

Recommended Cold Weather Truck Setup Procedures for Market Pigs

[Adapted from the Trucker Quality Assurance (TQA) Manual v6]

- With winter approaching, drivers are reminded that freezing temperatures are dangerous to pigs and are amplified by wind chill.
- In cold temperatures, pigs that cannot seek out bedding to protect them from wind and low temperatures are subject to frostbite.
- Frostbite may also occur from being pressed against the side of the trailer.
- At temperatures of -12°C or colder, frostbite can occur in 30 minutes or less when wind speeds are greater than 50km/hr. Colder temperatures and higher wind speeds decrease the time when frostbite can occur.

TQA Recommendations for Boarding and Bedding for Market Pigs

Outside Temp °C	Outside Temp °F	Bedding (recommendation / 53' trailer)			Side-Slats or Boards
		Level	50lb/23kg	35lb/16kg	
< -12 ⁰	<10 ⁰	Heaviest	6 bags	9 bags	90 - 95% Closed
-7 ⁰ to -12 ⁰	11 ⁰ to 20 ⁰	Heavy	4-6 bags	6-9 bags	75 - 90% Closed
-6 ⁰ to -1 ⁰	21 ⁰ to 30 ⁰	Heavy	4-6 bags	6-9 bags	50 - 75% Closed
0 ⁰ to 4 ⁰	31 ⁰ to 40 ⁰	Medium	3-4 bags	4-6 bags	50 - 75% Closed
5 ⁰ to 15 ⁰	41 ⁰ to 60 ⁰	Medium	3-4 bags	4-6 bags	25 - 50% Closed
16 ⁰ to 32 ⁰	61 ⁰ to 90 ⁰	Medium	3-4 bags	4-6 bags	0% Closed
>32 ⁰	> 90 ⁰	Light	1-2 bags	2-3 bags	0% Closed

- Bedding helps with moisture control and non-slip footing.
- Even during cold weather, the body heat of pigs will cause the trailer to quickly become hot and humid when stopped.
- Drivers may need to consider removing or opening some boards if they are stopped for long periods with pigs on the truck.
- The professional judgment of the driver and transport staff, knowledge of the local conditions and the distance the pigs are to be transported should be considered in conjunction with the above recommendations.
- Transport companies should work with their staff to establish best practices and the driver's responsibilities in different situations.

Ontario Livestock Transporters' Alliance



ONTARIO PORK