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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

TRAINING AND COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS UNDER COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1/2005 ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT AND OTHER RELATED OPERATIONS

Introduction

1 Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations requires that from 5 January 2007 transporters of vertebrate animals in connection with an economic activity and market and assembly centre staff handling animals are trained in the relevant technical provisions of the Regulation. For transporters they cover: fitness for travel; the means of transport; use of its facilities; loading, unloading and handling; watering and feeding intervals, journey times and rest periods; space allowances; and documentation. For market and assembly centre staff they cover: fitness, handling and separation.

2 The Regulation additionally requires that from 5 January 2008 those transporting cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry by road on journeys over 65km in connection with an economic activity must be independently assessed in their competence.

TRANSPORTERS

Training

3 Drivers and attendants must be trained in the relevant parts of the technical rules in Annexes I and II of the Regulation. These cover the criteria for: fitness for travel; the means of transport; use of its facilities; loading, unloading and handling; watering and feeding intervals, journey times and rest periods; space allowances; and documentation.

4 The precise format and who may provide training is not specified in the Regulation. Training may be by means of on-the-job training combined with practical experience or by formal methods such as those leading to standards equivalent to qualifications accredited into the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) at levels 2 and 3 as provided by industry, agricultural colleges, transport businesses and commercial providers. Some qualifications may need to be modified to ensure full coverage of any additional competencies required under

the Regulation. The frameworks of competencies in the annexes to this guidance should be used in consideration of the suitability of training received whether this is by formal qualification or on-the-job training.

Competence Certification

5 As mentioned above, from 5 January 2008, those transporting cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry by road on journeys over 65km in connection with an economic activity must also be independently assessed in their competence. Those assessed as competent will receive a certificate of competence in the format shown in the annexes to this guidance issued by the competent authority or a body designated by the Member State. The certificate must be submitted with applications for transporter authorisation for long journeys and made available to enforcement officers when transporting animals.

6 The certificate will be specific to the role the transporter or attendant is charged with, the length of journeys to be undertaken and the species to be transported:

a) assessment of those involved in **journeys under 8 hours** may be made by means of a theory test;

b) assessments of those involved in **journeys over 8 hours** must also include practical assessment of their competence including driving and animal handling skills.

Competences to be assessed

7. The elements on which competence is required are set out in the Regulation. However to clarify these, draft frameworks of competences have been prepared and agreed in consultation with stakeholders. Those for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry are shown in the annexes to this guidance.

How to obtain a certificate of competence

8 Assessment and certification will not be carried out by WAG and the other competent authorities but by private sector bodies nominated by the authorities. The selection and nomination process is still being carried out but the intention is to provide a choice to cover specific sector requirements. You should contact one of the awarding bodies nominated by WAG. Those nominated at the time this guidance was issued are listed below:

NPTC, Part of the City & Guilds Group Stoneleigh Park Warwickshire CV8 2LG	(cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, poultry and game birds) Tel: 024 7685 7300 Fax: 024 7669 6128 E-mail: information@nptc.org.uk Web: www.nptc.org.uk
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Details of subsequently nominated bodies will be made available in updated versions of this guidance and on the WAG website.

Transporters or attendants already holding transport qualifications or independent certification

9 Although there are no 'grandfather rights' permitted under the Regulation as an alternative to being assessed fully under the requirements of the Regulation those holding certain formal qualifications recognised under the previous 1997 Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order may be issued with certificates of competence by the original awarding body, if all aspects of the framework of competences at appendix 1 have been covered. As these will not cover references to Regulation 1/2005 holders must be appraised in the requirements of the Regulation before any issuing of a certificate of competence in the format set in the annexes to this guidance. Qualifications that were recognised under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 are:

- a) Certificates issued by independent bodies approved by Ministers such as the National Proficiency Test Council Part of the City and Guilds Group (NPTC) or Road Haulage Association (RHA);
- b) S/NVQ Level 2 in 'Transporting of Goods by Road' (within the context of livestock haulage), Units 5,6 and 7
- c) S/NVQ Level 3 in Racehorse Care and Management - maintain the health and well being of horses during transportation, Unit 3.04

10 Transporters of poultry were not required under the 1997 Order to formally demonstrate competence by qualification or certification so must obtain certification as described above.

Nomination of awarding bodies for certificates of competence

11 NAWAD, DEFRA, SEERAD, and DARDNI will nominate the awarding bodies for certification subject to their meeting specific standards in terms of scope, competencies to be assessed, independence, accountability and audit requirements. They are required to maintain adequate records of certificates issued and to respond to requests for information from enforcement authorities within one working day.

12 Determining whether applicant awarding bodies can meet the required standards will be carried out by recognised organisation experts in this field; namely, the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS), the Qualifications & Curriculum Authority in England and Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (ACCAC) in Wales. The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, Northern Ireland (QCA NI) have similar roles in Northern Ireland but generally work in conjunction with QCA. In Scotland awarding bodies are regulated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

13 Potential awarding bodies should submit their proposals and evidence of meeting the required standards:

in England to – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Animal Welfare Division, Transport and Markets Team, 1A Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ;

in Wales to – Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ;

in Scotland to – Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robbs Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY;

in Northern Ireland to – Department for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland (DARD), Room 728, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3SB.

14 If proposals are judged to be robust and meeting the required standard, administrations will nominate as issuing bodies:

(a) organisations holding the necessary accreditation described above. These bodies could include independent assessors, new providers, specific species/sector representative bodies or industry quality assurance schemes.

(b) examining bodies for new or existing qualifications accredited into the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) at levels 2 and 3.

STAFF HANDLING ANIMALS AT ASSEMBLY CENTRES AND MARKETS

15 Operators of all assembly centres and markets must ensure that animals are treated in accordance with the technical rules set in Chapters I and III, section I, of Annex I of the Regulation.

Training

16 The required level of knowledge and training at assembly centres and markets depends on whether or not the premises are approved under EC veterinary health legislation and so can be used to group together animals to form consignments. The criteria contained in Annex I for fitness, handling and separation must however be fully understood by staff at all premises.

EU approved premises

17 Staff handling animals at assembly centres and markets that are approved in accordance with Community veterinary health legislation (EU approved) must have received training on the relevant aspects of the Regulation.

18 The format of training required is not specified in the Regulation. The training may be provided in-house by the assembly centre/ market operator or a third party training provider or by formal qualification such as a level 2 NVQ in livestock droving. An assembly centre or market which is approved to ABM standard or equivalent will also be seen to be complying, providing that all staff handling animals hold a level 2 NVQ in livestock droving for the assembly centre or market in gaining such approval. However, knowledge of the relevant parts of the new Regulation will still need to be obtained by holders of existing qualifications.

19 The training must cover the relevant technical rules set out in Annex I, which are outlined in the framework shown in the annexes to this guidance.

20 No certificate of competence is required for assembly centre and market staff under the Regulation.

Other premises

21 The Regulation does not specify that staff must be trained but they clearly must have knowledge of the relevant aspects of the Regulation in order to comply. It is therefore recommended that operators of the premises arrange at least some in-house training on the requirements or encourage staff to take other training.

FRAMEWORK OF COMPETENCES FOR TRANSPORTERS OF CATTLE, PIGS, SHEEP, GOATS AND HORSES (Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005) ¹

Scope

Knowledge of the legislation applicable to the welfare of animals during transport in particular on: general conditions for the transport of animals²; documentation requirements³; technical rules i.e. on fitness for transport, means of transport, transport practices, watering, feed and rest times, space allowances⁴; and in the case of transport of over 8 hours route planning and documentations⁵.

Not all of the following competences will necessarily have to be demonstrated by all drivers/attendants but those relevant to the specific role and responsibility of the driver/attendant will have to be.

Competences

- 1 Knowledge of the legislation relating to animal welfare and which body or organisation to contact with general questions, for example, about transport conditions, matters of law or documentation.
- 2 Knowledge of who is responsible for the welfare of animals during transport and at places on which the animals are before, during and after the journey.
- 3 Knowledge of the powers of enforcement authorities to inspect animals, documentation and vehicles before, during and after the journey.
- 4 Knowledge of the relevant requirements of the Regulation for rest, feed and liquid relating to the species to be transported.
- 5 Elementary knowledge of the causes of stress in animals, ability to recognise the signs of stress and ill-health, in particular heat and cold stress, and basic knowledge of the appropriate action to take.
- 6 Knowledge of the appropriate methods of handling animals during loading and unloading, including the use of visual fields and flight zones, lighting and the appropriate use of such things as sticks, boards, blindfolds and electric goads. Knowledge of handling methods which are prohibited.
- 7 Knowledge of how to plan a journey taking into account such factors as maximum travelling times and required rest periods, time taken to load and unload.

8 Knowledge to anticipate changing conditions and provide appropriate contingency plans for unforeseen circumstances.

¹ Official Journal of the European Union L3 of 05.01.05

² Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

³ Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

⁴ Annex I of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

⁵ Annex II of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

⁶ For journeys requiring a route plan i.e. to other member states or via member states to a third country

⁷ Recording only required for journeys of over 8 hours

⁸ To other member states or via member states to a third country

9 Ability to load, operate and control a vehicle safely, efficiently and effectively so as to ensure the welfare of the animals.

10 Knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations and ability to identify and minimise risks.

11 Knowledge of vehicle construction and use requirements.

12 Knowledge of use of GPS equipment to record journey details⁶ and submit record to competent authority when required to do so.

13 Knowledge of how to identify animals not fit for transport; to care for animals which become unfit or injured during transport; when to seek veterinary advice; and the limited circumstances when it is permissible to transport unfit animals for veterinary treatment or slaughter.

14 Knowledge of space allowances, effects of overcrowding, under stocking and headroom.

15 Knowledge of segregation requirements, taking into account species being transported, method of transportation, gender, condition, age.

16 Understanding of the importance for animal welfare of temperature, both inside and outside the vehicle, including the effect on different species and the need for adjustment of ventilation

17 Knowledge of how to optimise environmental conditions inside transport vehicle/container by appropriate and effective ventilation and to record temperature and humidity⁷.

18 Knowledge of the authorisation requirements for transporters, when authorisation is necessary and when a journey log⁸ or other documentation is required and how to complete the documents.

19 Ability to clean and disinfect vehicles and knowledge of when it is necessary to do so before and after the journey.

⁹ Official Journal of the European Union L3 of 05.01.05

¹⁰ Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

¹¹ Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

¹² Annex I of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

¹³ Annex II of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

**FRAMEWORK OF COMPETENCES FOR TRANSPORTERS OF POULTRY
(Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005⁹)**

Scope

Knowledge of the legislation applicable to the welfare of animals during transport in particular on: general conditions for the transport of animals¹⁰; documentation requirements¹¹; technical rules i.e. on fitness for transport, means of transport, transport practices, watering, feed and rest times, space allowances¹²; and documentation¹³.

Not all of the following competences will necessarily have to be demonstrated by all drivers/attendants but those relevant to the specific role and responsibility of the driver/attendant will have to be.

In the following four key areas there is some overlap (e.g. fitness for transport requires both knowledge of the legal requirements and practical skills to apply adequately). Competencies and suggested levels of ability are indicated in brackets.

Competencies

Knowledge of the Law

- 1 Legislation, codes, guidance, fitness to transport requirements, enforcement tools and officers (*practical understanding of operation and enforcement of the law; application of legal provision; knowledge and understanding of any associated codes or guidance*).
- 2 Understanding drivers' responsibilities (*practical understanding of own responsibility and responsibility before and after the journey such as at the place of collection and the place delivered to and who to contact in case of problems e.g. the Official Veterinary Surgeon (OVS) or Poultry Welfare Officer (PWO) at a slaughterhouse or other responsible person at other premises*).
- 3 Documentation requirements for transporter and individual journeys, how to complete (*documentary requirements, completion of documents, maintaining records for appropriate length of time*).
- 4 If transporting to mainland Europe or 3rd countries – any relevant overseas provisions, including any extra documentation required (*this knowledge may be required for regular or one off journeys*).

5 Feed and watering requirements (*as we accept this is impractical in crates, essentially this relates to maximum journey times but driver must be aware of requirements in the Regulation*).

Background Knowledge of Transporting Animals

6 Basic physiology of stress; conditions that can give rise to stress; outcome of untreated stress and when not to transport birds (*causes of stress, what is stress? how stress affects the bird; how to treat the effects of stress and how to avoid it*).

7 In particular, thermal stress, its effects, prevention, cure (*effects of heat, cold, wetness, humidity; identifying thermal stress in birds; prevention; action to take if birds are affected; monitoring environmental and vehicle conditions*).

8 Ventilation – natural and passive (*role of ventilation in avoiding thermal stress; air movement patterns in vehicles and transport crates; active and passive ventilation; ventilation failure; ventilating stationary vehicles*).

9 Lairage: purpose, benefits or not, unloading (*understanding the role and effects of lairage on the bird; optimal lairage environment*).
Planning

10 Journey planning: times, routes, contingency plans (*importance of planning, identifying optimal routes, taking account of adverse weather forecasts to avoid heat / cold stress, understanding the contingency plan*).

11 Contingency plans: why required, what they should contain, how to put into operation (*ability to act upon the contingency plan when required*).

12 Communications (*who to contact, when, why?*) It is recognised that personnel not necessarily directly employed or controlled by the transporter largely carry out the catching and placing of birds in crates. Because the transporter is legally responsible for the birds during transport and catching and loading is crucial to welfare, effective communication is essential between the transporter, processor and producer so the transporter can have the necessary assurance that the catching and loading operation has been performed correctly. The transporter should nonetheless have the following practical skills or knowledge.

Practical Skills

13 Knowledge of catching and handling birds without causing pain or distress (*leg and foot health and clinical conditions; catching and handling methods; identification and rectification of poor catching*).

- 14 Identification of birds not fit to transport: sick and injured birds and appropriate action to take (*requires some very basic clinical skills to identify a sick bird; ability to humanely kill*).
- 15 Knowledge of operation of common crating systems, packing with birds, cleansing & disinfection, maintenance; necessity to provide crates that will not cause injury (*operation of crates, how crating can cause injury*).
- 16 Careful loading of crates on to vehicle.
- 17 Appropriate stocking densities and when to adjust these e.g. adverse environmental conditions and when to refer back to person responsible for planning the load (*in relation to adverse weather, bird size and species*).
- 18 Basic clinical examination of birds to identify heat or cold stress and gross injuries or illness; when to seek veterinary or other advice/assistance; ability to kill injured birds.
- 19 Driver skills: driving, operating the vehicle, recognition of defects, cleansing and disinfection, vehicle construction (*effect of driver behaviour on bird welfare; identifying need for repairs; use of appropriate and licensed disinfectants*).

FRAMEWORK OF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS/ COMPETENCES FOR ASSEMBLY CENTRE PERSONNEL (Council Regulation 1/2005)

Scope

Operators of assembly centres shall ensure that animals are treated in accordance with the technical rules set out in Chapters I and III, section I of Annex I of the Regulation.

Training courses on the relevant technical rules set out in Annex I of the Regulation must be undertaken by personnel handling animals at assembly centres that are approved in accordance with Community veterinary legislation (EU approved).

The format of training required is not specified in the regulation and in-house training can be provided, either by the assembly centre operator or a third party training provider.

For the purposes of this regulation, the definition of an assembly centre will mean places such as holdings, collection centres and markets, at which domestic equidae or domestic animals of bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine species originating from different holdings are grouped together to form consignments.

This should be read in conjunction with part 1 of this guidance and the Regulation.

Competences

Fitness for transport

- 1 Knowledge to identify if an animal is fit for the intended journey, and that transport conditions are guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering. (*Annex I, Chapter 1.1 of the Regulation*)
- 2 Knowledge to identify animals unfit to travel which are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes. (*Annex I, Chapter 1.2 of the Regulation*)
- 3 Knowledge of the circumstances when sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport. (*Annex I, Chapter 1.3 of the Regulation*)
- 4 Knowledge of the requirements when animals fall ill or are injured during transport. (*Annex I, Chapter 1.4 of the Regulation*)

5 Knowledge of the rules regarding the use of sedatives on animals to be transported. (*Annex I, Chapter 1.5 of the Regulation*)

6 Knowledge of specific care requirements of lactating females of bovine, ovine and caprine species. (*Annex I, Chapter 1.6 of the Regulation*)

Transport Practices

Loading, unloading and handling

7 Knowledge of the requirements for loading and unloading operations which last for more than four hours (except for poultry). (*Annex I, Chapter 3.1.2 of the Regulation*)

8 Knowledge of the facilities and procedures required for loading and unloading. (*Annex I, Chapter 3, 1.3-1.7 of the Regulation*)

9 Knowledge of the handling methods of animals which are prohibited. (*Annex I, Chapter 3.1.8 of the Regulation*)

10 Knowledge of the use, and restrictions, of instruments which administer electric shocks. (*Annex I, Chapter 3.1.9 of the Regulation*)

11 Knowledge of equipment requirements and procedures for tethering animals. (*Annex I, Chapter 3, 1.10-1.11 of the Regulation*)

12 Knowledge of segregation requirements during handling and transport, and an understanding of how unnecessary separation may cause distress to animals. (*Annex I, Chapter 3, 1.12-1.13 of the Regulation*) *During Transport*

13 Knowledge of space allowances in respect of the species of animal being transported and means of transport. (*Annex I, Chapter 7 of the Regulation*)

14 Understanding of the ventilation requirements for animals during transport, taking into account the number and type of animals being transported, and the requirement for containers to be stored so as not to impede ventilation. (*Annex I, Chapter 3.2.6 of the Regulation*)

15 Knowledge of feed, water and rest requirements for animals during transport. (*Annex I, Chapter 3.2.7 & Chapter 5 of the Regulation*)

ANNEX IV

Certificate of Competence for Drivers and Attendants Pursuant to Article 17(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005		
1. DRIVER / ATTENDANT* IDENTIFICATION		
1.1. Surname		
1.2. First names		
1.3. Date of birth	1.4. Place and country of birth	1.5. Nationality
2. CERTIFICATE NUMBER		
2.1. This certificate is valid for [journeys up to 8 hours / over 8 hours*] for the transport of [cattle / sheep / goats / pigs / horses / poultry / game birds*]		
3. BODY ISSUING THE CERTIFICATE		
3.1. Name and address of the body issuing the certificate		
3.2. Telephone	3.3. Fax	3.4. Email
3.5. Date	3.6. Place	3.5. Stamp
3.8. Name and signature * Delete as appropriate		