

5. FARMERS

5. Farmers

Farmers transporting animals over 65km on a regular basis may have to register with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. In relation to training, these farmers will be deemed to have the necessary competence based on agricultural training undertaken in Ireland, the approval process for herd numbers and the availability of a booklet on standards for animal transport.

6. VEHICLES

6. Vehicle Requirements

The design of the vehicle must be to a standard that it provides for the safety of animals during loading, transit and unloading and protect animals from unnecessary suffering, injury and from the weather.

The vehicle must be escape-proof and sufficiently strong to bear the weight of the species it is to carry. The walls, partitions, floors and side-protection gates must be free of any sharp edges, protrusions, gaps, holes and spaces that are likely to cause injury.

Slippery conditions on floors must be avoided. There must be access, with sufficient lighting, to the animals in the vehicle to allow them to be inspected and cared for.

In addition, sufficient space should be provided inside the animals' compartment and at each of its levels, to ensure that there is adequate ventilation above the animals when they are in a naturally standing position, without on any account hindering their natural movement.

Vehicles in which animals are transported must be clearly and visibly marked indicating the presence of live animals.

7. APPROVAL OF VEHICLES

7. Approval of vehicles used on long journeys (over 8 hours in duration).

Vehicles used for the transport of animals on long journeys must be inspected and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Guidelines on the specifications required for vehicles to be approved are available from the Transport Section (contact details below).

SCOPE

These Regulations apply to the transport of all species of vertebrate animals, and to all transport vehicles.

REFERENCES

Council Regulation (EC) No.1 of 2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Please see our website:
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GUIDELINES * FOR COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO. 1 OF 2005 ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT AND RELATED OPERATIONS



* The Guidelines do not purport to be an interpretation of the legislation

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regulation

Council Regulation (EC) No.1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations lays down the welfare requirements and conditions for the transport, handling, loading and unloading of animals. It came into operation on 5 January 2007 (although some aspects apply from later dates). It applies to the transport of live vertebrate animals including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, dogs and poultry.

The Regulation introduces changes to improve animal welfare standards during transport and related operations. The new rules harmonise transport requirements throughout the Community and will apply directly to each Member State.

2. APPLICATION OF THE REGULATION

2. Who will the Regulation apply to?

The Regulation will apply to any person who transports animals in connection with an economic activity. The Regulation provides that:

- All animals being transported must be fit to travel and be transported in a manner that is not likely to cause injury or undue suffering;
- A person transporting animals beyond 65km must be authorised and additional provisions apply in the case of transporting animals beyond 8 hours.

However, the Regulation does not apply to the transport of animals:

- Where the transport is not in connection with an economic activity (e.g. in connection with a hobby, movements to and from agricultural shows, gymkhanas) and
- Where the transport is directly to or from a veterinary practice or clinic under the advice of a veterinarian.

3. AUTHORISATION

3. Who will need to apply for authorisation?

Any person who transports live animals on journeys over 65km for commercial purposes. There will be two levels of authorisation –

- (1) Type 1 Authorisation – where animals are transported on journeys over 65km but less than 8 hours in duration; and
- (2) Type 2 Authorisation – where animals are transported on long journeys (over 8 hours in duration).

3.1 Journeys over 65km but less than 8 hours in duration (transports undertaken within the island of Ireland).

A person who applies for a Type 1 Authorisation as a transporter for journeys over 65km but less than 8 hours in duration must:

- (i) Be established within Ireland;
- (ii) Demonstrate that he/she has a sufficient staff, equipment and operational procedures at his/her disposal to enable him/her to comply with the Regulation, including where appropriate Good Practice Guides; and
- (iii) Not have been convicted of any serious animal welfare offences (under any welfare legislation) in the three years preceding the date of application.

3.2 Journeys over 8 hours in duration (Long Journeys – transports from Ireland)

A person who applies for a Type 2 Authorisation as a transporter for long journeys (over 8 hours in duration) must be able to satisfy the requirements in 3.1

(i) Furthermore the following documents set out below must be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

- (a) A valid certificate of competence (applies

from 5 January 2008) for each driver and attendant transporting live animals on journeys over 8 hours in duration,

- (b) A valid certificate of approval for each road vehicle which will be issued subject to a satisfactory inspection of the vehicle,
- (c) Details of procedures in place enabling the transporter (i) to trace and record the movements of road vehicles under his or her responsibility and (ii) to contact drivers at any time during a long journey,
- (d) Contingency plans in the event of emergencies;
- ii) Demonstrate the use of a navigation system for all means of transport by road for the first time in service from 1 January 2007. This requirement will be extended to all road vehicles from 1 January 2009.
- iii) Demonstrate that he/she understands the requirements of the journey log (route plan) and be in compliance with its provisions. The requirements of (ii) and (iii) do not apply to the transport of registered horses.

Authorisations issued in accordance with the Regulation will be valid for 5 years unless otherwise specified.

Calves younger than 14 days and pigs less than 10 kg should not be transported on journeys in excess of 8 hours unless accompanied by its mother.

4. TRAINING

Training

The Regulation requires that a person who transports live animals on journeys over 65km for commercial gain to have received training in specific aspects of animal health and welfare.

A certificate of competence will be required for such drivers and attendants from January 2008 onwards.

There is also a requirement for staff that handle animals at Assembly Centres and Livestock Marts to receive training on animal welfare, including handling, loading and unloading practices.