

## A.6a GUIDANCE ON THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT

This guidance relates to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during

transport (subsequently referred to as 'the EU Regulation') and the relevant enforcement legislation. It is issued to aid consistency of understanding and enforcement of EU and national legislation.

The EU Regulation aims to improve animal welfare through raising transportation standards. In particular, it provides significant improvements in enforcement capability in respect to species and imposes a statutory obligation that anyone engaged in the handling and transport of animals must do so in a way that does not, and is not likely to, cause injury or undue suffering. The regulation requires that an animal must be fit for the intended journey and must remain sufficiently fit throughout the duration of the journey.

From 5/11/2007 anyone who is transporting animals for journeys over 65km (approx. 40 miles) as part of an economic activity, must hold a valid transporter authorisation. It is important to note that you may only hold transportation authorisation from one member state of the EU, and this authorisation will subsequently be valid in all EU states. Transporters based in Northern Ireland can contact DARD to apply for such a license.

You should note that:

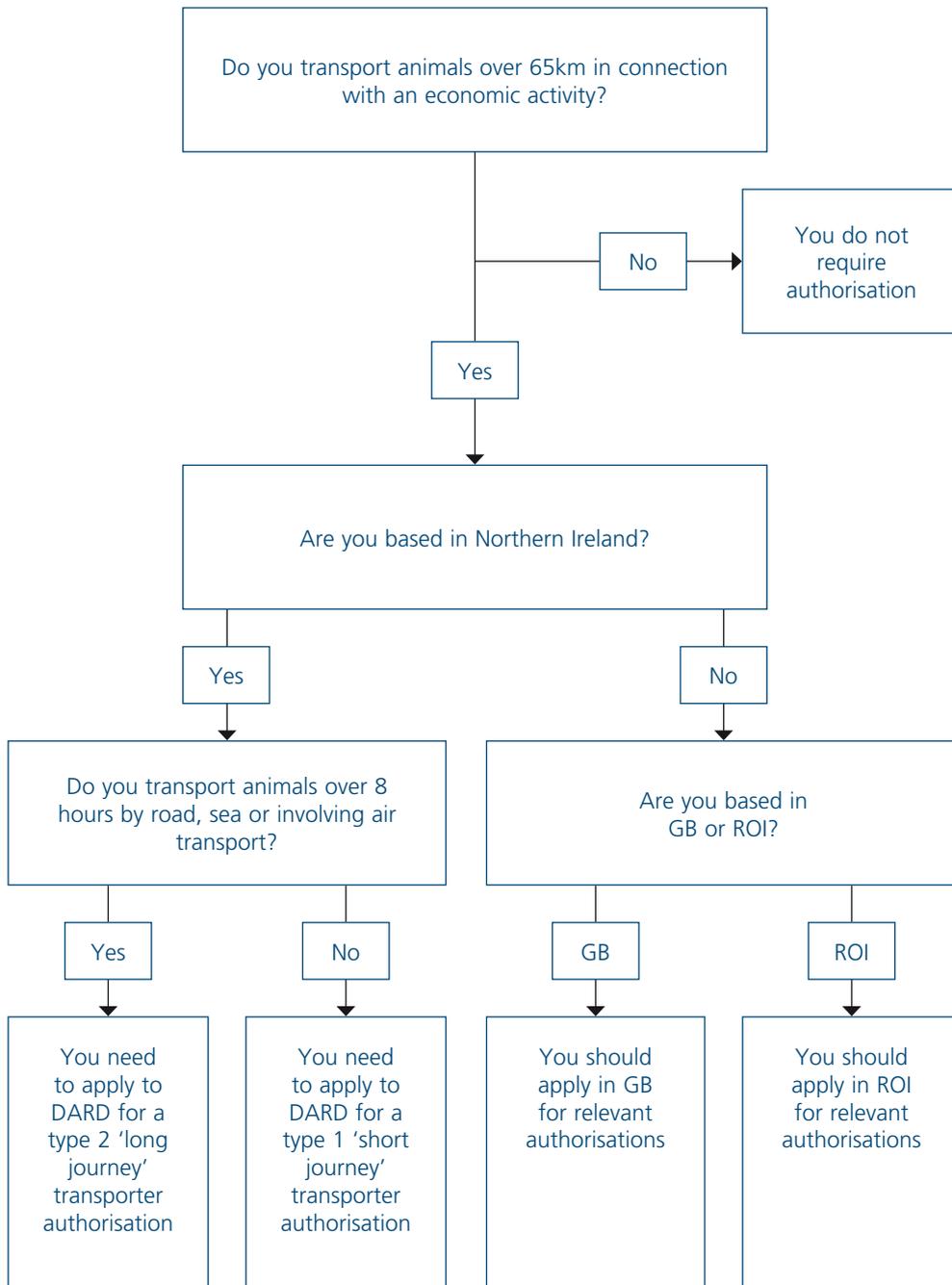
- Transporters requiring authorisation must either carry their authorisation certificate or a copy of it when transporting animals.
- The authorisation will last for 5 years unless revoked or suspended and may have conditions imposed upon it at any time within this period if there are any infringements of any requirement of the EU regulation or the relevant welfare of animals during transport legislation.
- Anyone requiring such transport authorisation will need to submit an application (to DARD in Northern Ireland).

There are two types of authorisation

- A short journey authorisation is for journeys over 65km and up to and including 8 hours in duration.
- A long journey authorisation which covers all journeys, including those over 8 hours in duration.

NOTE: a journey is defined as the time from when the first animal is loaded onto the vehicle at the premises of departure and the time the last animal is unloaded at place of destination.

## What transporter authorisation is required?



It should also be noted that from 5/1/2008 those transporting animals by road journeys which exceed 65km in connection with an economic activity have been required to be independently assessed for competence by the National Proficiency Training Council (NPTC). The assessment is specific to the role of the transporter, the length of journeys to be undertaken and the species to be transported. A certificate will be awarded to those who successfully complete the assessment and this must be made available to enforcement officers when requested.

Assessment under the legislation can be by a short online theory test and, for those involved in long journeys, an additional short practical assessment to cover both driving and animal handling skills. In Northern Ireland the theory test will normally be undertaken at the NPTC assessment centre at CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, Co Antrim. If the transporter is not familiar with the use of a computer, assistance may be requested when the examination date is arranged. Practical assessments will then be arranged for a mutually suitable time and location. There are a number of options for attaining the competency certificate and for further details you should contact:

Susan Cassley  
Greenmount Campus  
22 Greenmount Road  
Antrim  
BT41 4PU  
Tel 028 944 26873

As an alternative to assessment of competency by NPTC, transporters can choose to undertake training and assessment in the Republic of Ireland where An Teagasc, the Agriculture and Food Development Authority, is delivering training and assessment at its network of colleges. Courses last one day and assessment is carried out at the end of the course. Anyone interested should contact:

An Teagasc  
Agricultural College  
Ballyhaise  
Co Cavan  
Tel: 00 353 4943 38108

It should also be noted that all animals being transported within the EU must be accompanied by the appropriate travel documentation. An exception is where farmers are transporting their own animals using their own means of transport on journeys up to 50km from their holding, or transporting stock as part of seasonal transhumance. There is no prescribed format in which Animal Transport Certificates need to be recorded for journeys which exceed 50km but the completion of MC2L's is sufficient. It is a legal requirement for farmers to keep a record of all movements on and off the farm but transport documentation does not have to accompany the animals during transport when self-transporting except where the journey exceeds 50km.

Articles 3 and 27 of the EU Regulation apply to the transportation of animals over any journey length. Guidance on the general conditions for the transport of farm animals is set out on the following pages.

## GUIDELINES ON GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF FARM ANIMALS

### 1.0 Journey Planning

Before beginning a journey involving the transport of livestock producers must ensure that the following conditions are complied with:

- 1.1 Arrangements have been made in advance to minimise the length of the journey and to meet the animals' needs during the journey.
- 1.2 The animals are fit for the intended journey.
- 1.3 The personnel handling the animals are trained and competent for this purpose and carry out their tasks without using violence or any method likely to cause unnecessary fear, injury or suffering.
- 1.4 The transport is carried out without delay to the place of destination and the welfare conditions of the animals are regularly checked and appropriately maintained.
- 1.5 Except if accompanied by their mother, long journeys are only permitted if
  - a. Lambs are older than 7 days.
  - b. Calves are older than fourteen days.
  - c. They have a healed naval.

### Fitness for transport

- 1.6 No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.
- 1.7 Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport, and in particular if:
  - a. They are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted.
  - b. They present a severe open wound or prolapse.
  - c. They are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females which have given birth within the last week.
  - d. They are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed.
  - e. They are lambs of less than one week and calves of less than ten days of age, unless they are transported less than 100km.
- 1.8 However sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are
  - a. Slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering. In cases of
  - b. doubt veterinary advice should be sought.
  - c. Transportation if the illness or injury is part of a research programme
  - d. Transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis. However such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned.
  - e. Animals that have been submitted to veterinary procedures in relation to farming practices such as dehorning or castration, provided that the wounds have completely healed.
- 1.9 When animals fall ill or are injured during transport, they shall be separated from the others and receive first aid treatment as soon as possible. They shall be given appropriate veterinary treatment and if necessary undergo emergency slaughter or killing in a way which does not cause them any unnecessary suffering. Lactating females not accompanied by their offspring must be milked at intervals not more than 12 hours.

## Handling

1.10 It shall be prohibited to:

- a. Strike or kick the animals.
- b. Apply pressure to any particular sensitive part of the body in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering.
- c. Suspend the animals themselves by mechanical means.
- d. Lift or drag the animals by head, ears, horns, legs, tail or fleece, or handle them in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering.
- e. Use prods or other implements with pointed ends.

## Separation

1.11 Animals should be handled and transported separately in the following cases

- a. Animals of different species.
- b. Animals of significantly different sizes or ages.
- c. Sexually mature males from females.
- d. Animals with horns from animals without horns
- e. Animals hostile to each other.

NB points a, b and d shall not apply where the animals have been raised in compatible groups, are accustomed to each other, where separation will cause distress or where females are accompanied by dependent young.

## 2.0 Construction and Maintenance of Livestock Vehicles

- 2.1 The livestock vehicle must be constructed and maintained in a way which ensures the safety of the animals during loading, transport and unloading. It must protect them from injury, unnecessary suffering, inclement weather conditions, excessive noise and vibration. It must be free of any sharp edges, protrusions, gaps and spaces which could potentially cause injury.
- 2.2 The livestock vehicle must be strong enough to withstand the weight of the animals and the action of the weather.
- 2.3 The livestock compartment must be of suitable size to accommodate the animals to being transported and must allow them to stand in a natural position.
- 2.4 Floors must be strong enough to bear the weight of the animals and must be constructed to prevent slipping.
- 2.5 There must be sufficient lighting, which may be natural or artificial (and if artificial, this may be portable), to enable the care and inspection of livestock and the safe loading and unloading of the animals being transported. Electrical fittings and wiring (where used) should be repositioned or protected in a way which prevents injury to the animals.

## Ventilation

### 2.6 General

Sufficient and appropriate ventilation must be provided for the number, size and species of animals to be carried whether the vehicle is in motion or is stationary. Ventilation is usually achieved through apertures in the side of the livestock container. Where mechanical ventilation is provided, either alone or as a supplement to apertures, the system must include adequate safeguards in the event of a breakdown or power failure.

### 2.7 Large vehicles and large trailers

It is recommended that a longitudinal ventilation aperture should be fitted in each side of each tier, and so far as is practicable, be continuous throughout the length of the vehicle or trailer. This aperture should be positioned as close to the top of the side wall as possible, with the upper edge no more than 10cm below the floor or roof above. Aperture depth should not be less than 20cm.

## 2.8 Small vehicles and trailers

Other ventilation arrangements, including apertures in the end panels and roof ventilators, may be sufficient where only a small number of animals are to be carried.

### Ramp or platform – For loading/unloading animals

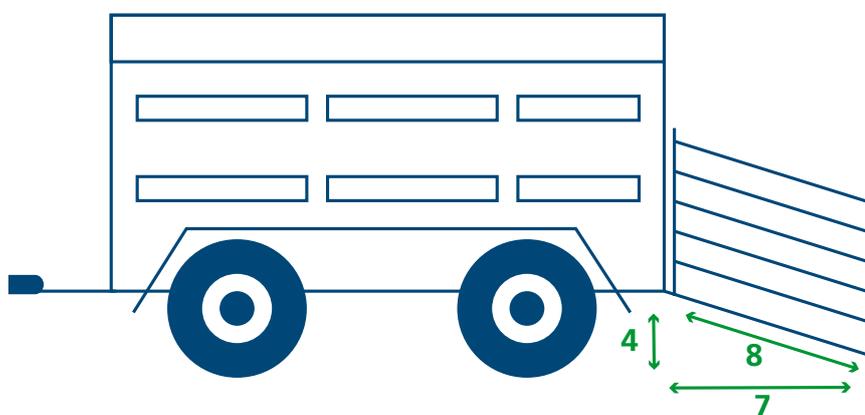
2.9 A vehicle should carry the means of loading/unloading animals without causing them injury or unnecessary suffering. A vehicle should normally be fitted with suitable equipment for loading animals. Each floor of the vehicle must be fitted with barriers which prevent animals falling out when the loading door is not fully closed.

2.10 The legislative ramp angles are as follows:

Calves: Ramps should not be any steeper than  $20^\circ$  (36.4% to the horizontal), equivalent to a vertical rise of 4 in 11.

Sheep and Adult Cattle: Ramps should not be any steeper than  $26^\circ 34'$  (50% to the horizontal), equivalent to a vertical rise of 4 in 8.

Where the ramp angle is steeper than  $10^\circ$ , ramps should be fitted with a system, such as foot battens, which ensure that the animals climb or go down without risk of difficulties.



In practical terms this means:

- Measure the height of the ramp at its highest point and the length of the ramp.

To calculate the minimum length of ramp required simply multiply the height of the ramp by:

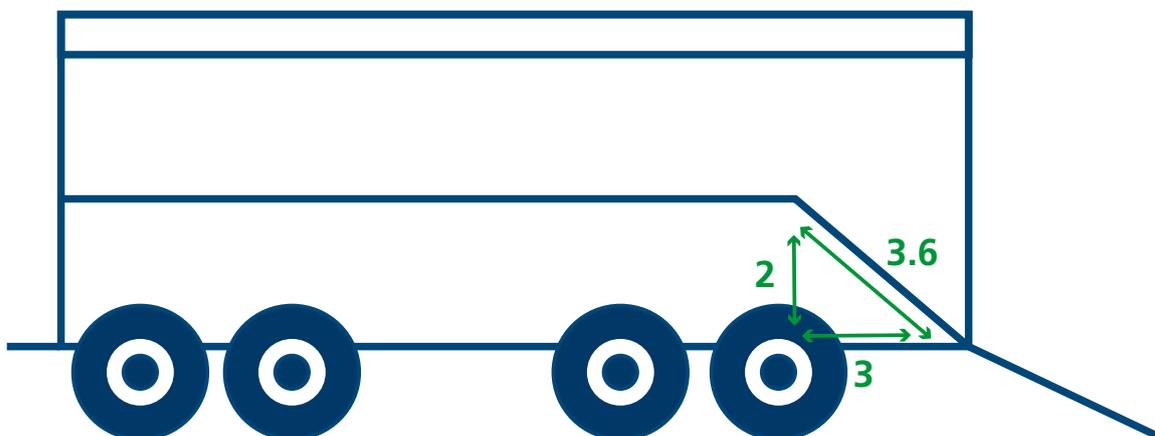
2.92 for Calves ( $20^\circ$ )

2.24 for Sheep and Adult Cattle ( $26^\circ 34'$ )

- 2.11 The ramp must be provided with a suitable means of preventing animals slipping, such as foot battens. It is recommended that foot battens should be not less than 25mm high, spaced with centres 20-30cm apart.
- 2.12 Where animals are loaded and unloaded by means of a lifting platform this must be of suitable dimensions and be provided with a means to prevent animals from slipping.
- 2.13 It is recommended that any lifting/loading platform or loading deck should be equipped with appropriate safety mechanisms, which will prevent accidental operation and uncontrolled lowering. It should also permit emergency lowering in the event of a power failure.
- 2.14 Where a ramp is used for loading and unloading side barriers not less than 130cm high must be provided. Where a lifting platform is used for loading and unloading side barriers 130cm high for cattle and 90cm for small calves and sheep must be provided.
- 2.15 Any step at the top or bottom of a ramp must not exceed 21cm and any gap between the ramp or lifting platform and the vehicle should not be so large that an animal's foot could pass into it and must not exceed 6cm between the ramp and vehicle.
- 2.16 A ramp may not be necessary if the vehicle floor is 30cm or less from the ground, nor if the animals are small enough to be lifted (by no more than two people) without causing them injury.

## Ramp – For transfer of animals between floors

- 2.17 The gradient of a ramp used for the transfer of animals between floors within the livestock compartment must not be more than 2 in 3 (33°). However in order to minimise stress, it is recommended that the slope should not be more than 30° for sheep and 25° for cattle.



In practical terms this means:

If the top of the ramp installed is 2 feet from the level below then the ramp must be at least 3½ feet long.

If the top of the ramp installed is 3 feet from the level below then the ramp must be at least 4½ feet long.

If the top of the ramp installed is 4 feet from the level below then the ramp must be at least 6 feet long.

- 2.18 The internal ramp must be provided with suitable means of preventing animals from slipping such as foot battens. It is recommended that foot battens should not be less than 25mm high and spaced with centres 20-30cm apart.
- 2.19 Where necessary, internal ramps should be fitted with side barriers of an appropriate height.

### Pen lengths

- 2.20 The vehicle is likely to need to be subdivided into pens, formed with partitions so that the animals are given support against the motion of transport, are properly segregated and are in sufficiently small groups.
- 2.21 Legislation no longer stipulates specific minimum and maximum pen lengths in vehicles transporting cattle and sheep. However the legislation does stipulate that the length of the pen should be limited in order to reduce the effects of a sudden change in road speed and to control the number of animals in a group. It is therefore recommended in DARD guidance on the legislation that pen size should be less than or equal to 3.7m (approximately 12ft) in length.
- 2.22 It is recommended that the vehicle has a facility to reduce the length of at least one pen so that an animal, or a small group of animals, may be carried separately in an area of appropriate size if necessary.

### Partition height

- 2.23 A partition (where fitted) must be rigid, of sufficient strength and height, and not interfere with ventilation. Spaces above, below and gaps in it should be of such size that an animal cannot become trapped or injured.
- 2.24 A partition between pens must be at least 127cm high for cattle (other than calves).
- 2.25 A partition must be at least 76cm high for calves and sheep.

### **Headroom/height**

- 2.26 The clear height available in a vehicle, in which farm livestock are being carried, must be sufficient for them to stand in their natural position with space above for the circulation of air.
- 2.27 It is recommended that, in order to avoid injury and allow sufficient air circulation, the space above the highest part of cattle (other than calves) should be at least 20cm, and at least 10cm above calves and sheep.

### **Roof**

- 2.28 A vehicle must be fitted with a roof above all of the animals, which provides adequate protection from the weather.
- 2.29 The roof should be waterproof, be strong enough to withstand the forces which vehicle movement and the weight of any water or snow, which might accumulate on it, might impose, be properly secured to the vehicle and be adequately supported to prevent sagging.

### **Inspection and access**

- 2.30 It must be possible to view all the animals being transported from the exterior of the vehicle for the purpose of inspecting them and for which there must be suitable openings and footholds. Sight through the ventilation apertures is considered to be one way to satisfy this requirement for access to inspect.

### **Exceptions for certain 'small' vehicles on journeys less than 50km**

- 2.31 A vehicle which satisfies all of the following criteria:
  - a. Is being used on a journey 50km or less to, from, or within land used for agricultural purposes;
  - b. Is owned by the owner or occupier of that land;
  - c. Has an internal length of not more than 3.7 metres available for the carriage of animals,need not be fitted with a roof, have inner barriers or straps for use when loading door is open, nor be fitted with an internal ramp.

### **3.0 Operation: Cleansing and Disinfection**

- 3.1 Vehicles should be constructed in such a way that they are easy to clean. Any vehicle used to transport animals must be cleansed as soon as practicable after unloading and disinfected before being used again to transport animals. There is an exemption for a vehicle used to transport animals between the same two places in the same day (except between markets).

### **Litter/bedding**

- 3.2 Sufficient litter must be used to absorb urine and droppings, unless urine and droppings are regularly removed or equally effective alternative arrangements are in place.
- 3.3 Sawdust appears to be the most effective type of litter for absorbing urine and wet droppings. It also gives good 'footing' and tends to stay in place better than straw. However it is recommended that vehicles carrying young calves are bedded with straw as these animals travel better with such bedding.

## 4.0 Recommended Space Allowances During Transport

### CATTLE

Category	Approx. weight (kg)	Space allowance (m <sup>2</sup> )
Small calves	55	0.30-0.40
Medium sized calves	110	0.40-0.70
Heavy calves	200	0.70-0.95
Medium sized cattle	325	0.95-1.30
Heavy cattle	550	1.30-1.60
Very heavy cattle	Over 700	Over 1.60

These figures may vary depending upon the animals' weight and size. The livestock's physical condition, weather conditions and the likely journey time should also be taken into consideration when determining space allowances.

### SHEEP

Category	Approx. weight (kg)	Space allowance (m <sup>2</sup> )
Shorn sheep & lambs	Under 55	0.20-0.30
	Over 55	Over 0.30
Unshorn sheep	Under 55	0.30-0.40
	Over 55	Over 0.40
Heavily pregnant ewes	Under 55	0.40-0.50
	Over 55	Over 0.50

The space allowances indicated above may vary depending on the breed, size, physical condition and length of fleece of the animals as well as the weather conditions and journey time. As an indication, for small lambs, an area of under 0.2m<sup>2</sup> per animal may be provided.

(Source: Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the Protection of animals during transport and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended))

Please see page 95 for signing

**A.6b EXAMPLE OF LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT DECLARATION FOR USE OF APPROVED HAULIER**



This declaration can be used to meet the requirements of Code 6.2.

Name of person who transports livestock \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of the following assurance scheme: FQAS  Red Tractor Transport

Assurance Scheme number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Producer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I, confirm that I transport livestock for the above named FQAS producer.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SEE CODE 6.2**

I have read and understood the 'Guidance on the Welfare of Animals During Transport' and the 'Guidelines on General Conditions for the Transport of Farm Animals'

Producer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_