



PT42 Memorandum of Understanding between Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Ferry/Cruise Operators for the Carriage of Recognised Assistance Dogs

Section 1: General Information

Part 1 - Application of the Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding applies to:

- transport companies offering passenger services by sea where the port of disembarkation or a port of call is situated in the territory of GB and the port of embarkation is situated in the territory of GB or an EU Member State (hereinafter referred to as '**Ferry Operators**')
- transport companies offering cruises where the port of embarkation is situated in the territory of an EU Member State and a port of call or stop-over is made in GB (hereinafter referred to as '**Cruise Operators**').

'Carrier' means a natural or legal person, other than a tour operator, travel agent or ticket vendor, offering transport by passenger services or cruises to the general public.

'Cruise' means a transport service by sea or inland waterway, operated exclusively for the purpose of pleasure or recreation, supplemented by accommodation and other facilities, exceeding two overnight stays on board.

A Recognised Assistance Dog refers to a dog which the carrier reasonably believes to be an assistance dog accompanying a disabled traveller or traveller with reduced mobility for the purpose of providing appropriate support to that person, informed by any relevant guidance from Government (Department for Transport (DfT)). All other dogs are not covered by this Memorandum of Understanding and a separate approval is required for carriers wishing to transport them as regular pets.

Additional information can be found in 'Guidance for the carriage of Recognised Assistance Dogs (e.g. guide or hearing dogs) when travelling by ship (Guidance Note 4)' at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-guidance-notes-relating-to-regulation-eu-no-1177-2010/guidance-for-the-carriage-of-recognised-assistance-dogs-eg-guide-or-hearing-dogs-when-travelling-by-ship-guidance-note-4>

Part 2 - Legal Obligations on Ferry/Cruise Operators

Ferry/Cruise Operators have a legal obligation to accept disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility on their vessels and should not refuse transport on the grounds of disability or lack of mobility except for reasons which are justified on the grounds of safety and prescribed by law. This obligation extends to the carriage of Recognised Assistance Dogs.

The legal obligations are set out in full in assimilated Regulation (EU) No. 1177/2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway and amending Regulation (EC) No. 2006/2004 ('**Regulation 1177/2010**'). The main obligations relating to the carriage of Recognised Assistance Dogs are as follows:

Article 11.5 of Regulation 1177/2010

Where a disabled person or person with reduced mobility is accompanied by a Recognised Assistance Dog, the dog shall be accommodated together with that person, provided that the carrier, travel agent or tour operator is notified in accordance with applicable rules on the carriage of Recognised Assistance Dogs on board passenger ships, where such rules exist.

Article 10 of Regulation 1177/2010

Subject to the access conditions provided for in Article 9(1), carriers and terminal operators shall, within their respective areas of competence, provide assistance free of charge to disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility, as specified in Annexes II and III, in ports, including embarkation and disembarkation, and on board ships. The assistance shall, if possible, be adapted to the individual needs of the disabled person or person with reduced mobility.

Annexes II and III as referred to in Article 10 make reference to:

- Ground handling of Recognised Assistance Dogs when relevant (Annex II)
- Carriage of Recognised Assistance Dogs on board the ship, subject to national regulations (Annex III).

Pet Travel requirements applicable to Recognised Assistance Dogs

Recognised Assistance Dogs, are subject to the pet health and documentary conditions contained within Regulation 576/2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals (and associated Regulations 577/2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of pet animals, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation 576/2013, and Regulation 2018/772 with regard to preventive health measures for the control of *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection in dogs). Pet and Recognised Assistance Dog checkers are responsible for checking that Recognised Assistance Dog users meet the rules for bringing a pet and assistance dog into Great Britain.

Part 3 - Status of Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding sets down the common position agreed between APHA and Ferry/Cruise Operators regarding how they will facilitate the carriage of Recognised Assistance Dogs by sea into GB and ensure Recognised Assistance Dogs are presented to the appropriate persons for checks prior to disembarkation at a port in GB.

By signing the Memorandum of Understanding, the Ferry/Cruise Operator agrees to use all reasonable endeavours to comply with the written procedures set out below.

APHA and Ferry/Cruise Operators will review the operation of the Memorandum of Understanding at least every two years. Ferry/Cruise Operators must inform APHA of any changes to vessels or routes (change of route applies to ferries only).

Ferry/Cruise Operator:

Review date (to be completed by APHA)

Date of Completion/Amendment:

Agreed procedure (the term carrier in this section refers to both Ferry and Cruise Operators)

Section 2

1. Booking and Check-in Procedures

A. Carriers are required through their ticketing and booking systems to identify travellers with Recognised Assistance Dogs. Before accepting a booking, checks should be made to satisfy the carrier that the dog is a Recognised Assistance Dog.

Detail your pre-booking protocol and advise how the checks will be carried out to check you are satisfied that the dog is a Recognised Assistance Dog.

B. Passengers should be reminded of the requirements for non-commercial movement (pet travel) into GB with a Recognised Assistance Dog when booking is received. The carrier could supply a checklist for the passenger to confirm that they have the required documentation to comply with the non-commercial movement (pet travel) requirements.

State how this information will be provided.

C. State how proof that checks have been undertaken will be provided and how vehicles will be marked to show Recognised Assistance Dogs are present if vehicles are used.

2. Pet Checking Procedure

- A. Documentary checks for compliance with the pet travel requirements within Regulation 576/2013 (and associated regulations 577/2013 and 2018/772) should be made prior to embarkation and the dog identified by reading the microchip at the time of embarkation. Ferry routes will only require embarkation checks, whilst cruise routes where a tapeworm treatment will be needed after embarkation, will also require disembarkation checks. Cruise routes must also assess the continuing compliance of the Recognised Assistance Dog with the pet travel requirements for the dog's full journey, for instance if this may change at a port of call or stop-over prior to arriving in GB.
- B. Carrier staff are to carry out checks using a checklist containing all the information in the Pet Travel Checklist (PT45). The staff responsible for checking on each vessel should be made aware of the different requirements for the specific countries visited. It is the checking staff's responsibility to detect unlisted countries requiring serology for GB entry and if a tapeworm treatment is required. This is especially important for cruise ships as the Recognised Assistance Dog's compliance status may change during the journey, depending on which countries the Recognised Assistance Dog disembarks at during the cruise. Tapeworm treatment checks may need to be done at both embarkation and disembarkation.
- C. Describe how staff will carry out the checks and what equipment they will have to do so. Give details on what action will be taken if a Recognised Assistance Dog is found requiring tapeworm treatment during checks.
- D. Describe how training will be carried out to staff who undertake these checks and advise how the training will be recorded for audit purposes.

3. Dogs that fail the checks prior to embarkation

Provide the details of how Recognised Assistance Dogs will be handled if checks are failed prior to embarkation outside GB. The carrier should state whether travel will be refused or assistance given to obtain an Import Licence from APHA under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) Order 1974 (only available during office hours).

4. Dogs that fail the checks at disembarkation

Dogs that fail their checks at disembarkation must be treated as illegal landings and the Local Authority for the Port must be contacted by the carrier. Confirm the procedure to be followed.

Illegal landings must not be allowed to disembark from the ship. The dog must remain on board until the Local Authority decides, in conjunction with the owner, whether the dog will be re-exported (if

possible) or quarantined until the animal is compliant with the pet travel requirements.

If a temporary holding facility is available at the Port, the dog can be placed in there while a decision is made. An authorised carrying agent must be used to transport the dog from the ship to the temporary holding facility.

5. Providing information to APHA

A. Notification of the arrival of Recognised Assistance Dogs in GB, including a list of all ports of call in GB for that journey, should be made to APHA at the following email address imports@apha.gov.uk (This should be prior to arrival and **at least** at time of embarkation in order to facilitate APHA quality assurance checks if necessary).

B. Monthly throughput figures will be provided to APHA (including nil returns) and sent to: PetTravelSchemeDataRecord@apha.gov.uk

C. Non-compliance returns will be provided to APHA. Complete the Pet Travel: Non-compliance Return for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets (PETS08), this must be sent to:

PetTravelSchemeDataRecord@apha.gov.uk. Also describe how this information will be provided to the owner.

For serious non-compliances a Report of Serious Non-Compliance Relating to Paperwork or Suspected Fraud (IV62) must be completed and sent to: PetTravelSchemeDataRecord@apha.gov.uk and the Local Authority.

D. Records of checks must be available and provided to APHA if requested. Describe how records will be kept.

It is recommended that records of checks are kept for at least 12 months.

6. Welfare in Transport

Recognised Assistance Dogs must be transported in a way that does not adversely impact the animal's welfare.

Animals are protected from injury or unnecessary suffering during transportation by a general duty of care provision in Article 4 of The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 (WATEO) and equivalent national legislation in Scotland and Wales. WATEO requires that animals, including dogs, are transported in receptacles or means of transport under conditions (in particular with regard to space, ventilation, temperature and security) and with such supply of liquid and oxygen, as are appropriate for the species concerned.

Section 3

Confirm any vessel names (cruise ships and ferries) and specify the route (only required for Ferry Operators) which will be covered by this Memorandum of Understanding:

A new Memorandum of Understanding must be submitted to APHA (Centre for International Trade (CITC)) if any changes to the document are required.

This Memorandum of Understanding must be reviewed and resubmitted to APHA every 2 years.

Signed for Ferry/Cruise Operator:	<input type="text"/>	Date:	<input type="text"/>
Name in BLOCK LETTERS:	<input type="text"/>	Status/Designation:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>	Email address:	<input type="text"/>

I have discussed the pet travel requirements with the operator and I am satisfied that they understand what is required of them. They have the facilities to deliver as set out within this Memorandum of Understanding and I have provided training in line with the requirements and have been assured that this training will be cascaded to all appropriate staff in order that these checks can be undertaken compliantly.

Signature:	<input type="text"/>	APHA office:	<input type="text"/>
Name in BLOCK LETTERS	<input type="text"/>	Date:	<input type="text"/>
Lead APHA Veterinarian			

This form must be submitted to the CITC - Imports@apha.gov.uk

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Centre for International Trade Carlisle
Import Team
Eden Bridge House
Lowther Street
Carlisle
CA3 8DX

Tel: 03000 200 301

Imports Team use only

Signature

Name in
BLOCK
LETTERS

Date

Data Protection

For information on how we handle personal data please go to the APHA Personal Information Charter:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/personal-information-charter>

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.