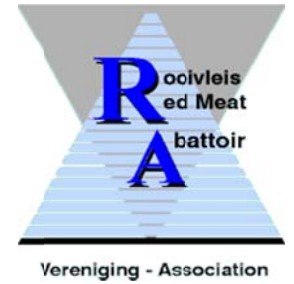


STUNNING METHODS



ANIMAL WELFARE MATTERS RELATED TO CAPTIVE BOLT STUNNING

The stunning of livestock remains one of the cornerstones of animal welfare at abattoirs in the conversion of animals to safe meat for human consumption.

Proper stunning techniques ensure the loss of consciousness prior to the exanguination which will lead to the death of the animal.

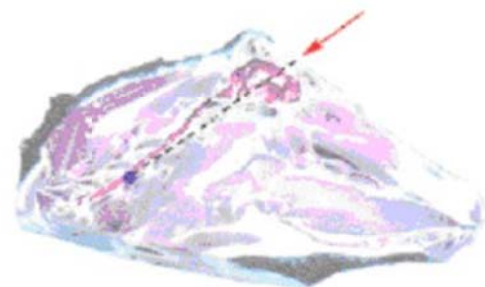
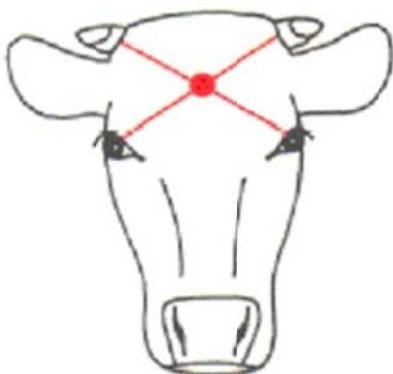


REGULATORY BACKGROUND

The red meat regulations of the Meat Safety Act provide for evidence of training for abattoir workers. A stunning operator is regarded as a highly skilled operator in an abattoir and need specific background and skills to ensure that proper handling and unconsciousness of the animal is achieved with a minimum deviation and for proper supervision to be available to ensure this.

STUNNING OF CATTLE

During the stunning process of cattle with the captive bolt stunning, care should be taken to place to bolt correctly. (Illustration). The stunning box must be designed to properly restrain the bovine for proper placement of the captive bolt.



In order to provide for proper stunning of all sizes of cattle and for sheep or pigs, the following guidelines are provided for the use of captive bolt pistol:

- 1) The captive bolt must be properly maintained and maintenance record to be kept
- 2) Proof of training and verification of competence to be provided
- 3) Green cartridges to be used and also for red cartridges to be available for the stunning of larger cattle. These cattle to be slaughtered separately (normally this is last slaughter)



The use of a free projectile (handgun or rifle) is not provided for in the regulations as the method will not render the animal unconscious only. Any other method of stunning (as an example a free projectile for emergency purposes) must be approved by the PEO. Care must also be taken in the compliance of other regulations dealing with the keeping and usage of fire arms and the safety of all personnel involved

STUNNING OF HEAVIER PIGS AND HORNED RAMS

- A captive bolt and green cartridge is also to be available for heavier pigs and horned rams. These categories to be slaughtered separately.



The stunning operator needs to ensure that the bleeding cut of the animal, done within one minutes after stunning, will ensure exanguination in order to induce death. In the absence of the time limit, it may be necessary to re-stun under exceptional circumstances and an immediate correction of the non-conformance.

