

Welfare of Animals During Transport

New Rules for Transporting Animals



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE



Welfare of Animals During Transport

Advice for farmers, hauliers and transporters of horses, farm livestock, poultry and game birds

New EU Regulation for transporting animals apply from 5 January 2007

If you transport animals you should make sure you know about the new rules and procedures that affect you. These new rules are aimed at improving the welfare of animals during transport. The new rules came into force on 5 January 2007 and affect anyone transporting live vertebrate animals in connection with an economic activity.

Am I affected by the new rules?

The EU Regulation sets out additional rules if you transport animals in connection with an economic activity. This is being interpreted as any transporting of animals undertaken as part of a business or commercial activity, which aims at achieving financial gain, whether direct or indirect, for any person or company involved with the transport. This does not include:

- Transportation of animals not in connection with an economic activity.
- Transportation to or from veterinary practices or clinics under veterinary advice.
- Journeys where the animal is an individual animal, accompanied by its owner or other responsible person.
- Transportation of animals by hobby breeders* – *where income source does not exceed expenses of hobby.*
- Journeys where the animals are pet animals accompanied by their owner on a journey.

The above are examples, not a definitive list.

* This excludes farm livestock and poultry

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What do I have to do?

You need to ensure you are familiar with the new rules and transport animals in accordance with them.

In particular, if you transport animals in connection with an economic activity over 65km (approx. 40 miles) you need to apply for a transporter authorisation. This will be valid for 5 years. Any previously granted authorisation issued under the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 is now invalid.

There are two types of authorisation – one for short journeys (over 65km and up to 8 hours) and one for long journeys (over 8 hours). A long journey authorisation is also valid for short journeys, so you only need to apply for one of them.

Under the EU Regulation everyone transporting animals must ensure:

- Journey times are kept to a minimum.
- The animals are fit to travel.
- Those handling animals are trained and competent.
- The vehicle and its loading & unloading facilities are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering.
- Water, feed and rest are given to the animals as needed, and sufficient floor space and height is allowed.

The EU Regulation sets out additional requirements for journeys over 65km (approx. 40 miles). Transporters must:

- Hold a transporter authorisation.
- If transporting horses, farmed animals or poultry, ensure drivers and attendants are in possession of a certificate of competence (from January 2008).

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- Demonstrate that they have appropriate staff and equipment to transport animals in a proper way and to have no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the preceding 3 years.
- Complete an Animal Transport Certificate for each journey (same as previously).

There are also a number of further requirements for long journeys over 8 hours (in addition to those stated above). Transporters must:

- Be in possession of a long journey transporter authorisation.
- If the vehicle is used for transporting farmed animals and horses, get it inspected and approved.
- Ensure contingency plans in case of emergencies are in place.
- Ensure the Journey Log has been completed (for journeys of unregistered horses and livestock) where the journey is going outside the UK.

How do I get my transporter authorisation?

In England, Scotland and Wales, authorisations are issued by the State Veterinary Service (SVS). In Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development issue authorisations. Authorisations last for 5 years unless revoked or suspended for welfare infringements. Application forms and accompanying guidance notes are available:

- Via the Defra website at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare
- From Livestock Markets.

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Completed applications for England, Scotland and Wales should be returned to the SVS at the address below:

Welfare in Transport Section
State Veterinary Service
Block C, Government Buildings
Whittington Road
Worcester WR5 2SU

Tel: 0845 603 8395

The SVS can also be contacted on the above number for advice in connection with transporter authorisations or by email at the following address: wit@svs.gsi.gov.uk

In Northern Ireland, completed applications should be returned to:

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

Tel: 028 9052 4950

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Further advice

This leaflet provides a brief overview of the requirements under the EU Regulation. Detailed guidance, forms and further advice can be found on the Defra website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare

or by contacting the relevant administration.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Welfare in Transport
Implementation Team
Animal Welfare Division
1a Page Street
London
SW1P 4PQ

Tel: 020 7904 6576

Web: www.defra.gov.uk

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD)

Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh
EH14 1TY

Tel: 0131 244 6482

Web: www.scotland.gov.uk

National Assembly for Wales

Office of the Chief Veterinary
Officer (OCVO)
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Tel: 029 2082 3592

Web: www.countryside.wales.gov.uk

Department for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland (DARD)

Room 728, Dundonald House
Upper Newtownlands Road
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 9052 4950

Web: www.dardni.gov.uk

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