

Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land and sea

State of Kuwait

Abdullah Mubarak Al Bathal

Director of Animal Health Department

Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa

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World Organisation
for Animal Health

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Overview of country livestock transport and trade

| Domestic animals species | Countries of export(trading countries) | Route(sea and land) | Quarantine stations |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| Male Sheep and goat for slaughter | Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, GCC , Middle East, South Africa | Sea & land | Shuwaikh |
| Male Cattle for slaughter | Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, South Africa | Sea & land | Shuwaikh |
| Male camels for slaughter | Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti | Sea & land | Shuwaikh |
| Dairy cattle for breeding & milking | Australia | Sea & land | Shuwaik/ Abdallia |
| Sheep and goats for breeding | GCC , Middle East | Land | Salmi, Nousib |

| Animals | Number of Animals imported during Jan- Jun 2023 |
|---------|---|
| Cattle | 1115 |
| Sheep | 417965 |
| Goat | 801 |



Competent Authority(ies)

- For importing animals, Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAF), State of Kuwait is responsible for animal welfare during transport by land and sea.
- Establishes animal welfare standards, for inspection of animals after their travel, and for certification and record keeping;
- Approve facilities, containers, vehicles and vessels for the holding and transport of animals; competence for animal handlers and managers of facilities;
- Implements standards through interaction with other organisations and Competent Authorities; monitor and evaluate health and welfare of the animals during unloading;

The Veterinary Authority of Kuwait (PAAF) ,Ministry of Interior (security reason and exporting country (ies) and the Custom Department are involved cross-border transport of animals by land and sea.

National animal welfare standards

- Once decided to transport animals, all persons involved (**Competent authorities, Exporters, importers, owners of animals, business or buying/selling agents, shipping companies, masters of vessels and managers and animal handlers of facilities**) jointly responsible for the general health of the animals, their fitness to journey, and overall welfare during the *journey*.
- Animal inspections carried out with related activities on arrival at sea port in Kuwait are unloading, providing facilities including unloading area, holding place, feeding and watering shelter, for further transport.
- Handling of sick or injured animal according to the risk or sick, treat or humane killing if required on welfare reasons
- Cleaning and disinfection of vessel, and disposal of manure, bedding to avoid disease transmission and environment impact
- **The definition of animal ‘fitness to travel’**
- Animals examined on the day of shipment by a veterinarian and showed no clinical signs of infectious and contagious diseases, and apparently healthy and fit to travel.
- Animal welfare standards for fitness and unfit to travel established in compliance with the articles 7.2.7 &7.3.7(Pre - Journey period).
- **certification and record keeping**
- **For import on arrival to seaport or border post:**
- Shipment accompanied by the original certificate for country of origin, original veterinary health certificate of exporting country that meets sanitary requirements of Kuwait
- Other relevant documents attached by exporting country as per the articles 7.2.6 & 7.3.6(documentation)
- **For export:** Shipment accompanied by the original certificate for country of origin(Kuwait), original veterinary health certificate of Kuwait that meet sanitary requirements of exporting country.Other relevant documents attached by **exporting country as per the articles 7.2.6**

National animal welfare standards

- **Facilities:**
- **Loading** area including collecting area designed and constructed to the needs and abilities of the animals. Ventilation during loading (fresh air, humidity, removal of noxious fumes) under hot and warm conditions and provided with sufficient light.
- **Unloading area** designed and constructed to the needs and abilities of the animals, provided sufficient lighting, adequate space, quality feed, clean drinking water and shelter for extreme weather conditions.
- **Vehicles:**
- Vehicles designed, constructed and fitted as appropriate for species, size and weight of the animals, to avoid injury to animals from sharp protrusions, and avoid injuries to drivers and animal handlers while carrying out their responsibilities, protect from adverse weather, avoid escape of animals, avoid slipping by animals, easy cleaning and disinfection, ventilation, good structural and mechanical condition maintained.

National animal welfare standards

- Competence gained through formal training or practical experience, people with their responsibilities for animals during the journey are:
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 - **Animal handlers:** humane handling and care of the animals during loading and unloading, aware of animal behavior, signs of disease, stress, fatigue and their alleviation, feeding and watering and cleaning and disinfection.
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 - **Managers:** provide the followings: suitable place for loading, suitable facilities for unloading the animals onto transport vehicle for immediate movement or securely holding the animals in lairage, with shelter, water and *feed*, when required, for transit; appropriate number of animal handlers, appropriate facilities for emergencies, facilities, veterinarians or animal handlers for humane killing of animals when required,
 - and minimize stress and injury and disease transmission.
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 - **Business operators:** selection of animals that are fit to travel based on veterinary recommendations, and suitable facilities for the assembly, loading, transport, unloading and holding of animals at the start and at the end of the journey, and for emergencies.

Implementation of the standards

- Veterinary Authority (PAAF) implements animal welfare standards according to the national animal welfare regulations and Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) countries animal welfare regulations (No 115 year 2015) for animals being reared in Kuwait and movement between GCC countries.
- As an importing country, implements **WOAH Terrestrial code** requirements on Animal welfare **for transporting animals by sea** (Chapter 7.2, articles 7.2.10-7.2.12) **and by land** (chapter7.3, 7.3.10-7.3.12).
- Interact and enter with formal agreement with the exporting country (if required) and implements exporting country's animal welfare standards in the country.
- Livestock trading companies regulated and controlled and awareness created among the importing livestock companies for above said animal welfare standards for effective implementations.

Monitoring and evaluation

- As importing country, monitors and evaluate health and welfare of the animals at the point of unloading (facilities), verifying certification and documentation, sick or injured animals and cleaning and disinfection including refusal of import if arise on welfare and health reasons of animals.
- VA by regular visits on arrival shipment and inspect animals during unloading, humane handling of animals, facilities, and transport by land to the holding facilities and during slaughter.
- By organizing meetings and periodical review with the livestock importing companies for effective implementation and for ensuring that animal welfare standards meets the WOAH terrestrial code requirements and exporting country requirements..

Cross-border transport of animals

- From planning the journey until unloading and post journey (country of destination, Kuwait), all responsible people involved are competent to carry out their responsibilities for animal welfare standards as per the WOAH Terrestrial code.
- As importing country, following procedures required:
- Livestock trading companies in Kuwait should submit the request to import sheep, goats and cattle (e.g. for slaughter)
- Import permit issued upon approval of sanitary requirements by importing and exporting country
- Import permit issued for direct transport by sea or land or by transit
- Exporting country should attach original health certificate (contains general and animal health information) signed by official veterinarian, country of origin certificate. In case of transit, health certificate of transit or health certificate attestation.
- Other relevant documents such as journey travel plan and emergency management plan should be attached.

Cross-border transport of animals

- **In the event of refusal of import**

- - Unloading animals in suitable isolation facilities without posing a risk to national herds, pending resolution situation.
- - Writing urgently to the exporting country with the reason for refusal to import for animal health
- - contact WOAHA veterinarian to assess the health status of the animals, expedite for diagnostic testing.
- - continue assessment of animal health and animal welfare if required both Kuwait and exporting country contact WOAHA to mediate

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- **In the event of remaining in the vessel:**

- - provide feed and water in the vessel
- - Writing urgently to the exporting country with the reason for refusal to import for animal health
- - Contact WOAHA veterinarian to assess the health status of the animals, expedite for diagnostic testing.
- - continue assessment of animal health and animal welfare
- - if required both Kuwait and exporting country contact WOAHA to mediate
- - WOAHA mediation to identify a mutually agreed solution for animal health and welfare issues

Conclusions

- Kuwait is not exporting country (exports equines to GCC and EU, USA by air) for long distance transport of animals by sea and land. However, as main importing country, we consider that the animal welfare standards in Kuwait comply with the WOAHA terrestrial code standard.

Main gaps/weaknesses or challenges for the Competent Authority(ies) in your country to implement WOAHA standards and country legislation and requirements on animal transport.

- Livestock trading companies in Kuwait should effectively implement WOAHA standards and regularly interact, and communicate animal welfare issues to the VA.
- VA should make frequent inspections on facilities (feedlots, feeding, watering, shelter, vehicles, including local transport) maintained by the importer.
- Ensure that importing companies should have competent animal handlers and managers who able to perform their responsibilities as per WOAHA animal welfare standards.



Thank you

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