



An update on EU activities on transport of animals

Whole Journey Scenario Workshop

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Background

- First EU legislation on protection of animals during transport was Directive 77/489.
- Welfare of transported animals started to be more regulated in the early 90s.
- In 1999 the protocol of the EU “Amsterdam Treaty” defined animals as sentient beings.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport

Scope: live vertebrate animals transported in connection with an economic activity.

General technical rules

- No weak or sick animals
- Means of transport
- Loading, unloading and handling

Specific rules

- Journey times and resting periods
- Space allowances
- Additional rules for long journeys
- Livestock vessels and sea containers

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls

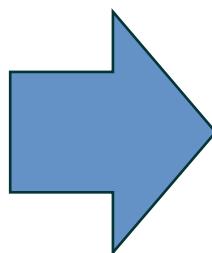
OCR repeals the Articles on checks and inspections of Regulation 1/2005

Art. 21 sets requirements related to animal welfare:

- Official controls by the Competent Authorities at all relevant stages;
- Actions and notifications in case of non-compliance;
- Allows for development and adoption of tertiary legislation:
 - Performance of official controls, administrative assistance, verification of AW at borders etc.
 - Use of indicators and measurables on AW, unified frequency of official controls etc.

Tertiary legislation on livestock vessels

- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/842 on official controls of livestock vessels
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/372 on the recording, contingency plans, approval of livestock vessels and on exit points



- Mutual teams of inspectors;
- Port State control rules;
- Visual evidence of inspections.
- Electronic database;
- Recording certificates of approval and inspections;
- Contingency plans;
- Vet on board during 1st journey;
- Control post near the exit point.

Council Regulation 1255/97 on staging point

- Requirements for feeding, watering, accommodating and resting animals for at least 24 h.
- Annex with specific criteria:
 - A. Health and hygiene measures (i.e. complete cleaning for at least 24 h after maximum 6 days)
 - B. Construction and facilities
 - C. Operations

Commission proposal for new Regulation

Background:

- Current legislation remains unchanged for 20 years;
- Scientific and technological progress has evolved;
- EU citizens' expectations are high;
- Need for modernisation and simplification;
- Commission new proposal adopted on 7 December 2023.

Key new requirements:

- Reduced journey times;
- Increased space allowances;
- Wider digitalisation and real-time traceability;
- Stricter rules on export;
- Equivalent rules at import;
- Other (i.e. sanctions etc.)

For more details: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_6251

Next steps of EU lawmaking process

Commission

Co-legislators

EU legislation

Proposed legislation

European Parliament, Council

Examine the proposal
Propose amendments
Agree on the final legislation

EFSA scientific opinions on welfare during transport



For free moving animals and animals transported in containers



EFSA key conclusions :

- **Shorter journeys;**
- **Lower upper temperatures;**
- **More space for animals.**

- <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/infographics/animal-welfare-during-transport-free-moving-animals>
- <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/infographics/animal-welfare-during-transport-animals-containers>

Commission audits on transport in 2026

- In the meantime the enforcement of the existing legislation remains a priority.
- Plan of the audits on transport by livestock vessels:
 - Ireland: February
 - Slovenia: February
 - Croatia: March
 - Spain: November (tbc)

External studies in progress

- Study on **animal welfare indicators**, delivery by September 2026
- Study on **digitalization during animal transport**, delivery by January 2026
- Study on **digital solutions for traceability of dogs and cats**, June 2026



Thank you
for your attention!