

Vehicle Structure

2.2 Ventilation Inspection

Sufficient apertures must be provided in the walls of the transport vehicle to provide adequate ventilation for the animals.

Sufficient space must be provided inside the animals' compartment and at each of its levels (tiers) to ensure that there is adequate ventilation above the animals when they are in their natural standing position. Apertures suitable for the inspection of animals during transport should be provided.

2.3 Roofs

The vehicle should be fitted with a strong, weatherproof roof which protects all animals on board and which prevents them from escaping. Care must be exercised, however, as the placing of a roof on an existing vehicle may compromise ventilation requirements.

2.4 Ramps

Suitable equipment for loading i.e. ramps including the slats; bridges; gangways and side-protection gates, must be used and must be sufficiently well maintained to prevent slipping, tripping or injuries. While a ramp must be used for loading and unloading they need not be attached to the vehicle. The recommended ramp angle is 20° from the horizontal for most species. If possible, pigs should be unloaded on the flat. Ramp-to-vehicle or ramp-to-ground steps should not be more than 21cm in height.

2.5 Partitions

Sound partitions should be used to divide compartments to protect the animals from vehicle motion when stocking density is low and from smothering when the capacity and the stocking density is high.

3. Vehicle Cleanliness

Vehicles must be thoroughly clean prior to loading and, where appropriate, disinfected.

In multilevel transport vehicles, floors should be impervious to excreta to prevent animals below becoming soiled.

Scope

These guidelines apply to the transport of all species of vertebrate animals, including poultry, and to all transport vehicles.

References

Diseases of Animals (Protection of Animals during Transport) Order, 1995. (S.I. No.98 of 1995) and

Diseases of Animals (Protection of Animals during Transport) Amendment Order, 1997. (S.I. No.326 of 1997)

For Further Information

Please contact your local District Veterinary Office



THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FOOD &
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA,
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Guidelines* For Animal Welfare During Transport Within Ireland



*The guidelines do not purport to be
an interpretation of the legislation

Introduction

1 Livestock Handling

Transport can be stressful for animals. Animals need to be fit for the journey, should be handled and transported humanely, and should arrive safely.

Transporters in particular, as persons in charge of the animals, are legally obliged to ensure that the welfare of animals is safeguarded during transport, including at loading or unloading. It is less likely that animals will succumb to injury or disease if good standards of welfare are observed.

2 Vehicle Structure

The vehicle should be safe for the animals and well maintained to reduce the risk of discomfort or injury during transport. Transporters are advised that special care must be taken during loading and unloading.

3 Cleanliness

Vehicles should be clean at the time of loading.

1. Livestock Handling

In general, anyone involved in the transport of animals is legally obliged to handle them with care and not to mistreat them. Animals must not be transported in such a way as is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering.

During transport, including at loading and unloading, animals must not be suspended by mechanical means, nor lifted or dragged by the head, horns, ears, legs, tail or fleece. (Note: poultry may be lifted briefly with due care by both legs).

Livestock Handling

1.1 Fitness to Travel

It is illegal for anyone to cause or permit the transport of animals unless they are fit for the intended journey and unless suitable provision is made for their care during the journey and on arrival at their place of destination.

An animal *may* be unfit to travel if it is new-born*, aged, diseased, ill, injured or fatigued or if it has given birth within the preceding 48 hours or likely to give birth during transport. Navels of new-born animals must be dry and fully healed. (*= animals under 7 days of age should not be presented for public sale at a mart)

However, it is permitted that animals which are only slightly ill or injured may be transported, so long as the transport will not cause them unnecessary suffering.

1.2 Segregation during Transport

Horned and polled animals should be separated during transport. (Note: Horned animals may not be presented for public sale at a mart). Un-castrated adult males should be separated from females during transport.

Adults and young animals should be kept separate, except for females travelling with their young which they suckle.

1.3 Tethering during Transport

Where animals are tied, the ropes should be strong enough not to break during transport. The rope should be long enough to allow the animal to lie down, eat or drink, though not to put the animal at any risk of injury or strangulation.

Animals should not be tied by the horns or nose.

Livestock Handling

1.4 Space

The transporter must ensure that the vehicle is not overcrowded and that the animals are accommodated in such a way as to avoid any risk of injury or unnecessary suffering.

Animals must be provided with adequate space to stand in their natural position and, where necessary, partitions should be used to protect the animals from injury due to vehicle motion. Sheep and cattle require sufficient space so that if one lies down it can stand up again. Young calves, lambs and pigs need sufficient space so that all can lie down at the same time.

2. Vehicle Structure

The vehicle must ensure livestock safety during loading, transit and unloading. The vehicle must protect the livestock from unnecessary suffering, injury and from the weather.

2.1 Maintenance

The vehicle must be escape-proof and sufficiently strong to bear the weight of the species it is to carry. The walls, partitions, floors and side-protection gates must be free of any sharp edges, protrusions, gaps, holes and spaces that are likely to cause injury. Slippery conditions on floors must be avoided.