



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 24th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 10th June 2022

(Agreed on the 29th of June 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Antonio Velarde (Chair)
Eva Voslarova
Malcolm Mitchell

- Hearing Experts¹:
Claire Weeks (all items except 5.3)
Marien Gerritzen (all items except 5.3)

- EFSA:
Denise Candiani
Sean Ashe
Mariana Geffroy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Virginie Michel, Mette Herskin and Leonardo James Vinco.

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 23rd Working Group meeting

The minutes of the 23rd Working Group meeting held on the 16th of May, 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on the 31st of May 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Discussion and revision of comments in domestic birds sections.

Chapter 3 (Assessment for domestic birds) was revised by the working group following feedback from the AHAW panel, at the last plenary meeting held on the 1st of June.

5.2. Discussion and revision of comments in day-old-chicks and rabbits

Chapter 4 (Assessment for day-old-chicks) and Chapter 5 (Assessment for rabbits) were revised by the working group following feedback from the AHAW panel, at the last plenary meeting held on the 1st of June.

5.3. Discussion and revision of comments to draft conclusions and recommendations

Comments from the Panel related to draft conclusions and recommendations were discussed with Working group members. Working group members also agreed that the draft will be submitted to the AHAW Panel for possible adoption.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 16th of May 2022

(Agreed on the 31st of May 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Antonio Velarde (Chair)
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova
 - Mette Herskin
 - Virginie Michel
 - Julio Alvarez

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Claire Weeks (all items except 5.1)

- EFSA:
 - Denise Candiani
 - Sean Ashe
 - Mariana Geffroy

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Marien Gerritzen and Malcolm Mitchell.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 22nd Working Group meeting

The minutes of the 22nd Working Group⁴ meeting held on the 10th of May, 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on the 13th of May 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Draft conclusions and recommendations of the Scientific Opinion including uncertainty on few key conclusions .

The conclusions were revised by Working group members. Uncertainty was discussed and linked to the conclusions where WG members stated the percentages in which they were certain.

5.2. Revision of section on Day Old chicks

The Working Group revised the draft section for day old chicks and the welfare consequences that affect this animals, preventive, mitigative and corrective measures.

5.3. Revision of comments from panel about Fitness for transport in domestic birds and rabbits

The Working Group revised and discussed the comments made by the panel related to fitness for transport. Comments were addressed and changes were made to the section.

5.4. Revision of comments from panel about Iceberg indicators in domestic birds and rabbits

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-transport-caged-species.pdf>

The Working Group revised the draft section for iceberg indicators, i.e. dead-on-arrival (DoA) and the comments made from the Panel about this topic.

5.5. Discussion and agreement on final section on Sensory overstimulation and motion stress.

The draft for the section on sensory overstimulation was discussed by WG experts. The final draft of this welfare consequence of the opinion was discussed. Preventive, corrective and mitigative measures were agreed on.

5.6. Revision of Comments from the Panel about Restriction of movement for Domestic birds and Rabbits

The working group reviewed the comments made from the panel regarding the Welfare consequence for restriction of movement in domestic birds and rabbits. The comments were addressed and changes to the section were made.

5.7. Revision of Prolonged hunger and thirst

The draft section for motion stress was discussed by WG experts. The final draft of this section of the opinion was discussed. Preventive, corrective and mitigative measures were agreed on.

6. Next meeting

The 24th WG meeting on the Transport of Animals in Containers is scheduled for the 10th of June 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 22nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 10th of May 2022

(Agreed on the 13th of May 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Antonio Velarde (Chair)
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova
 - Malcolm Mitchell
 - Mette Herskin

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Claire Weeks (all items except 5.6)
 - Marien Gerritzen (all items except 5.6)

- EFSA:
 - Denise Candiani
 - Sean Ashe
 - Mariana Geffroy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Virginie Michel.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 20th Working Group meeting

The minutes of the 21st Working Group⁴ meeting held on the 22nd of April, 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on the 15th of April 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Discussion and agreement on final section on Sensory overstimulation.

The draft for the section on sensory overstimulation was discussed by WG experts. The final draft of this welfare consequence of the opinion was discussed.

5.2. Revision of motion stress

The draft section for motion stress was discussed by WG experts. The final draft of this section of the opinion was discussed. Preventive, corrective and mitigative measures were agreed on.

5.3. Iceberg indicators in domestic birds and rabbits

The Working Group revised the draft section for iceberg indicators, i.e. dead-on-arrival (DoA). The WG experts discussed the causes and factors that cause DoA, and discussed a threshold in which the percentage of DoA should be investigated.

5.4. Discussion and agreement on final draft Fitness for Transport

The draft section for fitness for transport was discussed by WG experts. The table was revised with the conditions in which animals can be transported was revised for both domestic birds and rabbits.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-transport-caged-species.pdf>

5.5. Revision of Comments from the Panel about Restriction of movement for Domestic birds and Rabbits

The working group reviewed the comments made from the panel regarding the Welfare consequence for restriction of movement in domestic birds and rabbits. The comments were addressed and changes to the section were made.

5.6. Draft conclusions and recommendations of the Scientific Opinion including uncertainty on few key conclusions

The conclusions were revised by Working group members. Uncertainty was discussed and linked to the conclusions where WG members stated the percentages in which they were certain.

6. Next meeting

The 23rd WG meeting on the Transport of Animals in Containers is scheduled for the 16th of May 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 21st MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 22nd of April 2022

(Agreed on the 29th of April 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Antonio Velarde (Chair)
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova
 - Malcolm Mitchell
 - Virginie Michel

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Claire Weeks
 - Marien Gerritzen

- EFSA:
 - Denise Candiani
 - Sean Ashe
 - Mariana Geffroy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received by Mette Herskin

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 20th Working Group meeting

The minutes of the 20th Working Group⁴ meeting held on the 8th of April, 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on the 15th of April 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Discussion and agreement on final section on Fitness for transport

The draft for the section on Fitness for transport was discussed by WG experts. WG members discussed what types of animals should be and should not be transported and what measures should be taken with these animals. Different conditions that would make animals fit for transport were discussed. In the case of rabbits, the categories of animals that could be transported were revised. In the case of end of laying hens, a focus on prolapses and open wounds was made while taking in consideration if they are fit for transport or not.

5.2. Iceberg indicators

The Working Group revised the draft section for iceberg indicators, i.e. dead-on-arrival (DoA). The WG experts discussed the causes and factors that cause DoA, and discussed a threshold in which the percentage of DoA should be investigated.

5.3. Welfare consequences of day-old chicks

The Working Group assessed the final draft section about day-old chicks and revised the welfare consequences of sensory overstimulation, motion stress, prolonged hunger and thirst, and thermal stress. As well preventive, corrective and mitigative measures were discussed for each WC.

5.4. Discussion and agreement on final draft on Sensory overstimulation and Motion stress

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-transport-caged-species.pdf>

The draft section for sensory overstimulation and motion stress was discussed by WG experts. Relevant ABMs and hazards were selected for these two welfare consequences.

5.5. Discussion and agreement on final draft on Restriction of Movement

The final draft of restriction of movement was revised and agreed on before submitting it to the AHAW Panel.

6. Next meeting

The 22nd WG meeting on the Transport of Animals in Containers is scheduled for the 10th of May 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 20th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 8th of April 2022

(Agreed on the 15th of April 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
 - Antonio Velarde (Chair)
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova
 - Malcolm Mitchell
 - Mette Herskin
 - Virginie Michel

- Hearing Experts¹:
 - Claire Weeks
 - Marien Gerritzen

- EFSA:
 - Denise Candiani
 - Sean Ashe
 - Mariana Geffroy

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 18th Working Group meeting

The minutes of the 19th Working Group⁴ meeting held on the 23rd and 24th of March, 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on the 4th of April 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

5.1. Discussion and agreement on final draft on Fitness for transport

The draft for the section on Fitness for transport was discussed by WG experts, where the list of conditions that make animals unfit for being transported was revised. Short descriptions for each condition will be added. The placement of this section within the scientific opinion was discussed.

5.2. Discussion and agreement on final draft on Sensory overstimulation and Motion stress

The draft section for sensory overstimulation and motion stress was discussed by WG experts. Relevant ABMs and hazards were selected for these two welfare consequences.

5.3. Welfare consequences of day-old chicks

The Working Group assessed the final draft section about day-old chicks and revised the welfare consequences of sensory overstimulation, motion stress, prolonged hunger and thirst, and thermal stress.

5.4. Discussion and agreement on final draft on Handling stress and injuries

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/animal-health/wg-clone-welfare-farmtofork-transport-caged-species.pdf>

The Working Group assessed and revised the draft section for handling stress and injuries in domestic birds and rabbits. Minor changes will be made to the draft document and will be added to the Scientific opinion.

5.5. Discussion and agreement on final draft on restriction of movement

The Working Group assessed the draft section for restriction of movement. Height of the containers was discussed for rabbits. The planimetric equations and table values for domestic birds and rabbits were checked and discussed by the working group.

5.6. Iceberg indicators

The Working Group discussed the draft section for iceberg indicators, i.e. dead-on-arrival (DoA). It was decided that the section will include a description of the use of DoA, emphasising the advantages and limitations of this important ABM for welfare assessment during transport.

6. Next meeting

The 21st WG meeting on the Transport of Animals in Containers is scheduled for the 22nd of April 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 19th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 23rd -24th March 2022

(Agreed on 4th April 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Antonio Velarde (Chair)
Leonardo J. Vinco
Eva Voslarova
Malcolm Mitchell
Mette Herskin

- Hearing Experts¹:
Claire Weeks
Marien Gerritzen

- EFSA:
Denise Candiani
Sean Ashe
Mariana Geffroy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 18th Working Group meeting

The minutes of the 18th Working Group⁴ meeting held on the 3rd March, 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 21st of March 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Revision of AHAW panel's comments on prolonged hunger and thirst, and thermal stress.

The Working Group assessed the draft sections assessing the welfare consequences of prolonged hunger and thirst. Hazards and preventive measures were presented and revised by WG members.

The same was done for thermal stress, where panel's comments were presented to the WG and these were addressed. The thresholds for heat stress zones (safe, alert, and danger) were discussed, and their influence on physiological variables and negative affective states.

Discussion and agreement on final draft on handling stress and injuries

The Working Group discussed the draft sections on the welfare consequence on handling stress and injuries. ABMs and hazards were discussed and revised. For the stage of catching and crating animals mechanical and manual methods were discussed.

Discussion and agreement on final draft on restriction of movement

The Working Group assessed the draft sections for restriction of movement, where floor space and height requirements were discussed for domestic birds. The WG discussed the use of allometric and planimetric equations to decide on space allowance for different bird categories and species as well as for rabbits.

Discussion and agreement on final draft on Fitness for transport

The draft for the section on Fitness for transport was discussed by WG experts, where the list of conditions that make animals unfit for being transported was revised, details were added and agreed by members.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁴ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/animal-health/wq-clone-welfare-farmtofork-transport-caged-species.pdf>

Discussion and agreement on final draft on day-old chicks

The Working Group assessed the final draft section about day-old chicks. ABM's and hazards were revised and therefore the most important and feasible were chosen for the WCs of heat stress, cold stress, motion stress and sensory overstimulation in the context of transport of day-old chicks.

Discussion and agreement on final draft on Resting problems

WG experts assessed the final draft section on Resting problems. Relevant ABMs and hazards were selected for this welfare consequence.

Discussion and agreement on final draft on Sensorial overstimulation

The draft section for sensorial overstimulation was discussed by WG experts. Relevant ABMs and hazards were selected for this welfare consequence.

Discussion and agreement on final draft on Motion stress

The draft for the section on Motion stress was discussed by WG experts. Several ABMs were evaluated to be used for transport conditions but none were feasible.

Tasks distribution and planning of work

The Working Group discussed the status of the remaining working documents. Tasks were divided between experts to address pending issues and prepare them for insertion into the main draft.

6. Next meeting

The 20th WG meeting on the Transport of Animals in Containers is scheduled for the 8th of April 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 18th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 3rd March 2022

(Agreed on 21st March 2022)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Antonio Velarde (Chair)
Leonardo J. Vinco
Eva Voslarova
Malcolm Mitchell
Mette Herskin

- Hearing Experts¹:
Claire Weeks
Marien Gerritzen

- EFSA:
Denise Candiani
Sean Ashe
Mariana Geffroy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

¹ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Virginie Michel (for period from 9 to 15).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management³, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 17th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 17th Working Group meeting](#) held on the 11th February 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 16th February 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Discussion and agreement on final text on prolonged hunger and thirst

The Working Group assessed the draft text assessing the welfare consequences of prolonged hunger and thirst for domestic birds and rabbits. As well current ABMs for prolonged hunger were revised and new indicators were discussed. Draft conclusions and recommendations were discussed with WG members.

Discussion and agreement on final text on thermal stress (heat stress and cold stress)

The Working Group assessed the draft sections assessing the welfare consequences of thermal stress (heat stress and cold stress) for domestic birds. The use of Apparent Equivalent Temperature (AET), which combines the effects of relative humidity and dry-bulb temperature in broilers was decided to be used in as an indicator of heat stress during transport.

Temperature thresholds (considering humidity) were proposed and were discussed within the Working Group. These temperature thresholds will also be related to journey times.

Task distribution for next WG meeting

Tasks were divided between experts to address pending issues in the various working documents and prepare them for insertion into the main draft.

6. Next meeting

The 19th WG meeting on the Transport of Animals in Containers is scheduled for 23 and 24th March 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

³ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 17th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 11th February 2022

(Agreed on 16th February 2022)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michell

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

Malcolm Mitchell

Mette Herskin

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mariana Geffroy

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Mette Herskin (for period from 9 to 15).

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 16th Working Group meeting](#) held on 4th February 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 11th February 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Discussion and agreement on draft sections on thermal stress (heat stress and cold stress)

The Working Group assessed the draft sections assessing the welfare consequences of thermal stress (heat stress and cold stress) for domestic birds. Available evidence was considered and discussed, especially the possibility for recommending temperature thresholds (also considering humidity) for broilers, end of lay hens, turkeys and rabbits.

Experts agreed that for animals in containers, conditions during transport are very specific and different from housing conditions. The density of animals in all parts of the truck creates a large thermal load from metabolic heat production. Furthermore, the thermal load will be unevenly distributed in the load, resulting in varying risks of heat stress and cold stress. The microclimatic conditions (temperature, humidity) as felt by the animal must be measured close to the animals, but is very difficult to measure temp and humidity inside a normal load. These risk factors need to be addressed in the assessment and reflected in the recommendations.

The chapter on thermal stress for day-old chicks was discussed, and conclusions and recommendations were drafted. For rabbits, the available evidence in literature is generally slim compared to the birds. It was agreed to revise the draft sections and propose temperature thresholds (also considering humidity) for further discussion in the Working Group.

Discussion on remaining welfare consequences and status of draft sections

The Working Group discussed the status of the remaining working documents, where the various welfare consequences are assessed. It was agreed to start assessment of the three remaining welfare consequences; sensorial overstimulation, motion stress and resting problems, and to prepare the rest

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

of the assessment sections for insertion into the main draft opinion after the descriptive sections had been revised by the AHAW Panel.

Task distribution for next WG meeting

Tasks were divided between experts to address pending issues in the various working documents and prepare them for insertion into the main draft.

6. Next meeting

The 18th WG meeting is scheduled for 3rd March 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 16th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 4th February 2022

(Agreed on 11th February 2022)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

Malcolm Mitchell

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

Maria V. Veggeland

Mariana Geffroy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

Apologies were received from Virginie Michel and Mette Herskin.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 15th Working Group meeting](#) held on 13th January 2022 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 18th January 2022.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Discussion and agreement on draft sections of the Scientific Opinion – descriptive parts

The Working Group assessed the draft sections of the opinion that were to be submitted to the AHAW Panel for discussion, namely the Chapter 1, 2 and descriptive parts of chapters 3-5. It was decided to re-structure the draft opinion by removal of specific sub-chapters for each stage of transport. As a consequence, each welfare consequence will be assessed only once and for all stages. In addition, several additions and amendments were carried out following the discussion in the Working Group, leading to an improved draft.

Task distribution for next WG meeting

All experts were asked to revise the amended draft, provide input and agree the final draft by 7th February at 16:00 h.

6. Next meeting

The 17th WG meeting is scheduled for 11th February 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 13th January 2022

(Agreed on 18th January 2022)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

Malcolm Mitchell

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mariana Geffroy

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 14th Working Group meeting](#) held on 10th December 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 13th December 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Development of sections on WCs Prolonged hunger and prolonged thirst

The experts discussed draft sections on assessment of the Welfare Consequences Prolonged hunger and Prolonged thirst, amending the text as appropriate and deciding on further development. The experts agreed that the total time without feed or water should be considered when giving recommendations to prevent or mitigate prolonged hunger and thirst.

The possibility of extrapolating evidence on broilers to other types of domestic birds, such as broiler breeders, laying hens and turkeys, was discussed. The Working Group agreed that none of the remaining domestic birds could be compared to broilers and therefore conclusions and recommendations in the SO that are based on broiler papers should concern broilers only. In addition, specific recommendations should be given at least for end of lay hens and rabbits, and also other species such as turkeys if possible.

The use of the word "prolonged" in the Welfare Consequence Prolonged hunger might create confusion to the reader, as the duration, which is a separate factor, seems to be included. The description of this WC starts at negative affective state and craving for feed, which is not really "prolonged" hunger, and not immediately a welfare concern. It was agreed to explain this in the text, using the various wording in the description of this WC to identify which aspects of hunger are relevant at what stage in time.

For prolonged thirst, findings in literature indicates similar cut offs as for hunger regarding physiological indicators of welfare effects. In general, lack of water is regarded as a more severe physiological factor than lack of feed. Also, when birds have access to feed, water should also be provided/is necessary. In addition, the link between water consumption and temperature – influencing the risk of prolonged thirst and heat stress, should be addressed.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Development of sections on WCs Handling stress and Injuries

The Working Group assessed the draft assessment of these WCs, providing input and deciding upon future tasks. There is overlap between the WC Handling stress and injuries, especially as regards hazards and mitigative measures: The same procedures that lead to handling stress might also lead to injuries. Handling stress will always occur, it cannot be prevented, nor corrected, only mitigated. Injuries can be prevented, not corrected and only mitigated by slaughter/killing.

Rough handling of birds was identified as the prime hazard for handling stress and injuries, and proper training of staff as the prime preventive measure. Other hazards and preventive measures, such as type of equipment were also identified and agreed. Available evidence in literature supports that upright handling of birds mitigates handling stress and reduces the risk of injuries to legs and wings compared to inversion.

Task distribution for next WG meeting

A roadmap showing the planned deliveries of section of the draft opinion was discussed and agreed. In order to properly revise sections on interpretation of mandate, methodology and descriptions of current practices, an additional WG meeting was planned for 4th or 7th February 2022.

Task were distributed among experts to ensure continued development of the draft sections on WCs Handling stress, Injuries, Prolonged hunger, Prolonged thirst, Restriction of movement and Thermal stress.

6. Next meeting

The 16th WG meeting is scheduled for 4th February 2022 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 14th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 10th December 2021

(Agreed on 13th December 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

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http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 13th Working Group meeting](#) held on 18th November 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 30th November 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Development of sections on WC Restriction of movement

The draft assessment of the Welfare Consequence (WC) Restriction of movement was revised by the Working Group, especially comparing the recommended space allowance from using the Petherick's equation for lying animals ($k= 0,027$) with the planimetric measurements in the scientific papers (Spindle et al, 2016, Giesberg et al, 2015). It was agreed to recommend using an equation for determining the space allowance for poultry of different weights, provided that the planimetric measurements support this approach.

Height of containers: Compared to the planimetric papers documenting the floor space needed, evidence is scarce when it comes to height. Information gathered by the experts, such as pictures documenting the actual height of poultry and rabbits in various positions, was assessed. The Working Group agreed that more research was needed to determine the needs of various species, but that the available evidence might be sufficient to assess, to some degree, current practices.

Uncertainty

Julio Álvarez from the AHAW Panel introduced the topic of how to assess and express uncertainty. The draft conclusions and recommendations on heat stress for EoL and space requirements for rabbits were used as examples. The most important ones of these, containing the quantitative variables of concern to the commission (temp, space allowance) were selected for uncertainty analysis and it was discussed how they could be re-worded to take account of uncertainty.

Uncertainty analysis is to be performed in all EFSA opinions, following specific guidelines. Time and resources will inevitably play an important role when deciding the extent of uncertainty analysis to be performed for the transport mandates and the uncertainty analysis can be adapted accordingly. Planning is still essential to arrive to the desired result. It was agreed to identify the conclusions and

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

recommendations that should be prioritized for uncertainty analysis and to inform Julio about the extent of these, to allow planning of procedures to be performed during spring 2022.

6. Next meeting

The 15th WG meeting is scheduled for 13th January 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 13th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 18th November 2021

(Agreed on 30th November 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mimi Kalcheva

Mariana Geffroy

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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 12th Working Group meeting](#) held on 5th November 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 17th November 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Development of sections on WC Restriction of movement

The draft assessment of the Welfare Consequence (WC) Restriction of movement was revised by the Working Group. The experts considered this WC as severe when available floor space in the container does not allow all rabbits at the same time to adopt a resting position and/or the height of the container does not allow rabbit to adopt a normal sitting position with ears raised. For poultry, a normal sitting position (ventral recumbency) with head in normal raised position was regarded as necessary to avoid severe restriction of movement. Regarding floor space, there are recent papers with planimetric measurements of floor space needed for rabbits and poultry in different positions. These papers will be the foundation of the recommendations for space allowance. The correlation between planimetric measurements and an equation, e.g. as used by Petherick, should be investigated, as this will make it easier to take account of different weights of animals. As regards height of containers, less evidence exists on actual height needed. However, It is clear that current practices does not always animals sufficient height. Experts agreed that recommendations are needed, also on height, and discussed possible ways to reach such recommendations.

Stage of arrival and stage of unloading

The text of the stages "arrival" and "unloading" from the recent EFSA SO on slaughter of poultry was discussed with the aim of adapting it to the current mandate. The arrival is essentially the end of the journey stage, but there might be specific aspects to consider as the animals might have to wait to be unloaded, increasing the risk of heat stress and prolonging the duration of WCs already present. Prolonged hunger, thirst, heat and cold stress and injuries are the WCs mentioned as highly relevant for the arrival stage in the slaughter SO.

For unloading, pain and fear resulting from rough handling of containers is mentioned as highly relevant. This would correspond to the WC injuries in our SO. Pain and fear as mentioned in the

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

slaughter SOs are in our SO overarching WCs that will be used in the description of the WC, but not as WCs as such.

Animals getting body parts trapped is an important hazard for injuries at loading and unloading. It was decided to develop the WCs Handling stress and Injuries in the loading stage first, then to align the chapter on unloading. Text in unloading chapter will correspond to that of loading, but removing birds from the containers will not be assessed. Therefore, the injuries will be only those resulting from unloading the containers from the truck.

Development of sections on WCs Handling stress and Injuries

The current draft section on Handling stress was revised after input from experts. It was agreed to continue with WC Injuries, focusing on inversion.

Development of sections on WCs Prolonged hunger and Prolonged thirst

As agreed in 12th WG, findings in papers on when domestic birds are feeling hungry and when physiological changes (ABMs) appear, had been extracted from the literature search papers by EFSA staff. The findings in these papers will be the starting point for further development of these sections.

6. Next meeting

The 14th WG meeting is scheduled for 10th December 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 12th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 5th November 2021

(Agreed on 17th November 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mimi Kalcheva

Mariana Geffroy

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http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 11th Working Group meeting](#) held on 20th October 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 26th October 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Development of sections on thermal stress (heat stress and cold stress)

The Working Group discussed draft conclusions and recommendations for the WC heat stress in EoL. A draft table showing green, yellow and red zones relating to risk of heat stress on the basis of wet and dry bulb temperatures was considered. The content and general wording of the recommendations were discussed and agreed.

As there will probably be a new expert in the WG, it was decided to leave the final discussion and agreement on conclusions and recommendations for later, to allow involvement of all experts. The planned analysis of the dataset on transport of laying hens will also be taken into consideration before final recommendations are agreed. It was further agreed that the sections on thermal stress, heat stress and cold stress for domestic birds, EoL, DOC and rabbits will be taken out of the draft opinion and put in a separate working document, to ease further refinement and comparison between animal categories.

Development of section on restriction of movement

Draft conclusions and recommendations for the WC restriction of movement were discussed. It was agreed that, in order to limit this WC, rabbits need space to sit and lie in a normal position with their ears lifted when they are in containers. The findings in literature regarding space allowance during transport of rabbits was discussed, especially considering a paper of Giersberg et al (2015) where planimetric measurements of rabbits in different positions were reported.

There was agreement in the WG to assess this paper in more detail and also the recent EFSA opinion on housing of rabbits to get more insight into actual space requirements before next Working Group meeting. For the domestic birds (broilers, possibly turkeys, ducks and geese) and end of lay hens, the sections on restriction of movement will also be further developed as homework for 13th WG, considering the agreed approach and discussions in the meeting.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Prolonged hunger and thirst

The WG discussed how to approach the WCs prolonged hunger and prolonged thirst. These WCs are defined as “the animal experiences craving or urgent need for food/water or a specific nutrient, accompanied by a negative affective state, and eventually leading to a weakened condition as metabolic requirements are not met.” In order to give recommendations, there is a need to identify when animals start to feel hungry or thirsty. This is probably not easy to document, and so the stage where it is possible to measure physiological indicators of hunger/thirst is probably more achievable. It was agreed that, when the digestive tract is empty and/or physiological ABMs are present, animals will also feel hungry/thirsty and be motivated to eat/drink. Currently, the requirement to provide feed and water applies after 12 hours journey, but disregarding the substantial time spent loading and unloading: “For poultry, domestic birds and domestic rabbits, suitable food and water shall be available in adequate quantities, save in the case of a journey lasting less than 12 hours disregarding loading and unloading time (1/2005 Appendix 1, chapter 2.1)”. As 16% of journeys recorded in TRACES in 2019 were more than 12 hours, the feasibility of feeding and watering animals in containers was discussed.

Stage of preparation

The structure of this stage was discussed. For linearity, this stage should be the first in the assessment chapter. This is a crucial stage because measures taken here can have a major impact on the welfare of the animals during later stages of transport. As the description and assessment of the WCs of concern appears in later stages, the initial section on preparation should be kept short, explaining that preventive measures will be dealt with under the relevant WCs in the stages that they appear.

6. Next meeting

The 13th WG meeting is scheduled for 18th November 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 11th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 20th October 2021

(Agreed on 26th October 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mimi Kalcheva

Mariana Geffroy

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http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Marien Gerritzen.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting](#) held on 1st October 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 8th October 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Development of sections on thermal stress (heat stress and cold stress)

The Working Group assessed and further developed sections on heat stress of domestic birds, end of laying hens and rabbits. Findings in literature were discussed with an aim of identifying cut off points on when the welfare consequence heat stress and cold stress appear and when they become severe.

It was agreed to look further into some publications to try to extract comparable parameters on temperature and humidity. The line of reasoning as well as possible conclusions and recommendations were discussed and agreed.

Tasks were distributed to further to further develop these sections with an aim to finalise them before 12th WG.

6. Next meeting

The 12th WG meeting is scheduled for 5th November 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 1st October 2021

(Agreed on 8th October 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mariana Geffroy

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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Marien Gerritzen.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

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4. Agreement of the minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 10th Working Group meeting](#) held on 1st October 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 8th October 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Development of sections on thermal stress (heat stress and cold stress)

The Working Group assessed and further developed sections on heat stress of domestic birds, end of laying hens and rabbits. Findings in literature were discussed with an aim of identifying cut off points on when the welfare consequence heat stress and cold stress appear and when they become severe.

It was agreed to look further into some publications to try to extract comparable parameters on temperature and humidity. The line of reasoning as well as possible conclusions and recommendations were discussed and agreed.

Tasks were distributed to further to further develop these sections with an aim to finalise them before 12th WG.

6. Next meeting

The 12th WG meeting is scheduled for 5th November 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

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ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS IN CONTAINERS

WEB-conference (Teams), 3rd September 2021

(Agreed on 14th September 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mariana Geffroy

Marika Vitali

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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

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4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 8th Working Group meeting](#) held on 21st June 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 25th June 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Structure of Scientific Opinion

Several changes to the structure of the draft opinion was suggested by the Chair after revision of the current draft. It was agreed in the Working Group to adapt the proposed changes, meaning that species-specific sections would be merged in general sections for each Welfare Consequence and to provide separate chapters for domestic birds (except day old chicks and end of lay hens), day old chicks, end of lay hens and rabbits. The stage arrival and unloading will also be inserted in the draft.

Discussion on conclusions and recommendations

A power point referring to the mandate, feedback from the European Commission (EC) and previous recommendations from EFSA (2004, 2011, 2019) on temperature, space allowance and journey times, feed- and watering intervals was presented. Recommendations from 2011 and 2019 are more recent than the current legislation, and should be kept in mind in the ongoing process of assessment.

Assessment of the Welfare Consequences Heat stress and Cold stress

The Working Group discussed the methodology to be used when assessing the Welfare Consequences Heat stress and Cold stress. Input from experts of both transport groups (free moving + containers) was assessed, as the approach should be similar between groups, when feasible. It was agreed to proceed with the aim of defining welfare thresholds based on when the Welfare Consequence starts to apply (thermal discomfort) and when it becomes severe (thermal distress). Not only temperature, but also humidity should be taken into account when assessing risk of thermal distress.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

6. Next meeting

The 10th WG meeting is scheduled for 1st October 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 21 June 2021

(Agreed on 25th June 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

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2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 7th Working Group meeting](#) held on 20th May 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 1st June 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Discussion on conclusions and recommendations

A power point referring to the mandate, feedback from the European Commission (EC) and methodology to reach conclusions and recommendations was presented. The mandate request for quantitative recommendations is directed towards temperature, space allowance and journey time for end of lay hens (Specific ToR 4). It is important to try to fill the gaps in science with expert opinion. Animal welfare is the focus of the assessment and the measurement for recommendations. Practical or economic considerations are not part of the assessment. The aim is to enable risk managers to evaluate the welfare consequences of different options, to let them decide based on ethical and economic considerations.

The Working Group discussed how to produce recommendations. Animal welfare during transport is multifactorial. The exposures temperature, space allowance and journey time interact, making recommendations on thresholds for single exposure a demanding task. DoA is the most researched welfare indicator for animals transported in containers. It is an iceberg indicator, not precise, but feasible for inspections and investigation of infringements.

It was agreed to keep possible recommendations in mind when drafting assessment of Welfare Consequences. When assessing literature, quantitative data to support recommendations on temperature, space allowance and journey time should be extracted. It was further agreed to use, when possible, space allowance measured by cm²/kg animal and Temperature Humidity Index (THI) in recommendations.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Assessment of homework input

The WG assessed input on the WC Restriction of movement for rabbits. Based on this discussion, a short guide on how to draft these sections was developed:

WC: (1/2-1 page) Give a description tailored to scenario (animal category, stage of transport), focus first on what is the need of the animal, then assess current practices. Also describe WCs that interact/share hazards (such as restriction of movement and heat stress both being influenced by space allowance). All types of ABMs (feasible, non-feasible) that are used to support the conclusions are described here.

ABMs: (short section) This section is on feasible ABM(s) and give guidance on which ABM to use for inspections and how to use it. There are tables of ABMs for each WC in the general section. Here shortly to summarize the information in this table and focus on species-specificities.

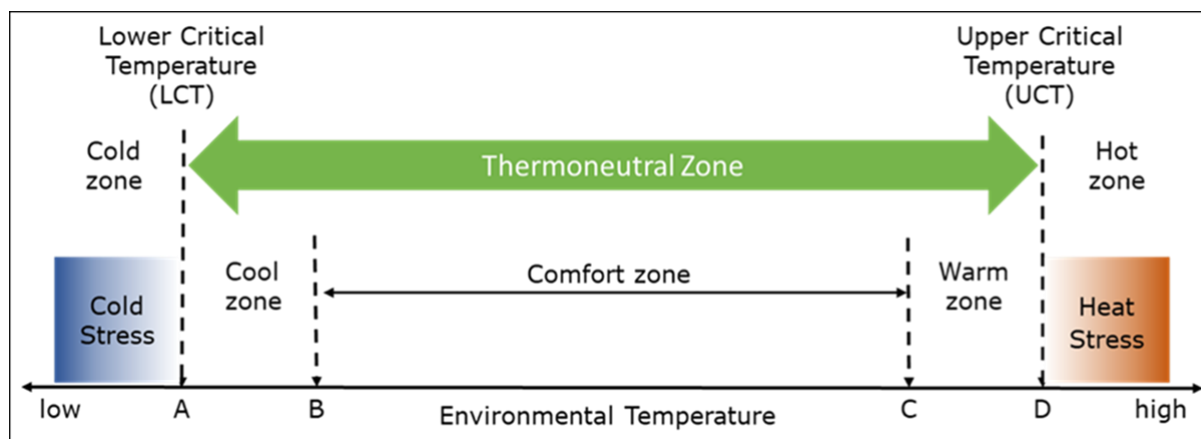
Hazards: (short section) 2-3 lines about the hazard (e.g. a space allowance X) as well as the origin of the hazard.

Preventive/corrective measures: (1/2-1 page) This section should be longer than the hazard section. Elaboration in this section will relate also to hazards and origin of hazards.

Conclusions and recommendations have a designated chapter. Possible/suggested conclusions and recommendations should be kept in the relevant species-specific sections during the drafting stage (after the relevant support/ reasoning), but possibly be moved later.

How to extract data – WC Heat stress as an example

Olaf M. Schulz from AMU joined the meeting and gave advice on how to structure what can be found in literature. The starting point for this discussion was a figure used in recent slaughter opinions (EFSA, 2019) and discussed also by the free moving WG in their previous meeting:



Next steps

The Working Group decided to do the animal categories end of lay hens, broilers and rabbits first and to focus on the WCs Heat stress, Cold stress, Restriction of movement, Prolonged hunger and Prolonged thirst, as they are affected by temperature (THI), space allowance (m²/kg animal) and journey duration. In order to adopt the opinion by the deadline (June 2022), the importance of progress in drafting was emphasized. It was agreed to schedule two additional Working Group meetings for autumn 2021 in order to accommodate workload.

Task distribution for next WG meeting

As homework for next meeting, experts were asked to continue drafting assessment of Welfare Consequences in their species-specific sections, including the ABMs, hazards, preventive and corrective measures.

6. Next meeting

The 9th WG meeting is scheduled for 3rd September 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 7th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 20 May 2021

(Agreed on 1st June 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mimi Kalcheva

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

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http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 6th Working Group meeting](#) held on 21st April 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 28th April 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Revision of outcome tables for all species

The outcome table for road transport of broilers was assessed and some adjustments made. The rest of the outcome tables were then assessed, aligning them with broiler table and discussing where there were species-specific differences.

Some adjustments were made in the description of preventive and corrective measures for the Welfare Consequence "Heat stress" to emphasize that journeys should be planned to avoid stops. If stops are required, preventive measures are to seek shade and provide ventilation.

It was agreed to assess the soft tissue and integument damage together with the bone lesions for all animal categories, as the literature and assessment will mainly be the same for both. To be in line with the agreed common list of Welfare Consequences, it will be made clear in the text that "injuries" incorporates these two WCs.

It was agreed that in the draft outcome tables "hazard origin" should identify the management or resource based origins, such as "staff" or "container", without elaborating on the topic. The columns for hazards and preventive measures should be used for providing more detailed information.

For day old chicks it was decided to merge road and air transport into one outcome table. Day old chicks of all relevant species will be assessed in the chapter on day old chicks.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Discussion on draft Scientific Opinion: Assessment of Welfare Consequences, structure of opinion

As homework experts had started drafting assessment of the Welfare Consequences of the loading stage. The Working Group assessed the input and discussed the implications for future work, including possible changes in the structure of the draft opinion.

It was agreed to use the term "container" in the Scientific Opinion. This is defined in the transport regulation as *"any crate, box, receptacle or other rigid structure used for the transport of animals which is not a means of transport."* When needed to specify, the term "crate" should be used and not "cage".

The WG discussed how to structure the text into common sections and species-specific sections. It is desirable to have common sections to avoid repetition. At the same time, references often relate to a specific species, making it difficult to do common assessment. It was agreed to continue using the current structure and to create descriptive common chapters on the preparation, loading/unloading and journey stage.

It was agreed to insert a table describing the Animal Based Measures (ABMs) for each Welfare Consequence.

Task distribution for next WG meeting

As homework for next meeting, experts were asked to continue drafting assessment of Welfare Consequences in their species-specific sections, including the ABMs, hazards, preventive and corrective measures. In order to gain from each other's work, it was agreed that each expert starts with a different Welfare Consequence.

6. Next meeting

The 8th WG meeting is scheduled for 21 June 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 21 April 2021

(Agreed on 28th April 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

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2. Adoption of agenda

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3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

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4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting

The [minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting](#) held on 25 March 2021 by Teams conference were agreed by written procedure on 12th April 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Feedback from the Task Force and European Commission meeting

A power point summarizing the main points from the previous Task Force meeting 12 April, were presented:

- Feedback from the European Commission was that they would like to have recommendations on exposure variables (e.g. space, temperature), in particular those that are easily to measure during inspections. Past experience in legislation indicates that many resource based indicators are effective in delivering good welfare outcomes even though they may not always be adequate. ABMs should be used for completion of information and are also needed for welfare monitoring purposes and might form the basis of legislation if they are feasible to measure on a large scale in practice (e.g. iceberg ABMs).
- Update on Task Force decisions on the methodology for the specific ToRs: For these, extra efforts will be made to extract literature data in order to establish the relationship between ABMs and WCs and to provide quantitative recommendations on levels of ABMs and possibly also the related exposure variables. This methodology will rely on EKEs (Expert Knowledge Elicitation) where data are scarce.

The Working Group discussed the way forward and specifically whether additional experts would be needed for the EKE on end of lay hens. It was agreed to put on the agenda for next WG meeting to identify the questions most relevant to address for this specific ToR, then to decide the need for additional expertise for EKE.

The Working Group confirmed their agreement from 5th meeting to proceed with the development of the opinion focusing on the common ToRs and to leave the specific scenario for when the methodology has been decided upon and tested in other WGs, which have several specific scenarios.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Revision of outcome table for broilers

The outcome table for road transport of broilers was reviewed and adjustments made. This table will be the template for all animal categories and differences between them should be identified when experts revise the individual tables. Relevant points from the discussion:

- ABMs in the table: All validated ABMs should be used to support conclusions and recommendations, while ABMs feasible for inspection purposes or with the potential to be feasible in the future should be selected for recommendations and for specific ToR methodology (EKE).
- Preventive measures: Following discussion and input from the laying hens WG it was agreed to consider as preventive measures directed at the hazard that can be applied before the WC is present, either to prevent the WC from occurring at all, but also to reduce the magnitude of an "unavoidable" WC, such as handling stress when catching birds.

Discussion on draft Scientific Opinion: Common ToRs, literature review and structure of opinion

An example of assessment of a WC for the common ToRs, based on the draft opinion for WG on welfare of calves, was presented and discussed. The experts agreed to use this example as guidance when writing the assessment of the WCs for the loading stage.

Following a presentation of the literature search that EFSA staff had carried out, experts agreed to screen the results based on abstracts and to start reviewing the papers, adding extra papers as appropriate.

The Working Group looked at the draft opinion and discussed further on the structure with an aim of avoiding too much repetition. To group animals transported to slaughter and animals transported for other purposes in two main chapters and to assess each welfare consequence once, covering all scenarios, were discussed as alternative structures. It was agreed to continue with the current structure with a view to simplifying/grouping chapters at a later stage.

Task distribution for next WG meeting

As preparation for next meeting, the experts were asked to

- Update their outcome tables according to the revised broiler outcome table, specifically taking note of where there are species specific differences that should be addressed in the opinion.
- Screen the literature references, provide additional papers as needed and report back to EFSA staff on what papers should be retrieved for further assessment.
- Draft common ToR assessment of WCs for the loading stage: Handling stress, injuries and sensorial over/under-stimulation, using the example provided as a guideline.

6. Next meeting

The 7th WG meeting is scheduled for 20 May 2021 (9-17) by Teams conference.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 5th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 25 March 2021

(Agreed on 12th April 2021)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio C. Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Mette Herskin

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Claire Weeks

Marien Gerritzen

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Mimi Kalcheva

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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 26 February 2021, TELE-conference (Teams).

The [minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 8th February 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Agreed and consistent approach for selection of WCs

After discussion of relevant examples, the WG changed their approach for selection of WCs from selecting a given WC only in the stage where it becomes newly apparent to selecting the WC also in the stage(s) where severity is increased as a result of an identifiable hazard occurring during that stage. This approach was in accordance with the approach taken by the transport of animals (free moving) WG.

Following the changes in rationale for selection of WC, some adjustments were made to the final selection of relevant WCs. The excel table showing the combined results of the WC selection for all scenarios was amended accordingly.

- For the animal categories ducks and geese, end of lay, rabbit, turkey, quail and broilers the WCs soft tissue lesions and integument damage and bone lesions were identified as relevant for the journey stage. The reasoning was that the journey stage likely will increase the magnitude of these WCs due to specific hazards such as movement of the truck and also the increased duration of this WC increases its magnitude in this stage.

The WCs soft tissue lesions and integument damage and bone lesions were considered not relevant for game birds due to discussion on agreement in the WG that transport of these birds is comparable to transport of pullets rather than transport for slaughter.

- The WC Restriction of movement was no longer identified as relevant for the loading stage following the rationale that although the loading stage is where this WC arise (from overcrowding the cages), this WC only becomes severe as journey progresses.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Stocking density is a relevant hazard for other WCs such as heat stress, but the WC restriction of movement as such was not considered clearly relevant by all experts. It was agreed to still consider this WC relevant for the journey stage in order to further assess it.

Discussion on outcome tables with emphasis on identifying hazards and ABMs

As homework the experts had populated the outcome tables for the different scenarios. The proposed hazards and ABMs for broilers and rabbits were discussed in the WG and adjustments made. These outcome tables will serve as examples for the rest of the animal categories.

Selection of ABMs: The WG agreed to list focus mainly on feasible ABMs, meaning ABMs that can be observed/measured in practice, such as dead animals, panting etc. References of other scientifically validated ABMs, such as blood parameters, can still be used in the assessment as support for conclusions.

Information on methodology for the specific scenarios

For the specific scenarios, the ABMs are to be assessed more thoroughly as there is a request for detailed (quantitative) recommendations. This WG will enter into the methodology foreseen for the specific scenarios in a while, following the development in the free moving WG and joining them in the scenario 4, which relates to end of production animals. Here, end of lay hens will be assessed using the same methodology as cull cows and cull sows.

Discussion on draft Scientific Opinion

In the 4th meeting, it was agreed to re-structure the draft SO as follows: Broilers, turkeys, pullets, ducks and geese, game birds, quail and rabbits are grouped together for part of the assessment. The transport practices and WCs selected for each stage of transport (which will be common for the animal categories that are grouped together) will be defined and described in a general chapter/section, followed by separate chapters/sub chapters for each animal category. Day old chicks and End of lay hens have entirely separate chapters. A revised draft was presented and discussed. The WG agreed to proceed with the current draft and to focus on both the common sections and the species specific ones.

Task distribution for preparing next WG meeting

As preparation for next meeting, the experts were asked to start the assessment of WCs, hazards and ABMs that have been identified for the different animal categories.

6. Next meeting

The 6th WG meeting is scheduled for 21 April 2021 (9-17).



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 26 February 2021

(Agreed on 8th March 2021)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
 - Antonio C. Velarde (Chair)
 - Mette Herskin
 - Julio Alvarez Sanchez
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova

- Hearing Experts³:
 - Claire Weeks
 - Marien Gerritzen

- EFSA:
 - APLHA Unit:
 - Maria V. Veggeland
 - Sean Ashe
 - Mimi Kalcheva
 - Cristina Rapagna

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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Virginie Michel.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

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4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 26 January 2021, TELE-conference (Teams).

The [minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 2nd February 2021.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Discussion on revised list of welfare consequences

A few minor adjustments to the proposed common list of welfare consequences were presented. The WG took note of the fact that death, being widely used as an animal based measure in animal transport, is an overarching WC, described as follows in the list: *Several welfare consequences are accompanied by negative states at extreme magnitude such as pain, distress, fear etc and can ultimately lead to death. For these opinions, death is not considered as a separate welfare consequence but it may be reflected in mortality as an ABM of some WCs (e.g heat stress, handling stress).*

Discussion and final selection of welfare consequences for remaining scenarios

The results from the experts' individual ranking of relevant WCs for the scenarios road transport of ducks and geese, pullets, quail, game birds, end of lay hens and turkeys were presented by Julio Alvarez. Results were discussed with special emphasis to where individual ranking showed some variation among experts. Final selection of relevant WCs were done, considering the prevalence x duration x severity. The results were then discussed across all animal categories with a special view to apply the same reasoning across animal categories.

- For the stage of loading and unloading, the welfare consequences Handling stress, Soft tissue lesions and integument damage, Bone lesions, Sensorial under/over- stimulation and Restriction of movement were selected as clearly relevant WCs for broilers, turkeys, ducks and geese, end of lay hens, rabbits, quail and game birds. For pullets, the same WCs expect lesions (soft tissue and bone) were selected. For day old chicks, the WCs Cold stress, Handling stress and Sensorial stress were selected.

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⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

- For the journey stage, the Working Group selected Cold Stress, Heat stress, Prolonged thirst, Prolonged Hunger, Motion stress, Restriction of movement, Resting problems and Sensorial over/under-stimulation as clearly relevant WCs for broilers, turkeys, ducks and geese, end of lay hens, rabbits, quail, game birds and pullets. For day old chicks, the WCs Prolonged hunger, Prolonged thirst and Motion stress were selected for road transport and the WC Heat stress was added to these when considering air transport.

Feedback from the EC and discussion on draft Scientific Opinion

Feedback from the European Commission on EFSA's approach on the F2F mandates was presented to the WG. In summary, the EC would like clear recommendations from EFSA on how to improve animal welfare during transport. Expert opinion is welcome when literature is insufficient. Opinions should be kept relatively short, focusing on the main issues and avoiding unnecessary repetition.

The WG assessed the structure of the draft SO and made some changes based on the feedback from the EC and the results from the selection of WCs. Some main points from this discussion. It was agreed to re-structure the draft SO as follows: Broilers, turkeys, pullets, ducks and geese, game birds, quail and rabbits are grouped together for part of the assessment. The transport practices and WCs selected for each stage of transport (which will be common for the animal categories that are grouped together) will be defined and described in a general chapter/section, followed by separate chapters/sub chapters for each animal category. Day old chicks and End of lay hens have entirely separate chapters. A revised draft SO will be prepared in time for next WG meeting.

The WG also decided on a structure for outcome tables, and to start populating these tables as the next step in the assessment process. The recent EFSA opinions on slaughter of rabbits and poultry (arrival stage) should be kept in mind when populating the tables and used as reference when appropriate.

6. Next meeting

The 5th WG meeting is scheduled for 25 March 2021 (9-17).



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 27 January 2021

(Agreed on 2 February 2021)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
 - Antonio C. Velarde (Chair)
 - Virginie Michel
 - Mette Herskin
 - Julio Alvarez Sanchez
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova
- Hearing Experts³:
 - Claire Weeks
 - Marien Gerritzen
- EFSA:
 - APLHA Unit:
 - Maria V. Veggeland
 - Sean Ashe
 - Denise Candiani
 - Mimi Kalcheva
 - Cristina Rapagna

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ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 4th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 26 February 2021

(Agreed on 8th March 2021)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
 - Antonio C. Velarde (Chair)
 - Mette Herskin
 - Julio Alvarez Sanchez
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova

- Hearing Experts³:
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1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Virginie Michel.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

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The results from the experts' individual ranking of relevant WCs for the scenarios road transport of ducks and geese, pullets, quail, game birds, end of lay hens and turkeys were presented by Julio Alvarez. Results were discussed with special emphasis to where individual ranking showed some variation among experts. Final selection of relevant WCs were done, considering the prevalence x duration x severity. The results were then discussed across all animal categories with a special view to apply the same reasoning across animal categories.

- For the stage of loading and unloading, the welfare consequences Handling stress, Soft tissue lesions and integument damage, Bone lesions, Sensorial under/over- stimulation and Restriction of movement were selected as clearly relevant WCs for broilers, turkeys, ducks and geese, end of lay hens, rabbits, quail and game birds. For pullets, the same WCs expect lesions (soft tissue and bone) were selected. For day old chicks, the WCs Cold stress, Handling stress and Sensorial stress were selected.

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- For the journey stage, the Working Group selected Cold Stress, Heat stress, Prolonged thirst, Prolonged Hunger, Motion stress, Restriction of movement, Resting problems and Sensorial over/under-stimulation as clearly relevant WCs for broilers, turkeys, ducks and geese, end of lay hens, rabbits, quail, game birds and pullets. For day old chicks, the WCs Prolonged hunger, Prolonged thirst and Motion stress were selected for road transport and the WC Heat stress was added to these when considering air transport.

Feedback from the EC and discussion on draft Scientific Opinion

Feedback from the European Commission on EFSA's approach on the F2F mandates was presented to the WG. In summary, the EC would like clear recommendations from EFSA on how to improve animal welfare during transport. Expert opinion is welcome when literature is insufficient. Opinions should be kept relatively short, focusing on the main issues and avoiding unnecessary repetition.

The WG assessed the structure of the draft SO and made some changes based on the feedback from the EC and the results from the selection of WCs. Some main points from this discussion. It was agreed to re-structure the draft SO as follows: Broilers, turkeys, pullets, ducks and geese, game birds, quail and rabbits are grouped together for part of the assessment. The transport practices and WCs selected for each stage of transport (which will be common for the animal categories that are grouped together) will be defined and described in a general chapter/section, followed by separate chapters/sub chapters for each animal category. Day old chicks and End of lay hens have entirely separate chapters. A revised draft SO will be prepared in time for next WG meeting.

The WG also decided on a structure for outcome tables, and to start populating these tables as the next step in the assessment process. The recent EFSA opinions on slaughter of rabbits and poultry (arrival stage) should be kept in mind when populating the tables and used as reference when appropriate.

6. Next meeting

The 5th WG meeting is scheduled for 25 March 2021 (9-17).

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 17 December 2020, TELE-conference (Teams).

The [minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 22 December 2020.

5. Scientific topics for discussion

Discussion on revised list of welfare consequences

A revised list of welfare consequences was presented to and discussed by the Working Group.

It was agreed to consider welfare consequences at the stage where they appear, e.g. to select injuries due to catching and crating of animals under the stage of loading (which includes catching and crating, and not to consider welfare consequences already present before transport (e.g. skin disorders, locomotion problems) as welfare consequences of transport. Furthermore, it was decided to describe the stage of preparation narratively only, focusing on fitness for transport and preventive and corrective measures. The welfare consequence "Motion stress" was agreed to assess in the journey stage only.

Discussion and final selection of welfare consequences for some scenarios

The results from the experts' individual ranking of relevant welfare consequences for the scenarios for broilers and day old chicks scenario were presented by Julio Alvarez. Results were discussed with special emphasis to where individual ranking showed some disagreement among experts. Final selection of relevant welfare consequences were made, considering the *prevalence x duration x severity*.

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Selection of not applicable and negligible welfare consequences for remaining scenarios

The Working Group decided on the clearly relevant, not applicable and the negligible Welfare Consequences for the following scenarios: Road transport of the following animal categories: Pullets, End of lay hens, Turkeys, Ducks and Geese, Quail, Game birds, Day old chicks, Rabbits. Air transport of Day old chicks. The remaining welfare consequences were left for the experts to rank individually as homework for next meeting. Discussion and final decision on selected welfare consequences for these scenarios will be on the agenda for the 4th Working Group Meeting.

Discussion on draft Scientific Opinion

The draft Scientific Opinion, where experts had provided input as homework, was considered. Before next Working Group meeting, the experts were asked to continue writing descriptions of the different transport scenarios in Chapter 3 ("Assessment").

6. Next meeting

The next Working Group meeting was planned for 26 February 2021 as a WEB conference (Teams) 9h-17h.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 2nd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 17 December 2020

(Agreed on 22 December 2020)¹

Participants

- Working Group Members:²
 - Antonio C. Velarde (Chair)
 - Virginie Michel
 - Mette Herskin
 - Julio Alvarez Sanchez
 - Leonardo J. Vinco
 - Eva Voslarova
- Hearing Experts³:
 - Claire Weeks
- EFSA:
 - APLHA Unit:
 - Maria V. Veggeland
 - Sean Ashe
 - Denise Candiani
 - Mimi Kalcheva
 - Cristina Rapagna
 - Olaf Mosbach-Schulz

¹ Minutes should be published within 15 working days of the final day of the relevant meeting.

² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

³ As defined in Article 15 of the Decision of the Executive Director concerning the selection of members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and the selection of external experts to assist EFSA with its scientific work:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Marien Gerritzen.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 1 st Working Group meeting held on 13 November 2020, TELE-conference (Teams).

The [minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting](#) were agreed by written procedure on 25 November 2020.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Discussion on revised list of welfare consequences

A revised list of welfare consequences was presented to and discussed by the Working Group. The inclusion of the new welfare consequence "Motion stress" is particularly relevant to the transport mandates.

Presentation of methodology to be used when selecting the most relevant welfare consequences and discussion of methodology

The methodology to be used for selection of the most relevant welfare consequences per transport scenario was presented by and discussed with Olaf Mosbach-Schulz (from EFSA Unit on Assessment & Methodologies). The full list of welfare consequences is to be assessed by the experts with the aim of identifying a maximum of 5 welfare consequences that are the most relevant ones for each transport scenario. To decide which welfare consequences are irrelevant, a mental exercise considering the *prevalence x duration x severity* should be done for each welfare consequence.

One transport scenario (transport of broilers by road) was used to practice the agreed methodology. More scenarios were then done in the same way: for each stage of a transport scenario, the Working Group experts decided on which welfare consequences that clearly did not apply, those that were clearly not relevant and those that were clearly relevant. The remaining welfare consequences will be further discussed in the Working

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

Group with the aim to identify the appropriate number welfare consequences to assess and with a particular focus on the uncertainty analysis.

Describing current transport practices in narrative text

Before next Working Group meeting, the experts were asked to start writing descriptions of the different transport scenarios in the draft Scientific Opinion Chapter 3 (“Assessment”).

Common procedure for hearing experts’ contributions

A procedure for hearing expert’s contributions, to be used in all animal welfare working group under the Farm to Fork mandates, was presented. This procedure was developed to ensure that the chair assesses and approves input from hearing experts.

6. Next meeting

The next Working Group meeting was planned for 27 January 2021 as a WEB conference (Teams) 9h-17h.



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH UNIT

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL WELFARE

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT OF CAGED SPECIES

WEB-conference (Teams), 13 November 2020

(Agreed on 25 November 2020)¹

Participants

■ Working Group Members:²

Antonio C. Velarde (Chair)

Virginie Michel

Leonardo J. Vinco

Eva Voslarova

■ Hearing Experts³:

Marien Gerritzen

Claire Weeks

■ EFSA:

APLHA Unit:

Maria V. Veggeland

Sean Ashe

Denise Candiani

Mimi Kalcheva

Cristina Rapagna

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² Indicate first full name and then surname (John Smith) all throughout the document.

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http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/expertselection.pdf

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management⁵, EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Presentation and discussion of mandate

The mandate [2020 – 0118⁶](#) on protection of animals during transport – animals transported in containers was introduced in a power point. The Working Group discussed the mandate, particularly the scope/extent.

Presentation and discussion of methodology

The role and result of the Task Force, established to ensure a common approach across the different Farm 2 Fork mandates on animal welfare, was presented. Principles in Risk Assessment in animal welfare, welfare consequences, hazards, Animal Based Measures (ABM), outcome tables was presented and discussed.

Discussion on animal categories

The Working Group discussed and identified animal categories to be assessed under the mandate.

Discussion on welfare consequences

A list of welfare consequences suggested by the Task Force, was introduced and assessed according to the mandate.

Structure of Scientific Opinion

A draft structure of the Scientific Opinion was discussed. The draft adopted the recent structure of slaughter opinions; to go by the Welfare Consequences. A slightly different structure was proposed, to align the structure with the structure proposed for the

⁴ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

⁵ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf

⁶ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00482>

mandates on husbandry systems for pigs, calves and poultry. It was agreed to adapt the structure accordingly.

5. Next meeting

The next Working Group meeting was planned for 17 December 2020 as a WEB conference (Teams) 9-17.