

Standard	ESCAS Element					Evidence of compliance	Auditor guidance and definitions
	Land Transport/ discharge	Feedlot/ Holding	Lairage	Slaughter (Stun)	Slaughter (No stun)		
1. Handling and movement of livestock must be carried out calmly and effectively, avoiding harm, distress or injury.	X	X	X	X	X	<p>1. <b>Slips, falls, vocalisation or baulking</b> do not exceed the target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slips - 3%</li> <li>• Falls - 1%</li> <li>• Baulking - 3%</li> <li>• Vocalisation - 3% - as a consequence of handling or facilities (e.g. slippery floor)</li> </ul> <p>2. Livestock do not have unnecessary pressure put on them when they are already moving or when they have <b>nowhere to go</b>.</p> <p>3. There is no <b>excessive noise</b> (by handlers or equipment).</p> <p>4. <b>Electric goads (prods) are not used routinely</b> (for inappropriate use, including any use of an electric goad on sheep and goats, raise under Standard 2).</p> <p>5. Animals are not harmed and/or injured during movement or handling.</p>	<p><b>Slipping</b> is any loss of footing as a result of flooring, e.g. not due to behavioural contact with another animal.</p> <p><b>Falling</b> is any body contact with the floor, excluding feet and/or legs.</p> <p><b>Baulking:</b> Animal stops and either refuses to proceed or attempts to turn back.</p> <p><b>Vocalisation:</b> Cattle only - Any audible sound (for example, a bellow) <b>in response to handling activity</b> through the system.</p> <p><b>Excessive noise:</b> Noise causing stress to the animals or noise which is not making a positive contribution to the livestock handling process. Examples include shouting, cracking of whips and banging equipment</p> <p><b>Nowhere to go:</b> Animal has no space in which to move, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The race is full and animals have other individuals immediately in front of them but no exit. However, animals can be forced against others to move towards an exit – e.g. into a race, through a gateway etc</li> <li>• an obstruction is blocking the path and causing animals to stop (and therefore other animals are forced against them).</li> </ul> <p>The <b>use of electric goads:</b> Shall be limited to battery-powered goads. An electric prodder/goad is defined as battery operated electric baton, used to urge animals to move by the administration of an electric shock.</p> <p><b>Routine use of electric goads:</b> If electric goads are used, they should only be picked up when required and returned after use.</p> <p><b>Inappropriate use of electric goads:</b> Should be raised under Standard 2. If electric goads are used on sheep, calves and goats - raise under Standard 2.</p>

<p><b>2. Livestock must not be subjected to procedures that cause pain and suffering.</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>1. <b>No unacceptable</b> practices/procedures are used.                  2. <b>Electric goads</b> are not used <b>inappropriately</b>.</p>	<p><b>Unacceptable practices and procedures which cause pain and/or suffering include but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violent acts to move animals, such as: crushing or breaking tails, grasping their eyes, pulling them by the ears, application of injurious object or irritant substance, hitting or kicking, tendon cutting, nose twitches.</li> <li>• The tripping, throwing or dropping of animals, or their lifting or dragging by body parts such as their tail, head, horns, ears, limbs, wool or hair is not be permitted.</li> <li>• Use of implements that cause suffering; includes but not limited to: large sticks; sticks with sharp ends; lengths of metal piping; fencing wire or heavy leather belts; mains electric goads and whips.</li> <li>• <b>Repeated use:</b> Use of an electric goad more than twice on the same animal during one handling event, particularly if the animal fails to respond or move.</li> <li>• <b>Inappropriate use of electric goads:</b> Use on sick or lame animals; downer animals; animals unable to rise; calves; sheep and goats, and/or use which <b>deviates</b> from the following:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only used on adult cattle or buffalo that are refusing to move.</li> <li>○ Only used on the hind quarters (muscle).</li> <li>○ Only used when the animal has room in which to move.</li> <li>○ Administered as a short application and not held on the animal.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Livestock must not be isolated unless necessary.</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>1. Individual animals are not <b>isolated</b> from others (when unnecessary).</p>	<p><b>Isolation:</b> is defined as no visual/audible contact with other animals of the same species. Do not raise a non-compliance if animals are penned individually but can still see/hear other animals of the same species.  <b>Necessary isolation:</b> could be for veterinary treatment, to manage aggressive behaviour or the last animal being slaughtered at the end of the day's processing - do not raise as a non-compliance in these instances or if isolation is deemed necessary.</p>

<p>4. Sick or injured animals must be humanely disposed of or segregated and treated appropriately.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>1. Sick, injured animals or <b>downer animals</b> are identified or appropriately managed.                  2. Animals that are unfit to transport are not loaded for transport.                  3. Facilities and equipment are available on-site to segregate, treat or humanely dispose of animals (that are unfit to transport).                  4. Hospital/segregation areas are used <b>appropriately</b>.                  5. Animals requiring immediate slaughter on welfare grounds are identified and promptly dealt with.</p>	<p><b>Unfit to transport (OIE definition):</b> Animals that are unfit to travel include, but may not be limited to: those that are sick, injured, weak, disabled or fatigued; those that are unable to stand unaided and bear weight on each leg; those that are blind in both eyes; those that cannot be moved without causing them additional suffering; newborn with an unhealed navel; pregnant animals which would be in the final 10% of their gestation period at the planned time of unloading; females travelling without young which have given birth within the previous 48 hours; and those whose body condition would result in poor welfare because of the expected climatic conditions.  <b>Downer animals:</b> Those that cannot stand or walk. Downer cattle and buffalo should not be moved and should be slaughtered where they lie. Downer sheep and goats may be moved on a trolley (or similar) or lifted, providing that this does not cause the animal further pain or distress. Injured/sick animals that are reluctant to stand or walk, e.g. animals with a broken limb or other serious injury, should be handled and treated in the same way as a downer animal.  <b>Inappropriate handling:</b> Animals dragged, tripped, dropped, thrown or pulling by <u>only</u> hair, wool or single limbs. Downer cattle/buffalo should not be moved and should be slaughtered where they lie.  <b>Inappropriate use of hospital/segregation areas:</b> Used to hold animals that should be slaughtered immediately.</p>
<p>5. Livestock must never be forced to walk over the top of other animals.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>1. Animals are not <b>forced to walk over</b> each other</p>	<p><b>Forced to walk over each other:</b> For example, animals forced over a downer animal in a race or handling that causes animals to panic and individuals are trampled.  <b>Downer animals</b> are those that cannot stand or walk.</p>

<p><b>6. Livestock must not be left individually restrained during break times or delays.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. Animals are removed from restraint system, knocking box or raceways during break times.                  2. Cattle or buffalo showing signs of stress are removed from stun boxes or lateral restraint during short delays.                  3. During long delays all animals are removed from restraint.</p>	<p>Restraint is defined as knocking boxes, lateral restraint and other equipment where animals are restrained individually.  <b>Break times:</b> scheduled or planned breaks in production rather than delays due to an unforeseen event (e.g. breakdown).  <b>Short delay:</b> Less than 10 minutes.  <b>Long delay:</b> More than 10 minutes.</p> <p>NOTE: The auditor must use these definitions as <b>guidance</b> and weigh up the welfare impact of removing animals from restraint versus leaving them in restraint during delays. If the delay is causing <b>stress</b> to the animals then signs of this will be evident and can be assessed (e.g. for cattle, vocalisation) and should be commented on. Quantify what is witnessed – i.e. length of time left in restraint, number of animals affected.</p>
<p><b>7. Ramp sides must be sufficiently high to prevent escape.</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>			<p>1. Lateral side protection is available to prevent animals escaping or falling off the ramp during loading or unloading                  2. Animal(s) do not escape during discharge, loading and unloading (e.g. due to insufficient height of ramp sides).</p>	<p>Ramp sides or raceways of approximately 1.5 metres are usually sufficiently high for cattle, although excitable animals may require this to be increased up to around 1.8 metres.</p>
<p><b>8. Facilities and equipment must be free from any protrusions, sharp edges or other faults/flaws that could cause injury to the animals.</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. There are no protrusions, faults or flaws present that could cause an injury to livestock.                  2. No animals are injured by the equipment or facilities.                  3. Where defects are noted, corrective actions are taken immediately to remove the protrusion, fault or flaw or to remove animals from the area until it has been rectified.                  4. Flooring does not cause injury and minimises the occurrence of livestock slipping or falling.</p>	<p>Where injury is observed, only raise a non-compliance against this clause if the injury is attributable to the equipment/facilities.</p> <p>Examples of <b>non-slip flooring:</b> Patterned concrete or weldmesh overlaid; flooring with wooden or metal cross members; or flooring covered with rice hulls, saw dust or sand to improve grip.</p>

<p><b>9. Holding pens must provide enough space for the animals to stand up, lie down and turn around.</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>1. Sufficient space is provided to prevent animals being crushed or suffocated during transport.                  2. Sufficient space is provided to allow animals to stand-up/lie down or turn around during lairage or lot-feeding.                  3. There is no visible crowding in holding pens.                  4. Stocking density is at a level that allows animals to access water and feed.</p>	<p>Holding pens are those in which animals are held during lot-feeding or lairage. It does not include forcing pens or working yards, where animals are being handled.</p>
<p><b>10. Lighting must be conducive to animal movement and sufficient to perform inspection, when necessary.</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>1. <b>Baulking</b> (as a consequence of lighting conditions) does not exceed the target of 3%.                  2. Lighting is sufficient for individual animals to be inspected.</p>	<p><b>Baulking:</b> Animal stops and either refuses to proceed or attempts to turn back. Baulking can occur if lighting conditions are unsuitable.  <b>Sufficient lighting:</b> Should be available to perform inspections during hours of darkness as well as during daylight. This can be portable lighting if necessary.</p>
<p><b>11. Clean water must be available and accessible to all animals.</b></p>		<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>1. Pens (where livestock are held) have facilities for the provision of water and water is available.                  2. Access to drinkable water is not inhibited by inadequate flow rate or high stocking density.                  3. Water in pens is clean and palatable with no visible contamination.                  4. If drinkers are non-operational, animals can access an alternative source of water that meets the requirements of the standard.</p>	<p>This standard only applies to pens where animals are left undisturbed. It does not apply to forcing pens or races (where animals are being moved).</p>
<p><b>12. Feed of sufficient quantity and quality must be provided to all animals held over 12 hours.</b></p>		<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>1. Livestock access to feed is not inhibited (e.g. by a high stocking density).                  2. Feed is not contaminated and/or unpalatable.                  3. If facilities for providing feed are non-operational, animals can access an alternative source that meets the requirements of the standard.</p>	<p>Feedlot nutrition (OIE recommendation) – Person responsible for the livestock should have adequate knowledge of appropriate body condition specific to the species and should not allow body condition to fall outside an acceptable range. They should also understand the impact of livestock size and age, weather patterns, diet composition and sudden dietary changes in respect to</p>

					4. In the feedlot, feedstuffs and feed ingredients are of satisfactory quality to meet nutritional needs.	digestive upsets and their negative consequences (e.g. acidosis, bloat, liver abscess and laminitis).
<b>13. Animals must be protected from exposure to adverse weather conditions or alternative arrangements must be made to alleviate heat/cold stress.</b>	X	X	X		1. Animals are provided with shade/shelter or there are alternative arrangements in place to prevent or alleviate heat/cold stress. 2. Animals show no signs of heat/cold stress.	<b>Protection from exposure to adverse weather conditions:</b> Include free access to shade and/or shelter, or protection provided in other ways. <b>Adverse weather:</b> Environmental conditions that, if protection is not provided, will exceed the tolerance limits of exposed animals. <b>Alternative arrangements:</b> Include moving straight to slaughter, reducing stocking density, provision of water etc. <b>Signs of heat stress:</b> Cattle will sweat, drink more water and exhibit a higher respiratory rate. In serious cases this can develop into open mouth panting, with the tongue extended and excessive drooling. Sheep and goats will show increased respiration rate, panting and general weakness. <b>Signs of cold stress:</b> Cold stress is less common than heat stress. Animals may show huddling behaviour and shivering.
<b>14. Animals must be inspected on arrival at the facility and daily thereafter (inspected twice daily in lairage if held longer than 12 hours). Animals must be held in suitable groups. Records of inspection must be maintained.</b>		X	X		1. Inspection procedures are carried out during loading/unloading and whilst animals are in facilities. 2. Inspection records are available. 3. Inspection records indicate that animals are checked daily (or twice daily in lairage). 4. Confirmation from staff that animals are inspected daily. 5. Staff can describe inspection process (and it meets the standard).	<b>Suitable groups:</b> Drafting of animals to separate lines by sex and the removal of aggressive animals should be performed on-arrival at the feedlot. In the lairage, livestock must be penned according to social group (i.e. the group they arrived in off the feedlot), size or age. Livestock must not be mixed with others if there is a danger of injury or bullying.  <b>Inspection process:</b> Should identify animals that are sick or injured, identify abnormal body condition and identify abnormal respiration or altered demeanor. Inspections in the feedlot should also include checking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• animals for prolonged recumbency;</li> <li>• amounts of unconsumed feed;</li> <li>• faecal consistency and colour;</li> <li>• urine colour; and</li> <li>• manure contamination of hide or fleece.</li> </ul>

<p><b>15. The method of restraint employed must be designed and operated effectively for the size and class of livestock processed.</b></p>			<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>1. The method of restraint used meets the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code requirements for restraint.</p> <p>2. The method of restraint is appropriate to the size and/or class of animals being processed.</p> <p>3. The method of restraint results in correct positioning of the animal for stunning or slaughter.</p> <p>4. The handlers are competent in applying the method of restraint.</p> <p>5. No <b>unacceptable practices</b> (as defined in OIE) are used.</p> <p>6. Vocalisation does not exceed the allowable limit of 5% of observed animals from the time when the restraint takes hold (cattle only).</p> <p>7. Restraint boxes that run on electrical power have emergency backup power (or alternative arrangements – e.g. SOP stating slaughter will cease if the restraint box cannot operate) available in the event of a power failure. Power is sufficient to ensure box operation is smooth and timely and in accordance with the box manufacturer’s operating specifications regardless of local infrastructure</p> <p>8. Restraint boxes reliant on hydraulic pressure are fitted with operational pressure relief valves that limit pressure exerted on the animal (i.e. the body squeeze component) to 1200 psi (or have a mechanism to alert the operator if pressure exceeds 1200 psi).</p> <p>9. Where the restraint box tilts the animal into lateral recumbency for slaughter, it incorporates a method of neck restraint e.g. strap or neck restraining bar.</p>	<p><b>OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code requirements for restraint include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provision of a non-slippery floor;</li> <li>• avoidance of excessive pressure applied by restraining equipment that causes struggling or vocalisation in animals;</li> <li>• equipment engineered to reduce noise of air hissing and clanging metal;</li> <li>• absence of sharp edges in restraining equipment that would harm animals; and</li> <li>• avoidance of jerking or sudden movement of restraining device.</li> </ul> <p>Methods of restraint that do not meet the OIE requirements shall not be used, for example, rope casting and the use of boxes that cause the animal to trip or fall.</p> <p><b>Unacceptable practices (as defined in OIE):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immobilising animals through injury, such as breaking legs, cutting leg tendons or severing the spinal cord (e.g. using a puntilla or dagger) as this causes severe pain and stress.</li> <li>• Holding eye sockets, twisting the tail.</li> <li>• Forcing the head and neck back with excessive pressure.</li> <li>• Moving animals into position for slaughter by pulling the horns, hair or limbs.</li> <li>• Using electro-immobilisation or stunning electrodes to immobilise or restrain the animal.</li> <li>• Inappropriate use of the electric goad to immobilise or restrain.</li> </ul>
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						<p>10. For restraint boxes that fully invert the animal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the head must be fully restrained with the neck extended prior to inversion; and</li> <li>• the inversion must proceed smoothly and without interruption to minimise the period of restraint; and</li> <li>• slaughter must occur as soon as the animal is inverted.</li> </ul> <p>11. Restraint boxes used for standing non-stunned slaughter support the body of the animal, prevent the animal from hanging by the neck and prevent physical contact between the wound and the equipment.</p>	
<p><b>16. Equipment used to restrain animals must be maintained in good repair and effective working order. Records of maintenance are maintained.</b></p>				X	X	<p>1. The restraint equipment is working effectively.</p> <p>2. In the event of the restraint equipment not working effectively, there is an alternative available or steps are taken to resolve the issue or cease production.</p> <p>2. The restraint equipment is maintained in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications.</p> <p>3. Operators are competent at implementing approved alternative arrangements (back-up plan) in the event of power failure or insufficient power (electrical or hydraulic) preventing correct operation of the box.</p> <p>4. There is a maintenance schedule in place and records of maintenance are available.</p>	<p><b>Maintenance schedule:</b> There must be a documented, regular maintenance schedule in place for the restraint box, which fulfils the manufacturer’s recommendations. Records of maintenance performed, including routine and daily checks (including daily check of relief valve operation), must be available and current.</p>



<p><b>17. There must be a back-up procedure to stunning. If an initial stun is ineffective, a re-stun must be applied immediately.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>		<p>1. A back-up stunning procedure is in place or there is a policy to stop the process until the situation is rectified.                  2. Ineffectively stunned animals are identified and re-stunned without delay.</p>	<p><b>Back-up procedure:</b> This can involve the use of a back-up stunning device or slaughter without stunning, if the animal is already held in an approved restraining device and the facility is approved to perform slaughter as part of an ESCAS-compliant chain.</p>
<p><b>18. Stunning equipment must be correctly applied, with the appropriate method, charge / pressure / electrical setting used for each animal.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>(X)</b></p>	<p>1. Correct /electrical settings are used - 1.5A for cattle and 1.0A for sheep and goats, for 1-3 seconds, with electrodes maintaining good contact and spanning the brain.                  3. Manufacturer’s recommendations for appropriate charge (penetrating and non-penetrating captive bolt stunning) are followed.                  4. Non-penetrating captive bolt stunning is not used on buffalo.                  5. Stunning equipment applied in the correct position (as described in OIE).</p>	<p><b>When electrical stunning is used:</b> In order to ensure the appropriate charge, pressure or electrical setting is selected for the animal, the stunning device apparatus should incorporate a device that monitors and displays voltage (true RMS) and the applied current (true RMS), and calibrated at least annually.  <b>Incorrect position:</b> Not in accordance with SOPs, OIE Article 7.5.7 or the manufacturer’s directions. For electrical stunning, electrodes must span the brain.  <b>(X)</b> - Only applicable for non-stun slaughter when post-cut stunning is used.                  Non-penetrating captive bolt stunning is sometimes referred to as concussion stunning.   <b>Stun position for penetrating and non-penetrating stunning:</b> (as described in OIE) The operator should ensure that the head of the animal is accessible. The operator should fire the captive bolt at right angles to the skull in the optimal position (at the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn from the rear of the eyes to the opposite horn buds). The optimum shooting position for hornless sheep and goats is on the midline. The optimum position for heavily horned sheep and horned goats is behind the poll, aiming towards the angle of the jaw.</p>

<p><b>19. Where pre-slaughter stunning is used, the stunning procedure must occur without delay once the animal has been restrained. However, in the case of post-cut stunning, stunning must occur immediately after the throat has been cut.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>(X)</b></p>	<p>1. Where pre-slaughter stunning used – stunning is performed immediately as soon as the animal is restrained.                  2. Where post-cut stunning used – stunning is performed immediately as soon as the throat has been cut.</p>	<p><b>(X)</b> - Only applicable for non-stun slaughter when post-cut stunning is used.</p>
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<p><b>20. The stun must be effective and result in immediate unconsciousness of the animal.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>		<p>1. At least 95% of animals assessed are effectively stunned with the first shot (or application of electrical stunning electrodes).                  2. All animals show signs of effective stunning (i.e. unconsciousness) at the time of slaughter.</p>	<p>Assess the animal for signs of unconsciousness following stunning.  <b>Signs of effective stunning can be assessed using the following guidance:</b>  <b>ELECTRICAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate collapse</li> <li>• Phases of epilepsy develop once current stops - tonic and clonic activity</li> <li>• No rhythmic breathing</li> <li>• No spontaneous blinking and no blink in response to waving a hand in front of the eye.</li> </ul> <p><b>MECHANICAL:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate collapse</li> <li>• Initial tonic reaction then clonic activity</li> <li>• No rhythmic breathing</li> <li>• Eyes unfocused and no corneal reflex</li> <li>• Jaw and tongue are loose</li> <li>• No spontaneous blinking and no blink in response to waving a hand in front of the eye.</li> </ul>
<p><b>21. Slaughter must be performed using a sharp knife and result in massive bleeding from both carotid arteries (or the vessels from which they arise, in the case of thoracic sticking).</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. Both carotid arteries (or the vessels from which they arise - thoracic sticking) are severed during the act of slaughter.                  2. Knife is sharp for the act of slaughter (sharpened before the beginning of the slaughter operation and/or as necessary during processing)</p>	<p>In some markets, the slaughter method will involve a ‘thoracic stick’ (after stunning). This will sever the major blood vessels from which the carotid arteries arise.</p> <p><b>Knife sharpening:</b> Use of a steel or similar blade honing equipment maintains the edge of the knife between sharpening. Knives should be sharpened before beginning the slaughter operation and as necessary during processing to ensure knives are always sharp for the act of slaughter. A blunt knife is indicated by excessive pressure, repeat cutting or missed blood vessels during the cut.</p>

<p><b>22. The throat must be cut using a single (blade does not leave the wound until act of slaughter completed), deep, uninterrupted fast stroke of the knife.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. No multiple strokes of the knife used.</p>	<p><b>Single stroke/cut:</b> Deep, uninterrupted fast stroke of the knife. Blade does not leave wound until act is complete.</p> <p>This standard refers to slaughter by cutting the throat. It is not relevant when ‘thoracic sticking’ is used after stunning.</p>
<p><b>23. For reversible stunning, the time between stunning and slaughter must not exceed 20 seconds.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. Stun to stick interval is less than 20 seconds when reversible stunning methods are used.</p>	<p><b>Reversible stunning:</b> Head-only electrical stunning and non-penetrating (percussive/mechanical) stunning.</p> <p>If penetrative captive bolt pistols are used, then a maximum stun to slaughter interval of 20 seconds does not apply, however the stun to slaughter interval should be kept as short as possible.</p>
<p><b>24. The head must be restrained in a manner which facilitates slaughter and for as short a time as possible.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. Restraint allows the slaughterman to effectively sever both carotid arteries with a single cut.                  2. Head restraint allows rapid and effective bleed out following the throat cut.                  3. For sheep or goats, slaughter occurs within 10 seconds of the head restraint process (manual restraint) or from when the box is in the final resting position (slaughter boxes).                  4. For cattle or buffalo, slaughter occurs within 10 seconds from when the slaughter box is in the final resting position.</p>	<p>Head restraint is timed from completion of head restraint process, i.e. when the head is manually held back for cutting the throat, or when the box is in the final resting position.</p> <p>After slaughter, the period of restraint is sufficient to prevent the wound edges touching and to check that the animal is unconscious (Standards 20 and 25).</p>

<p><b>25. The head of the animal must be kept in extension to prevent the edges of the wounds touching until the animal is unconscious.</b></p>				<p>X</p>	<p>1. Edges of the wound do not touch before the animal is confirmed unconscious.                  2. There is no physical contact with the wound (for example, operative holds the edge of the wound) before the animal is unconscious.</p>	<p><b>Indicators of unconsciousness</b> can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete loss of posture;</li> <li>• no attempts to regain or to retain upright body posture;</li> <li>• absence of tracking by the eye of movements in the vicinity (often accompanied by spontaneous blinking); or</li> <li>• no spontaneous blinking and no blink in response to waving a hand in front of the eye.</li> </ul>
<p><b>26. Animals must not be hoisted, have water thrown on them or be otherwise disturbed prior to confirmed unconsciousness</b></p>			<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>1. No hoisting or other disturbance (e.g. throwing water on the animal) prior to confirmed unconsciousness.</p>	<p><b>Disturbed:</b> Includes being moved (including hoisting) or having water thrown on the animal before unconsciousness is confirmed. Once the animal is confirmed as unconscious, it can be moved.</p>
<p><b>27. Death must be assured before performing carcass dressing or cutting procedures.</b></p>			<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>1. Operatives have assurance (by checking or through a validated procedure documented in a SOP) that the animal is dead before performing other dressing or cutting procedures.                  2. When checked during the audit, animals are dead prior to further dressing or cutting procedures being carried out, i.e. brain stem reflexes have ceased.                  3. Further dressing procedures (including cutting of spinal cords) are not performed within 30 seconds after slaughter.</p>	<p>The standard requires that death is assured before dressing procedures are performed. This can be achieved by the operatives a) checking each animal or b) implementing a procedure that ensures that the animal is dead prior to dressing - for example, confirmation of correct slaughter and sufficiently long bleed out period to cause death with observation of the animal during the bleeding period. However, if the auditor observes dressing etc being performed in animals that were not dead (i.e. brain stem reflexes still present) despite a documented procedure being in place, then this must be raised as a non-compliance.</p>

<p><b>28. Where allowed, pregnant females must be handled separately to other stock and if slaughtered, foetuses must not be rescued.</b></p>				<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. No evidence of foetal rescue - Foetuses are not removed from the uterus sooner than 5 minutes after the slaughter of the female to ensure absence of consciousness (i.e. The foetus is prevented from breathing air). 2. Pregnant females are handled separately.</p>	<p><b>Pregnant females:</b> Under normal circumstances, pregnant <i>animals</i> that would be in the final 10% of their gestation period at the planned time of <i>unloading</i> at the <i>slaughterhouse</i> should be neither transported nor slaughtered.</p>
<p><b>29. Each facility in the ESCAS supply chain must have Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to ensure that facility staff work in accordance with the ESCAS animal welfare standards.</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p>1. Written SOP is available and covers each relevant aspect of livestock handling and slaughter, consistent with the ESCAS animal welfare standards (this document). 2. Staff are aware of, and working in accordance with the SOP(s).</p>	<p>Each facility in the ESCAS supply chain must have Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that outline the appropriate procedures for each element of handling and slaughter of livestock, consistent with the ESCAS animal welfare standards. Each facility must also provide appropriate work instructions and/or communication to ensure that facility staff are aware of, and work in accordance with the ESCAS requirements. Note that the ESCAS animal welfare standards are consistent with World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recommendations.</p>