are the commercial benefits and challenges of high concentration CO₂ stunning of pigs and the potential alternatives?
6. What is the hourly throughput necessary for viability and how is this affected by different stunning methods?
7. What would be the capital investment required to implement alternative stunning methods for pigs?
8. What would be the maintenance and running costs of alternative stunning methods compared to high concentration CO₂ stunning, including gas and electricity costs?