



FACTA

Animal Welfare Assurance, Certification & Training

Rabbit Welfare Transportation and Processing Audit Tool and Standards

***Any major nonconformance will result in immediate failure of the audit. Audit will still be completed in its entirety, but a re-audit must occur on any major nonconformance within 30 days. Anything less than the total score of 85.0% is failure of the FACTA, LLC (“FACTA”) audit. Points are not awarded on a sliding scale unless otherwise specified. Each section of the audit does not stand alone, and the entire audit is scored as one sample. (Sections within the audit do not stand alone). Corrective actions are required for any area in non-compliance with audit standards. Corrective actions must be completed and sent to FACTA within 30 days of receiving audit results.**

Transportation Section #1

Q#	Audit Tool	Standards	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
1.1.0	If euthanasia is observed, are rabbits handled humanely during the process? NA if not observed.	The method must be accomplished without inflicting additional injury to the rabbit. Document observation.	Pass/Fail/NA
1.1.1	If euthanasia is observed, do caretakers confirm death after the euthanasia method is applied? NA if not observed.	Handler administering euthanasia must confirm death. Document Observation.	Pass/Fail/NA
1.2.0	Does transport have a euthanasia plan consistent with acceptable methods according to the American Veterinary Medical Association Euthanasia Standards and Humane Methods of Slaughter Act?	Document method. Methods must be in line with the American Veterinary Medical Association Euthanasia Standards (current edition.)	Pass/Fail/NA
1.3.0	At any time did you observe animal abuse?	An observation of animal abuse requires a corrective action and results in an audit failure.	Pass/Fail

Q#	Audit Tool	Standards	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
1.4.0	Are transporters/handlers trained in animal welfare handling?	All individuals that handle/transport animals must be trained in animal welfare. Verify training records.	(10) ()
1.5.0	Can handlers/transporters articulate the company's euthanasia plan?	This should also be confirmed through direct (random) interviews. Interviews must align with written company policies.	(5) ()
1.5.1	Can handlers/transporters articulate the animal welfare training related to their specific duties?	This should also be confirmed through direct (random) interviews. Interviews must align with written company policies.	(5) ()
1.5.2	Can handlers/transporters articulate the company's animal abuse policy and how to report abuse?	This should also be confirmed through direct (random) interviews. Interviews must align with written company policies.	(5) ()
1.6.0	Does the live haul department have an emergency action plan?	Review, document and verify company records.	(5) ()
1.6.1	Are emergency contacts and emergency plans available on trucks for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather and power outages?	Verify plan is available during transport.	(5) ()
1.7.0	Does the live haul department have procedures and/or equipment in the event of extreme weather, mechanical failure or turn-overs?	There must be a program in place to deal with emergency situations such as truck break downs, plant break downs, truck turn overs. The program should include protocols to prevent death in the case of breakdowns or protocols to deal with animals during extreme circumstances such as truck roll overs.	(10) ()

Q#	Audit Tool	Standards	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
1.8.0	<p>Are handlers placing rabbits carefully into the transport cages?</p> <p>NA if not handled.</p>	<p>The handling of rabbits must not cause obviously injury or excessive stress of rabbits being handled. Examples of this would be broken or injured limbs, vocalization of rabbits.</p> <p>The auditor should observe loading until they feel they can make an accurate evaluation of the handling procedures. At minimum the auditor should watch the loading of 20 cages.</p>	(15/NA) ()
1.8.1	<p>Is handling equipment, in proper condition to prevent injury to rabbits? If handling equipment is not used then points are NA.</p>	<p>Handling equipment must not have broken or sharp edges that could cause injury to the rabbits.</p>	(15/ NA) ()
1.9.0	<p>Are cages properly sized to accommodate the number of rabbits being placed?</p>	<p>Live haul cages must be large enough for the rabbits to sit down and move around without being pinned by other rabbits in the cage.</p>	(10) ()
1.10.0	<p>Are 97% of transport cages in proper condition?</p>	<p>Visually inspect one full truck load of transport cages. Document the number of cages that are in proper condition. “Proper condition” would be the number of cages free of broken or crack areas. The integrity of the floors should be in good condition with no signs of sagging or holes. If cages have gates or doors on each cage must close completely to prevent the accidental escape of rabbits during transport.</p>	(10) ()
1.11.0	<p>Is there a documented protocol in place to address cage damage and make necessary repairs?</p>	<p>Describe the protocol. This would be a protocol to make repairs to broken plastic/metal, rough flooring and to minimize injury opportunities during transport.</p>	(5) ()
1.12.0	<p>Does the company monitor the length of time rabbits are in transport and keep records in order to address areas that could cause animal welfare issues?</p>	<p>Transport records should be kept to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loading start and complete time₁ • Delivery time₁ • Any emergency related issues <p>₁Ability to identify length of time animals were in transport cages.</p>	(5) ()

Q#	Audit Tool	Standards	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
1.13.0	<p>Do handlers remove rabbits carefully from cages and place them into holding pens without resulting in injury?</p> <p>NA if not handled.</p>	<p>The handling of rabbits must not cause obviously injury or excessive stress of rabbits being handled. Examples of this would be broken or injured limbs, vocalization of rabbits.</p> <p>The auditor should observe loading until they feel they can make an accurate evaluation of the handling procedures. At minimum the auditor should watch the loading of 20 cages.</p>	(15/NA) ()
1.14.0	<p>Is handling equipment, in proper condition to prevent injury to rabbits? If handling equipment is not used then points are NA.</p>	<p>Handling equipment must not have broken or sharp edges that could cause injury to the rabbits.</p>	(15/NA) ()
	Transportation Section #1		(135) ()

Processing Plant – Section #2

Q#	Audit Tool	Notes/Comments	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
2.1.0	Do employees go through an orientation program for animal welfare?	<p>Employees must be trained in welfare before handling live animals.</p> <p>Select five employees to verify training records. All points will be deducted if one employee training is missing.</p>	(10) ()
2.1.1	Does the plant have a documented annual welfare training program for all employees involved in the handling of live animals?	<p>Select five employees to verify training records. All points will be deducted if one employee training is missing.</p> <p>Multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at time of training is acceptable?</p>	(5) ()
2.2.0	Have all employees been trained and signed off on the company's animal abuse policy?	Select five employees to verify training records.	(5) ()
2.2.1	Can handlers/transporters articulate the company's euthanasia plan?	This should also be confirmed through direct (random) interviews. Interviews must align with written company policies.	(5) ()
2.2.2	Can handlers/transporters articulate the animal welfare training related to their specific duties?	This should also be confirmed through direct (random) interviews. Interviews must align with written company policies.	(5) ()
2.2.3	Can handlers/transporters articulate the company's animal abuse policy and how to report abuse?	This should also be confirmed through direct (random) interviews. Interviews must align with written company policies.	(5) ()
2.3.0	Does the plant have an emergency action plan for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather and power outages plan?	Review, document and verify company records.	(5) ()

Q#	Audit Tool	Notes/Comments	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
2.3.1	Are emergency contacts and posted on site for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather and power outages?	Emergency numbers must be posted	(5) ()
2.5.0	Does the company have a plan and equipment (ie.fans) available for keeping rabbits comfortable in holding areas?	Company must have guidelines and a plan in place to address differing temperatures in holding areas. Company guidelines should address the monitoring of temperatures and when to take steps to combat extreme high/low temperatures.	(5) ()
2.6.0	Do company procedures for fan operation have designated temperatures at which fans are to be operated?	Verify that company guidelines and temperature ranges are being followed for holding areas and fan operation.	(10) ()
2.6.1	Does the site have procedures and/or equipment to prevent death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure?	Yes/No.	(10) ()
2.7.0	Are holding times kept to the minimum consistent with good processing practices?	Check records for the previous week. If company holding times exceed 24 hours they must have written standard operating procedures in place to deal with the long-term management of rabbits, including feeding. If records indicate that rabbits have been held for more than 24 hours, evidence of feeding must be documented or feed in holding pens must be present.	(10) ()
2.8.0	Is dead on arrival (“DOA”) % documented with anything over 1% in the last week?	Anything at or above a 1% DOA should have a documented corrective action.	(10) ()

Q#	Audit Tool	Notes/Comments	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
2.9.0	Does the plant use methods of euthanasia acceptable according to the American Veterinary Medical Association Euthanasia Standards and Humane Methods of Slaughter Act?	Document every method used on-site. Methods must be in line with the American Veterinary Medical Association Euthanasia Standards (current edition.)	Pass/Fail
2.10.0	Is there documented euthanasia training for those responsible for euthanasia?	Document training and employee positions. All individuals approved to perform euthanasia must be trained.	(5) ()
2.11.0	Is backup euthanasia equipment store properly to maintain integrity of equipment and ammunition?	Document company protocol and visually observe the location where euthanasia equipment is stored.	(10) ()
2.12.0	Is there documentation of the euthanasia equipment maintenance or maintenance being calibrated periodically?	Document program and verify maintenance records.	(5) ()
2.13.0	Do handlers remove rabbits carefully from holding pens into carts and from carts to kill area without resulting in injury?	Visually verify. Handling of rabbits must not result in injury of animals.	(15) ()
2.12.0	Are livestock pens maintained in good repair?	All pens (flooring/gates/walls) should be free from sharp or protruding objects which pose a threat of cause injury or pain to the animals.	(10) ()
2.13.0	Are livestock carts maintained in good repair?	All carts (flooring/gates/walls) and cart should be free from sharp or protruding objects which pose a threat of cause injury or pain to the animals.	(10) ()
2.14.0	Is water provided ab lidtum in holding pens?	Rabbits must have access to water at all times in holding pens	(10) ()
2.15.0	Is feed provided when rabbits are held an extended amount of time?	Rabbits must be provided feed if held for more than 24 hours. Confirm company protocols and verify through direct observations and/or personnel interviews that the protocol is being followed.	(10) ()

Q#	Audit Tool	Notes/Comments	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
2.15.1	Do rabbits have adequate space allowance in holding pens?	Stocking density should allow rabbits enough room so they can all lay ventrally without having to lie on top of each other and can freely access water.	(10) ()
2.16.0	Does more than 20 seconds elapse between stunning and neck cutting?	Verify time with timer. Even with electronarcosis well done, the animal will recover the consciousness after 25-35 seconds, so exsanguination must be performed as soon as possible.	(20) ()
2.17.0	Are rabbits successfully rendered unconscious on the first time the euthanasia method is used? Observe 100 rabbits.	The method utilized must be effective at a rate to render rabbits immediately unconsciousness on the first try at least 95% of the time. Goal is 100% effectiveness. 99-100% receives – Full Points 98% or less - 15 points < 95% or less – Zero points	(30) ()
2.18.0	Are rabbits successfully rendered insensible before they are cut?	100% of rabbits must be rendered insensible before they are cut/decapitated. Visually verify that rabbits do not vocalize, do not display a corneal reflex. A proper response to cervical dislocation is displayed by a tonic followed by a clonic phase. If the tonic phase is absent then the method was not successful.	Pass/Fail
2.19.0	Observe the euthanasia of 100 rabbits. Record the number of rabbits not properly euthanized.	100% of all rabbits must be successfully decapitated (euthanized) before any further processing takes place.	Pass/Fail
2.20.0	At any time during the audit do you observe animal abuse?	An observation of animal abuse requires a corrective action and results in an audit failure.	Pass/Fail
	Plant – Records/Policies Section #2		(220) ()

Company Animal Welfare Policies Section #3

Q#	Audit Tool	Notes/Comments	Numerical Value (Points Awarded)
3.1.0	<p>Does the company animal welfare program cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding area management (including feed/water) • Plant breakdown • Unloading/handling • Euthanasia • Animal abuse policy • Annual welfare training 	<p>Yes/No.</p> <p>Five points given per area satisfied.</p>	(30) ()
3.2.0	Does the company have a documented annual internal auditing inspection process in place for transport?	Verify documentation.	(15) ()
	Does the company have a documented annual internal auditing inspection process in place for the processing facility?	Verify documentation.	(15) ()
3.3.0	Does the company have a process in place whereby animal welfare violations can be reported without threat of retaliation?	The company must have a process in place whereby animal welfare violations can be reported without threat of retaliation. Signs stating the importance of animal welfare with contact information for reporting incidents should be posted prominently in locations where rabbits are handled.	(15) ()
	Company Animal Welfare Policies Section #2		(75) ()

Summary Sheet and Score

Date Completed	Audit Section	Possible Points/ Actual Points
	Transportation Section #1	(135) ()
	Processing Plant Section #2	(220) ()
	Company Animal Welfare Policies Section #3	(75) ()
	Animal Abuse	Pass/Fail
Total Score:		(430) ()
Total %:		