

Risks for the protection of animals during transport due to deficiencies of Reg. (EC) 1/2005

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A view from the ground

**Parma, 13 October 2010
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Space above the animals

Imprecise wording of Reg. 1/2005:

„sufficient height (...) to ensure adequate ventilation and natural movement“

Practical consequences:

The term „sufficient“ is interpreted to the disadvantage of the animals
→ insufficient head space → compromised ventilation, impossibility to stand and move naturally, injuries





Space above the animals

Necessary measures:

Include precise figures for the required space above the highest point of the tallest animal in the forthcoming revision of Reg. (EC) No 1/2005.

Temperature range

Reg. 1/2005:

Long distance transports are allowed at temperatures between 0°C and 35°C.

In practice:

- Animals show evident signs of heat stress already at temperatures clearly lower than 35°C.
- Trucks' ventilation systems are not capable of maintaining a temperature range.



Heat stress



Temperature range

Necessary measures:

Restrict the currently permitted temperature range during the revision of Reg. (EC) No 1/2005.

Space allowances

Reg. 1/2005:

Tables with minimum space requirements

Practical consequences:

Insufficient space

- to lie down and rest without being walked on by other animals
- to stand back up / move adequately
- to guarantee access to watering devices
- to allow inspection of and care for the animals
- to allow adequate thermoregulation

Space allowances

Reg. 1/2005:

Space for interpretation:

- „*These figures may vary, depending (...) on the physical condition, the length of the fleece (for sheep), the meteorological conditions and the likely journey time.*“
- „*for small lambs, an area of under 0,2m² per animal may be provided.*“

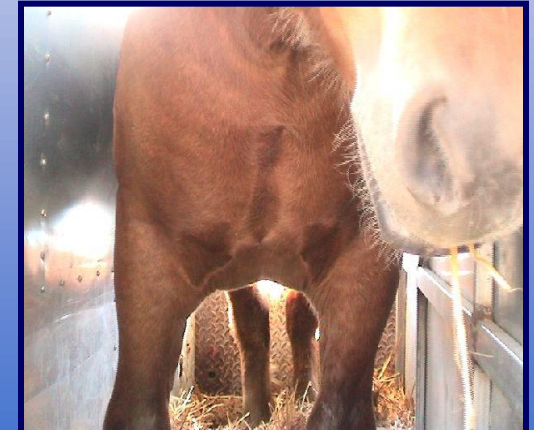
Contradictory requirements:

Young horses must be able to lie down during long journeys –
width of stall: 60 cm

Practical consequences:

Reg. 1/2005 is often interpreted to the disadvantage of the animals.

Space allowances compliant with the tables of Reg. 1/2005 – a risk for the animals' welfare





Adequate space allowances
—
**clearly more space than
required by the tables of Reg. 1/2005**



Space allowances

Necessary measures:

Considerably more space should be granted to the animals, especially during long distance transports.

Transport of unweaned animals on long distance journeys

Reg. 1/2005:

Requires that unweaned animals are given adequate liquid in between two transport periods of 9 hours each.

In practice:

Unweaned animals regularly suffer from feed/liquid deprivation during long-distance transports as it is impossible in practice to adequately supply them with liquid/feed on board of the trucks.

- trucks' drinking systems cannot be operated with milk substitutes or electrolyte solutions
- no system to provide warm liquid
- unsuitable drinking devices
- feeding by hand one by one is not feasible on board of the truck

Nevertheless unweaned animals are routinely transported on long distance journeys.



Hungary - Italy



Romania - Spain



Poland - Spain

Transport of unweaned animals

Necessary measures:

- ➔ The term “unweaned” should be defined, i.e. precise ages should be included in the forthcoming revision of Reg. (EC) No 1/2005.
- ➔ The maximum allowed transport time for unweaned animals should end at the latest when it is necessary to provide them with liquid/ feed.

Emergency unloading places

Reg. 1/2005:

Required emergency measure: „*unloading the animals and holding them in suitable accommodation until the problem is resolved*“.

In practice:

- Frequent necessity to unload animals in emergency cases (injured or ill animals, severe overloading, exceeded transport times etc.)
- It is extremely difficult to find adequate unloading places in emergency cases

Consequently:

- animals are often transported for hours to the next available unloading place
- animals are often not unloaded despite the necessity
- some inspection authorities are reluctant to carry out controls

Emergency unloading places

Necessary measures:

Member States should be legally obliged to identify places for emergency unloading, reachable within a certain time frame, e.g. 2-3 hours.

Transport times

Reg. 1/2005:

- Sets maximum transport times and minimum rest periods
- assumes that the maximum transport times are adequate to guarantee the animals' protection provided that the other requirements of Reg. 1/2005 are respected

In practice:

- certain requirements of Reg. 1/2005 are often not respected (e.g. watering during transport; trucks operated as to avoid injury/suffering)
- certain aspects endangering the animals' welfare cannot be improved by better enforcement (e.g. heat stress, injuries due to fights, falls due to exhaustion)
- space for interpretation is often used to the disadvantage of the animals (e.g. loading densities, head space)



Transport times

In practice:

Transport times can often be considerably longer than presumed – without the authorities noticing it -, e.g. due to delays between loading and departure and between arrival and unloading, breakdowns of the trucks, traffic jams etc.

Welfare problems due to water deprivation, heat stress, exhaustion, fighting etc. become more serious as the journey time increases, simply because the animals have to suffer for additional hours.

It is not realistic to assume that these problems will be adequately resolved in the future.

➔ Many animals do suffer during transport, even if transported within the currently allowed maximum journey times.

Transport times

Necessary measures:

Considerable reduction of the maximum allowed transport times.

**Thank you for your attention and your efforts
in favour of the animals!**

