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## **WELFARE OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT - GUIDANCE NOTES**

### **COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1/2005 ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT AND RELATED OPERATIONS AND THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS (TRANSPORT) (WALES) ORDER 2007**

#### **CONTROL POSTS**

##### **1 What are control posts and what is their purpose**

1.1 When the maximum permitted travelling time stipulated in Annex 1, Chapter V of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses (other than registered horses) has expired but the journey is incomplete the animals must be unloaded, fed and watered and rested for the time stipulated in Chapter V, 1.5 or 1.7(b) of the Regulation. However animals may also be rested at control posts if the maximum journey times have not been reached. For road transport the minimum rest period is 24 hours. For the very limited circumstances where rest is stipulated for sea transport at the port of destination and where the animals are not unloaded from road vehicles (RO-RO ferries) the rest period is 12 hours. This rest, if a journey log is required must be taken at premises approved as control posts. These must meet the specified requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 as amended by Article 36 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

1.2 Control posts must:

- (a) Be located in areas not subject to prohibition or restrictions in accordance with relevant Community legislation;
- (b) Be under the control of an official veterinarian who shall ensure, compliance with the provisions of the Regulation;
- (c) Operate in compliance with all the relevant Community rules regarding animal health, the movement of animals and the protection of animals at the time of slaughter;
- (d) Undergo regular inspection at least twice a year to ascertain that the requirements for approval continue to be fulfilled.

1.3 Detailed and self explanatory criteria on health and hygiene measures, construction and facilities, and operation are also set. These are reproduced in the Annex to this guidance.

## **2 How is approval of premises as control posts obtained?**

2.1 Potential control post operators should request approval of premises by their local DVM who will arrange inspection of the premises by a VO within 10 days of receipt of the application for consideration of approval, by means of the combined application and report form.

2.2 The appointment of LVIs for the day to day requirements of the control post and the associated costs will be the responsibility of the control post operator. If the premises are considered to be satisfactory the control post operator should be notified in writing within 5 days of the inspection. The approval will be for one year only and include a unique number and will be notified to the European Commission who will make contact details available to all member states.

2.3 Annual visits for re-approval of premises as control posts will be made. If the criteria and other relevant provisions contained in the Regulation are not properly complied with then approval may be suspended or withdrawn.

2.4 Once approved, any changes to the structure of the premises or the operational regime, including the appointed LVI, must be notified to the appropriate Agriculture Department.

## **3 Requirements of premises to be approved as control posts**

3.1 The Regulation requires that control posts are used exclusively to receive, feed, water, rest, accommodate, care for and dispatch animals passing through.

3.2 Existing approved assembly centres may be approved as control posts providing:

(a) They satisfy the relevant requirements of Directive 64/432/EEC and the requirements of Regulations 1/2005 and 1255/97

(b) That use of such facilities is exclusively reserved as control posts; and

(c) They are not used for the purchase or sale of animals covered by the Council Regulation.

3.3 The detailed criteria are contained in Annex 1 of Regulation 1255/97 as amended by Regulation 1/2005 but are reproduced in the Annex to this guidance. We cannot alter the requirements of the Regulation which is directly applicable in all Member States.

**CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL AND OPERATION OF CONTROL POSTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 1255/97 AS AMENDED BY COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 1/2005**

(Text in *italics*) is not contained in the Regulation but shown for explanation)

**A Health and Hygiene Measures**

1. Every control post must:

(a) Be located, designed, constructed and operated as to ensure sufficient bio security preventing the spreading of serious infectious diseases to other holdings and between consecutive consignments of animals passing through these premises;

(b) Be constructed, equipped and operated as to ensure that cleaning and disinfection procedures can be carried out. A lorry wash shall be provided on the spot. Such facilities must be operational under all weather conditions;

(c) Be cleansed and disinfected before and after each use, as required by the official veterinarian.

2. Personnel and equipment entering into contact with the animals accommodated shall be exclusively dedicated to the premises concerned unless they have been subject to a cleaning and disinfection procedure after being in contact with the animals or their faeces or urine. In particular the person in charge of the control post shall provide clean equipment and protective clothes, which shall be kept exclusively for the use of any persons entering the control post, and shall make available suitable equipment for cleansing and disinfecting the above items.

3. Bedding material shall be removed when a consignment of animals is moved from an enclosure and, after the cleansing and disinfecting operations provided for in point 1(c) shall be replaced by fresh bedding.

4. Animals litter, faeces and urine shall not be collected from the premises unless they have been subject to an appropriate treatment in order to avoid the spreading of animal diseases.

5. Appropriate sanitary breaks between two consecutive consignments of animals shall be respected and if appropriate adapted depending on whether they come from a similar region, zone or compartment. In particular, control posts

shall be completely cleared of animals for a period of at least 24 hours after a maximum of 6 days in use (*i.e. there must be a break of 24 hours each week*) and after cleansing and disinfecting operations have been carried out, and prior to the arrival of any new consignment.

6. Before accepting animals, control posts shall:

(a) Have started the cleansing and disinfection operations within 24 hours following the departure of all animals previously held there in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 (3) of Regulation 1255/97.

(b) Have remained clear of animals until the cleansing and disinfection operation is completed to the satisfaction of the official veterinarian.

## **B Construction and Facilities**

1. In addition to the provisions of Chapters II and III of Annex I to Regulation 1/2005 applying to means of transport for loading and unloading animals, every control post must have suitable equipment and facilities available for the purpose of loading and unloading animals from the means of transport. In particular, such equipment and facilities must have a non-slip floor covering and, if necessary, be provided with lateral protection. Bridges, ramps and gangways must be fitted with sides, railings or some other means of protection to prevent animals falling off them. Loading and unloading ramps should have the minimum possible incline. Passageways must have floor coverings which minimise the risk of slipping and be so constructed as to minimise the risk of injury to animals. Particular care must be taken to ensure that no appreciable gap or step is allowed between the vehicle floor and the ramp or the ramp and the floor of the unloading area requiring animals to jump or likely to cause them to slip or stumble.

2. All facilities used for accommodating animals at control posts shall:

(a) Have floor coverings which minimise the risk of slipping and do not cause injury to animals;

(b) Have roofs and adequate side protection to protect the animals from adverse weather conditions;

(c) Have suitable facilities for holding, inspecting, examining where necessary, feeding and watering the animals and storing feeding stuffs;

(d) Taking holding capacity into account, have adequate ventilation and drainage for the species of animal accommodated;

(e) Have natural or artificial lighting at a level sufficient to permit inspection of all animals at any time. If necessary, adequate backup lighting should be available;

(f) Have equipment for tethering animals which need to be tethered. Such tethering shall be carried out in a way which does not cause pain or suffering to the animals and permits them to feed, drink or lie down without difficulty;

(g) Have, in relation to the species concerned, sufficient space for the animals to lie down at the same time and make their way easily to their drinking and feeding points;

(h) Have adequate supplies of bedding material. Such material shall be placed in each enclosure according to the needs of each species or category of animal accommodated;

(i) Be constructed and maintained in such a way as to avoid the animals coming into contact with any sharp or dangerous object or damaged surface which could cause them injury.

3. Control posts shall have suitable facilities for the separate accommodation of animals which are diseased, injured or in need of individual attention.

4. Control posts shall have suitable facilities for all persons having business on and using the premises.

5. Control posts shall have appropriate arrangements for the storage and disposal of waste material and for the storage of dead animals, pending their removal and destruction in accordance with Directive 90/667/EEC.<sup>1</sup>

## **C Operations**

1. Animals shall be unloaded without delay after arrival. If delay is unavoidable, however, taking account of weather conditions and waiting periods, the animals should be guaranteed the best possible welfare conditions.

2. During loading and unloading, care must be taken not to frighten, excite or mistreat the animals, and to ensure they are not knocked over. Animals must be neither lifted nor dragged by the head, horns, ears, feet, tail or fleece or handled in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering. When necessary, they must be led individually.

3. For the movement of animals throughout the facilities:

(a) Mobile passageways must be arranged so as to exploit the gregarious tendencies of animals;

(b) Instruments intended for guiding animals must be used solely for that purpose. Use of instruments which administer electric shocks should be avoided as far as possible and in any case may be used only for adult bovine animals and pigs which refuse to move, on condition that the shocks last no more than two

seconds, are adequately spaced and that the animals have room ahead of them in which to move. Such shocks may be applied only to the muscles of the hindquarters;

(c) Animals must not be struck, nor shall pressure be applied to any particularly sensitive part of the body. In particular, animals' tails must not be crushed, twisted or broken and their eyes must not be grasped. Animals must not be punched or kicked;

(d) Persons handling animals at the control post must not have possession of or use prods or other implements with pointed ends. Sticks or other implements intended for guiding animals may be used provided they can be applied to the body of an animal without causing it injury or unnecessary suffering.

4. Animals which arrive after having been subjected to high temperatures in humid weather must be cooled by appropriate means as soon as possible.

5. The feeding and watering of animals shall be carried out in such a way as to ensure that every animal accommodated at the control post can have at least sufficient clean water and sufficient and appropriate feed to satisfy its bodily needs during its stay and for the expected duration of its journey to the next feeding point. Control posts may not receive animals with special feeding needs, such as young calves needing liquid feed, unless they are properly equipped and staffed to satisfy those needs.

6. The condition and state of the animals shall be inspected by a staff member of the control post on their arrival at the control post and at least once every 12 hours during their stay at the control post.

7. The record referred to in Article 5 (h) of Regulation 1255/97 shall contain the following information:

(a) Date and time of completion of unloading and commencement of reloading of each consignment;

(b) Date and duration of the depopulation for health reasons provided for in point A (4) of this Annex;

(c) Animal health certificate number(s) relating to each consignment (*number, species, health certificate number, consignor, consignee and transporter*);

(d) Any necessary remarks concerning the health or welfare condition of the animals (*including sick/fatigued animals and those animals requiring isolation or treatment*) and especially:

- the particulars and number of animals discovered dead at the point of unloading at the control post or which die during their stay;

- the particulars and numbers of animals which are discovered to be seriously injured at the point of unloading or during their stay, or are considered to be unfit for travel.

(e) The names and addresses of the transporter and drivers and the registration numbers of the vehicles.