

# Preliminary study of non-compliance with animal welfare legislation when transporting pigs in Sweden



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## Introduction

The number of pig transports by road in Sweden is at least 14,000/year. We aimed to explore patterns of non-compliance with animal welfare legislation based on data from the Swedish official animal welfare control of pig transports.

## Methods

The pig transport checklist used by inspectors consisted of 14 animal welfare control points. Compliance with each control point was summarized for the period 2010-2013.

### Checklist

#### What is "non-compliance"?

Non-compliance is defined as failure to meet national (Swedish) or international (EU) transport rules in at least one of the applicable control points of an inspection.

## Control points

### Space allowance

- Space allowance per pig

### Fitness for transport

- Pregnant sows – estimated date of parturition
- Piglets age (minimum)
- Recently farrowed sows

### Transport practices

- Use of electric prods in exceptional cases
- Use of driving boards
- Separation/grouping of animals

### Means of transport

- Group size for fattening pigs
- Group size and appropriate bedding for piglets
- Existence of mechanical ventilation

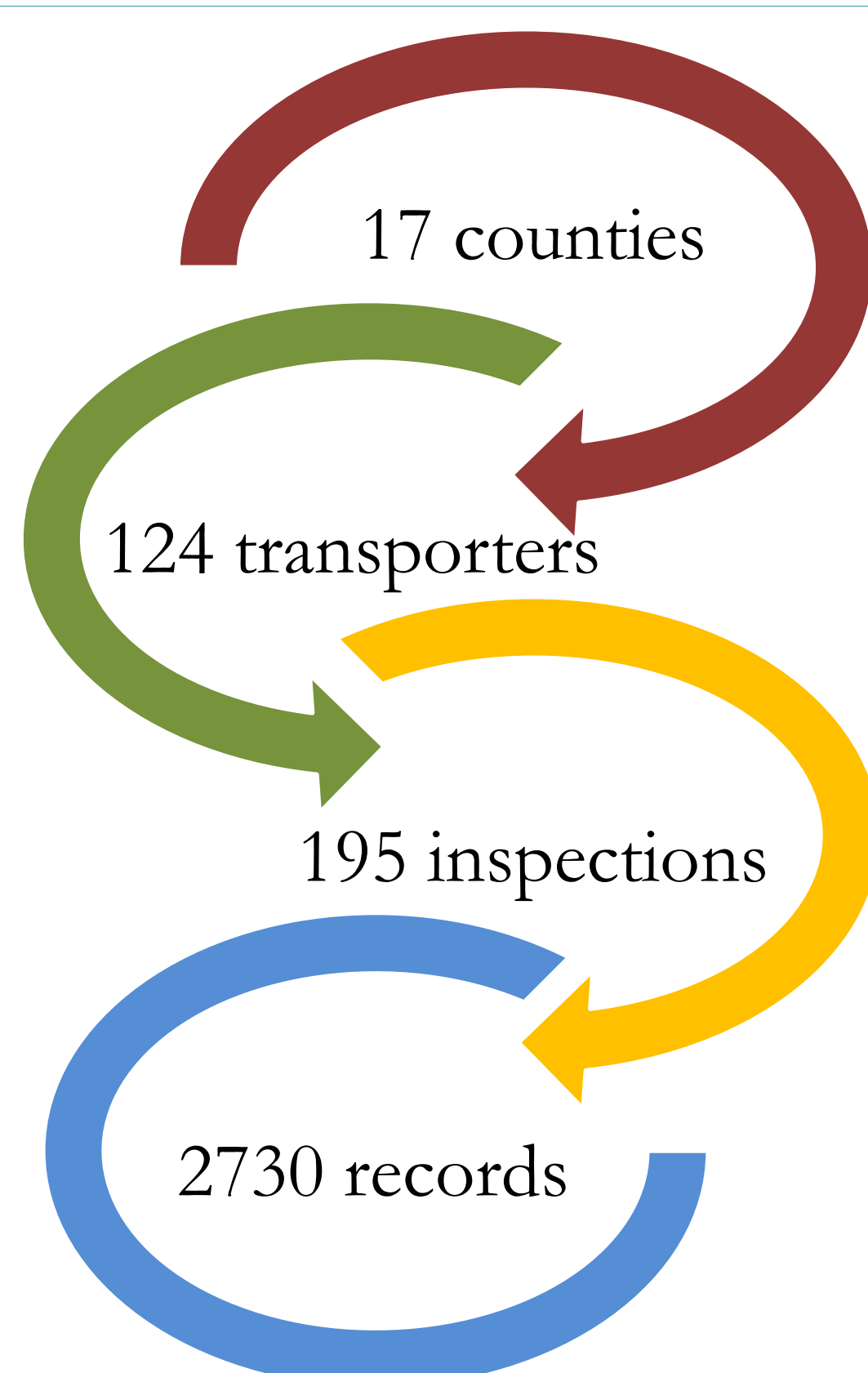
### Additional provisions for long journeys

- Unweaned piglets requirements
- Pregnant sows requirements

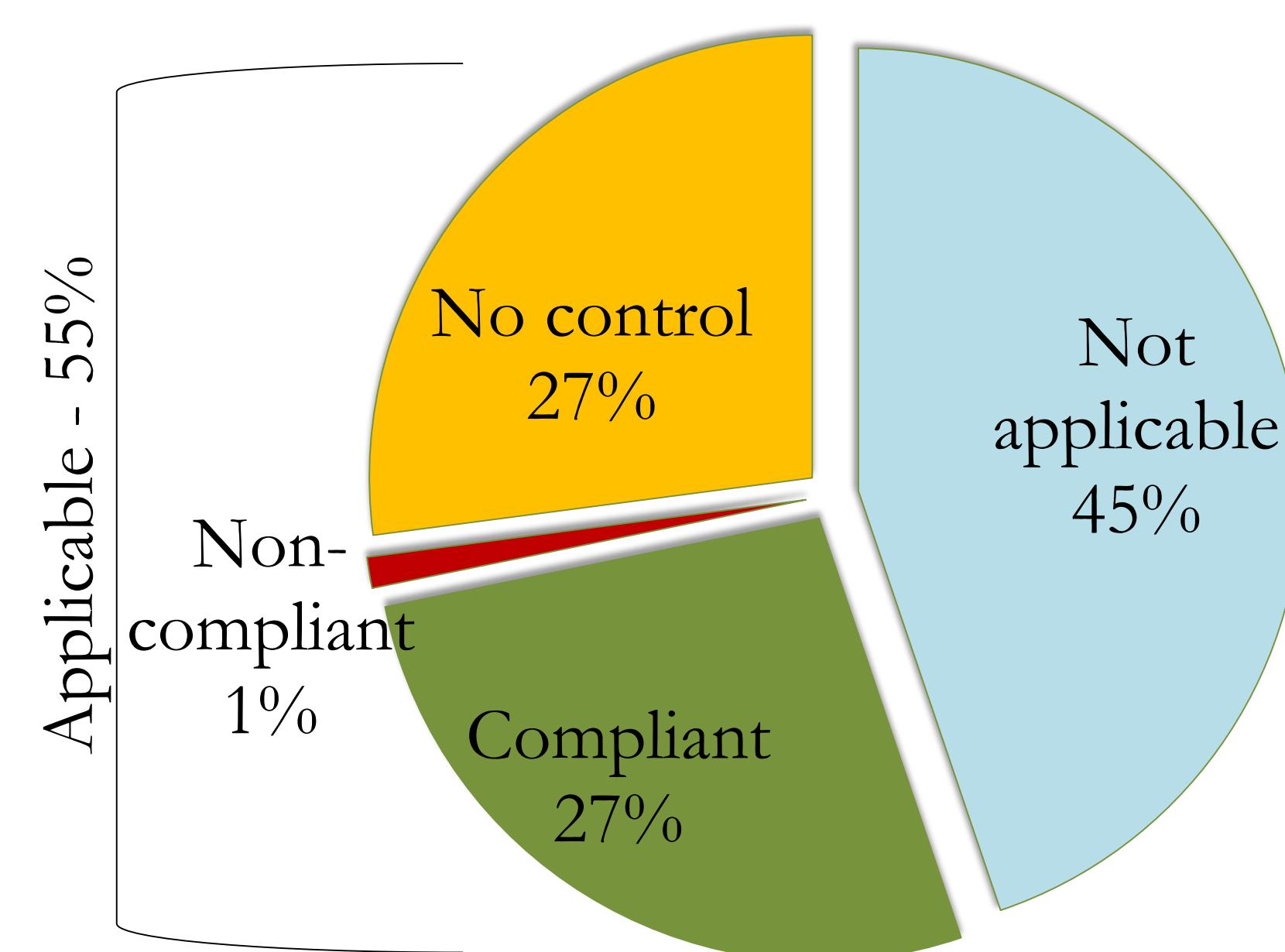
### Watering and feeding interval, journey time and resting periods

- Maximum of 24h
- Permanent access to water

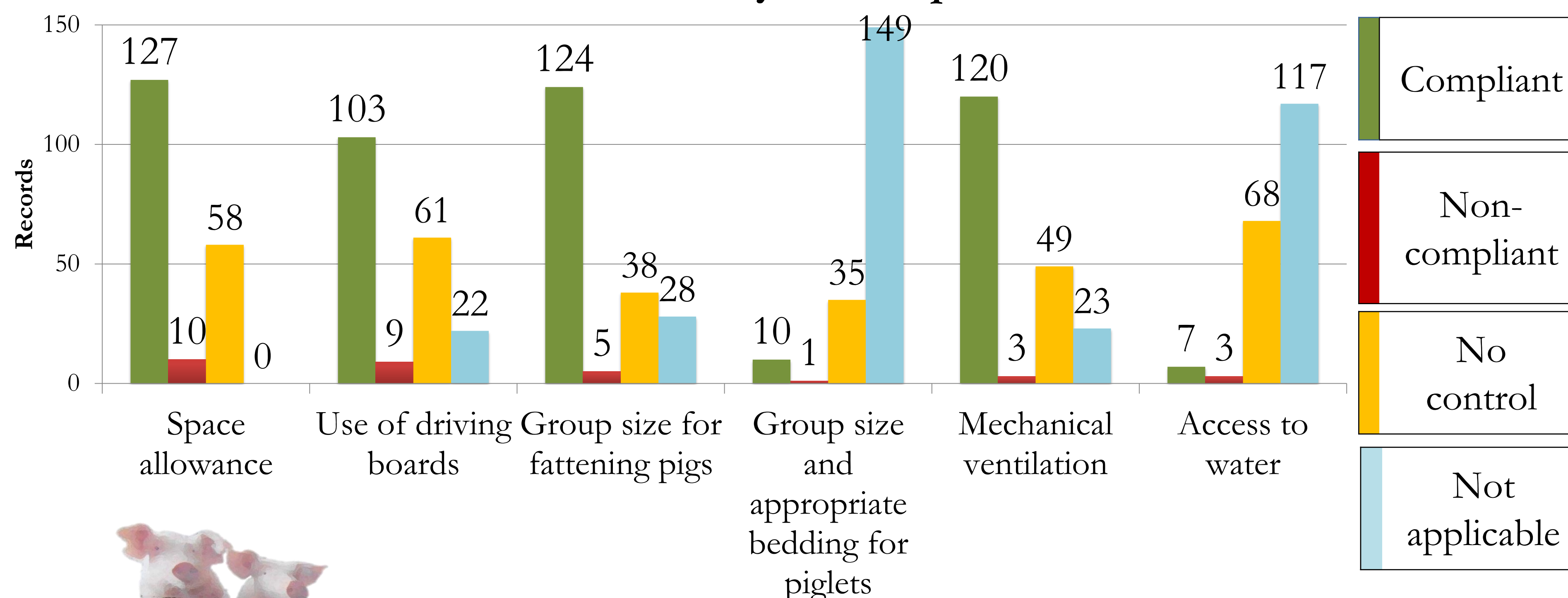
## Results



### Control points records



### Records by control points



- Of all transporters, 95 were inspected once, 28 between 2 and 6 times and one transporter was inspected 23 times.
- The median number of pigs per transport was 110 (interquartile range 65 to 180).
- At 27 (14%) of the inspections, at least one non-compliance was found.
- Non-compliance did not change over the study period and most of the inspections were in the period 2012-2013 (91.3%).

### Inspection results by control type

Type of control	Compliant	Non-compliant	%
Directional <sup>1</sup>	144	25	86.7
Random <sup>2</sup>	12	2	7.2
Risk-based <sup>3</sup>	11	0	5.6
Complaints <sup>4</sup>	1	0	0.5
Total	168	27	100

Control type is the justification for inspection: <sup>1</sup>project-based; <sup>2</sup>random selection; <sup>3</sup>risk-based; <sup>4</sup>complaints from the public or others".

## Conclusion

Non-compliances with animal welfare control checkpoints were found at 14% of all inspections.

Further analysis is required to identify associations between risk factors and animal welfare outcomes, taking the high prevalence of control points that were not controlled into consideration.

