



(Insert Recipients Name and Address)

Dear Transporter,

Welfare of animals During Transport - Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005

Advice on the Transport of Animals in Hot Weather 1 July to 30 September

1. Exposure to high temperatures and humidity is a major threat to animal welfare during transport. These conditions are a very real possibility during the summer months. Failure to take account of high temperatures when planning journeys and a lack of adequate contingency plans can cause suffering to animals and, in the worst case scenario, death. The following paragraphs detail the Regulation requirements and additional advice which aims to reduce the risk of undue suffering to animals transported **over 8 hours** in hot weather.
2. Humidity can significantly increase the adverse effects of high temperatures on animals and cause greater suffering. One of the several mechanisms that animals use to cool themselves in hot weather is the loss of water vapour by sweating or panting. In high humidity, the loss of water vapour is reduced. Thus, in conditions of both high temperature and high humidity, animals may be subject to further heat stress, which may cause distress and even death.

Action that could be taken to prevent suffering in hot and humid conditions could include:

- inspect animals more frequently for signs of heat stress
 - providing water or electrolyte solutions more frequently
 - avoid penning animals in the hotter parts of the vehicle, these are located at the front end and higher levels of the vehicle
 - increase the space allowance for the animals by at least 30%
 - increase headroom above animals to maximise air movement and increase the potential for heat exchange; remove tiers and folding decks where possible
 - avoid travelling in the hotter parts of the day by scheduling the journey or planning to take advantage of cooler conditions at night
 - park in the shade whenever possible, ideally with the vehicle positioned perpendicular to any prevailing wind
 - use a vehicle with a light coloured roof to reduce the effects of solar gain.
3. Contingency plans should be in place for every journey, and are particularly important in hot conditions as delays, which might be relatively insignificant under normal conditions, can become critical very quickly. Such plans - which drivers should be familiar with and able to implement - should detail who to contact in an emergency, where to obtain water, location of control posts, recognition of signs of heat stress and appropriate action to be taken.
 4. Transporters who will be carrying farmed livestock and horses on journeys **over 8 hours to other EU Member states and on journeys over 12 hours within the UK** need to be aware of the specific ventilation and temperature monitoring requirements of Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

In order for a Vehicle Inspection and Approval Certificate to be valid, the vehicle must be fitted with equipment that monitors and records the temperature within the animal compartment, and a ventilation system that can work for at least four hours with the engine switched off. Ventilation systems must be capable of maintaining a range of temperatures from 5°C to 30°C within the means of transport, for all animals, with a +/- 5°C tolerance, depending on the outside temperature. This equipment must be in full working order. Transporters or their drivers and attendants may be required to demonstrate the equipment is working.

All vehicles must carry water and suitable drinking equipment, in full working order which can provide sufficient water or if appropriate electrolytes according to the species and age of the animal. To minimise animal stress of travelling in hot weather, full use must be made of ventilation systems and animals should be offered liquid more frequently.

Details on vehicle ventilation can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69375/pb11260-livestock-vehicle-ventilation-051104.pdf

Please note that specific derogations relating to mechanical ventilation and temperature monitoring apply to journeys within the UK over 8 hours and up to 12 hours. Details on such derogations can be found within the enclosed Guidance Notes, Paragraph 5.18: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/193680/pb13550-wato-guidance.pdf

5. Enforcement officers finding any non-compliances will take appropriate action which may include interrupting the journey until the shortcomings are remedied.
6. This letter is being copied to the European Commission and to the competent Authorities in other Member States who, like us, have powers to interrupt journeys and take enforcement action if the welfare of animals during transport is, or is thought likely to be, prejudiced.
7. Should you have any queries on this letter please contact the Welfare in Transport Team on 03000 200 301, lines are open from 08:30 to 17:00 Monday to Friday. Alternatively please email, wit@apha.gsi.gov.uk

**Welfare in Transport Team
Centre for International Trade - Carlisle
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)**