

# Work of the WOAH *ad hoc* Group on the current workplan and revision of the Terrestrial Code chapters on animal transport

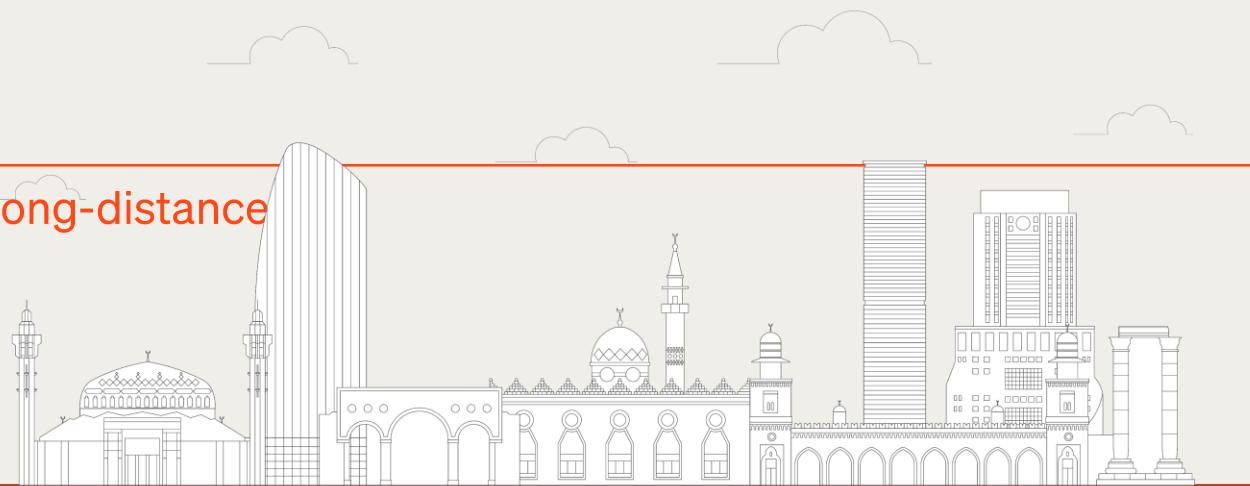
Maria Correia

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

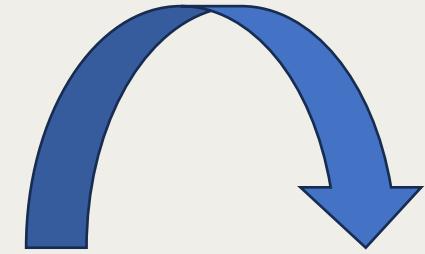
13- 15 January 2026, Amman, Jordan

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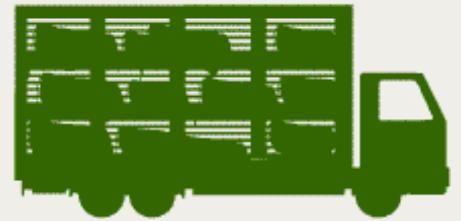
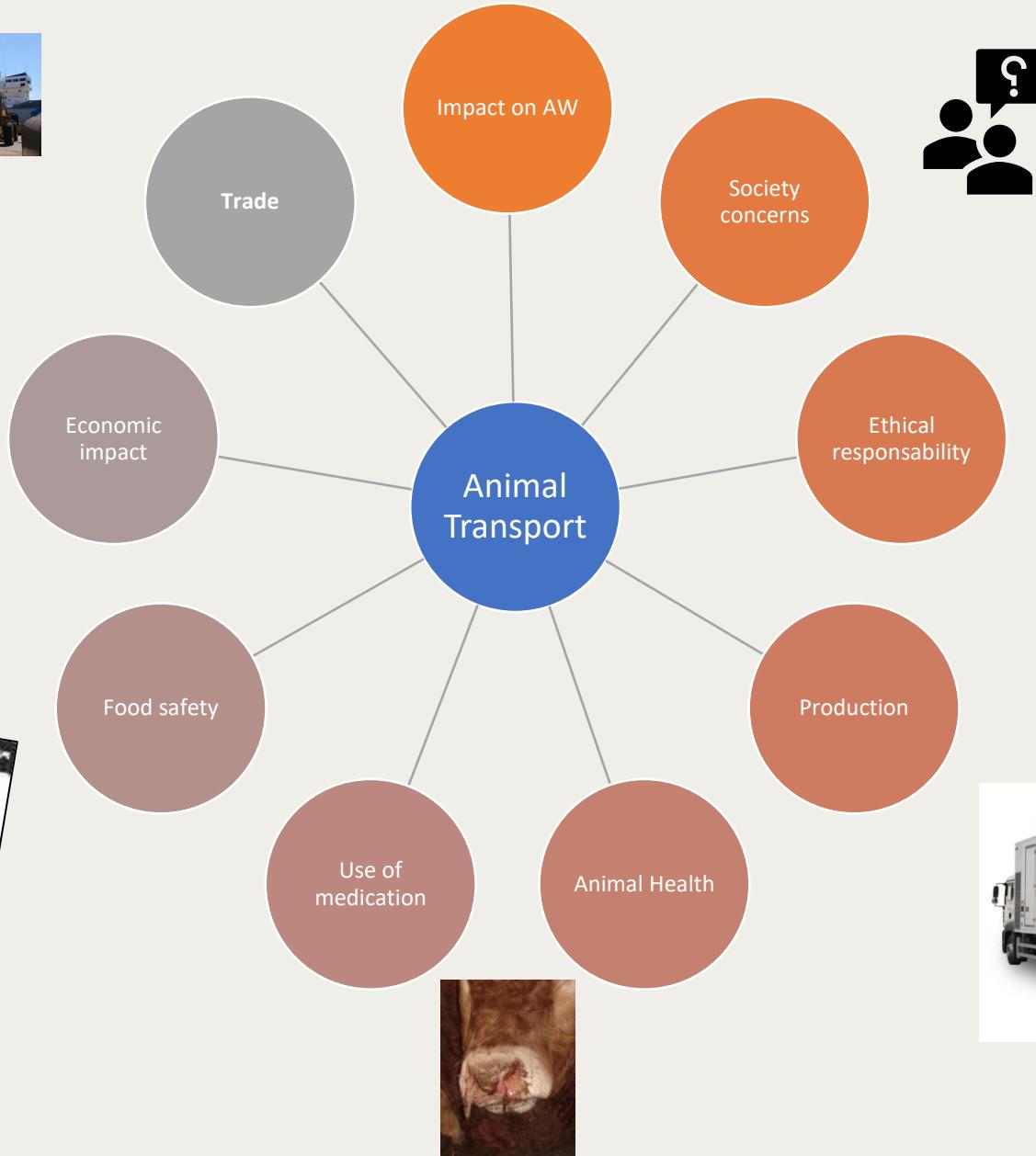


World Organisation  
for Animal Health

Transport of live animals is a **complex issue** with potential high **impact on animal welfare** and for which **societal concerns** are growing



Governments establish welfare measures



# Animal transport and trade



## Complex Operations

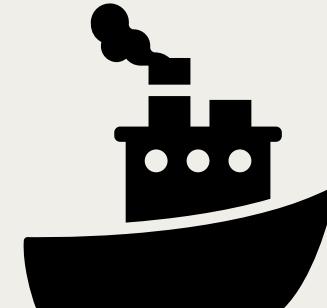
- Involves different stakeholders- transporters/exporters/importers/Farmers/organisers/CA
- Need a good planning and coordination
- **Communication between CA-Health and AW issues; Documentation**
- The importance of having good means of transports and personnel with competence as well as good management during the transport
- Contingency plans



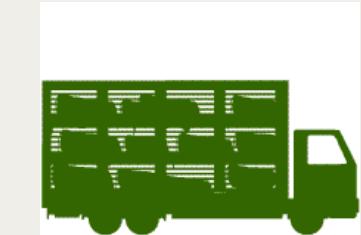
# **ANIMAL TRANSPORT CHAPTERS IN TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE**

## **SECTION 7- ANIMAL WELFARE**

**CHAPTER 7.2 - TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS  
BY SEA**



**CHAPTER 7.3.- TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY LAND**



**CHAPTER 7.4.- TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS  
BY AIR**



# WOAH standards on AW during transport play an important role on the improvement of AW during transport



BASED ON THE SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE



GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DIFERENTE TYPES OF TRANSPORT (ROAD, SEA AND AIR TRANSPORT)



DIFFERENT PHASES OF TRANSPORT AND THE MAIN CRITICAL POINTS



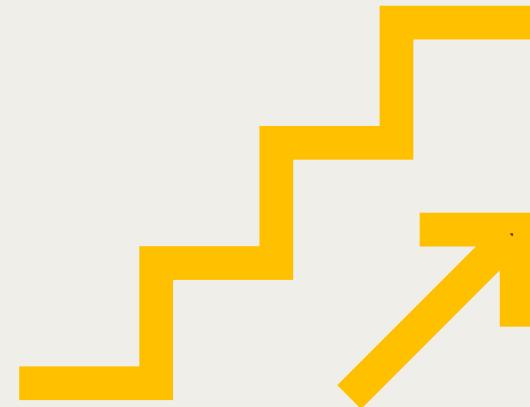
HIGHLIGHT THE SHARED RESPONSABILITIES OF THE DIFERENT STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED



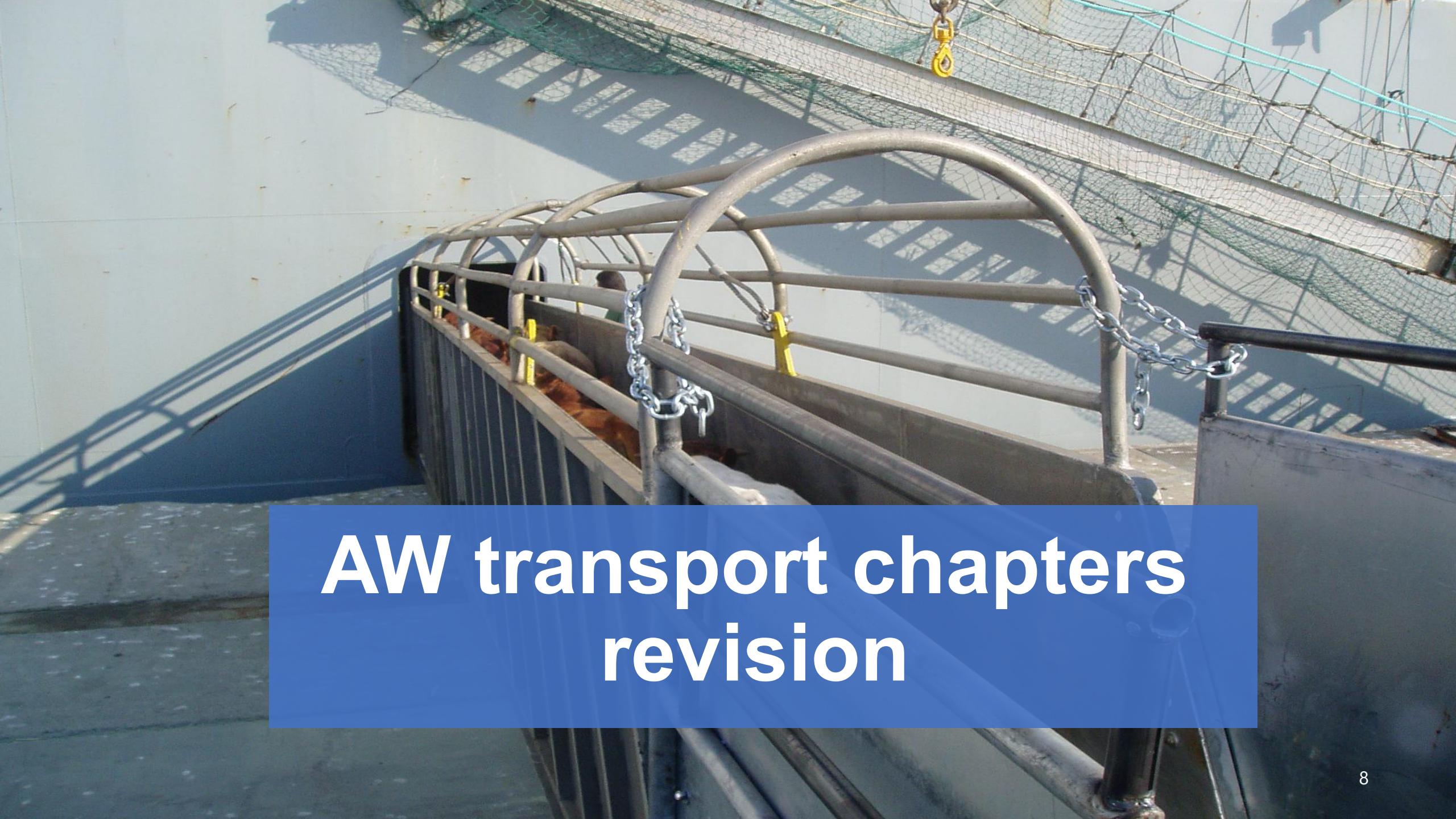
DIFFERENT REALITIES WORLD WIDE

## WOAH standards on AW during transport play an important role on the improvement of AW during transport

- ✓ Basis for the further actions at National level- enforcement of the codes- National regulatory framework or standards, guides of good practice ; development of training programs; etc
- ✓ Consideration to factors such as geographical situation, climatic, means of transport, type of production systems and species-specific requirements.
- ✓ **Relevance on the international trade of animals**
- ✓ Basis for networking/communication/cooperation among the WOAH members regarding animal transport



Gradual improvement of the AW during transport



# AW transport chapters revision



# WOAH ad hoc Group on the revision of Chapter 7.2. and 7.3. Transport of animals by sea and land

- Maria Jorge CORREIA (chair)
- Laura LAPITZ
- Jennifer WOODS
- Aidan CAHILL
- Nikki KELLS
- Johannes Shoopala
- Stanislav RALCHEV
- Barbara Paladino
- Leopoldo Stuardo
- Meetings WOAH Headquarters/online- Paris



Different realities and expertises



# AW on transport chapters revision

01

ITS A WORK IN  
PROGRESS

02

REVISED CHAPTER -  
CODE COMMISSION  
(FEBRUARY 2026  
MEETING)

03

THE CODE COMMISSION  
AND THE WOAH  
MEMBERS HAVE A VERY  
IMPORTANT ROLE ON  
THE PROGRESS OF THIS  
WORK

# Revision of the AW transport codes- TOR and objectives

Code Commission from its September 2020 meeting



General revision on Chapter 7.2 Transport of animal by sea and 7.3. – Transport of animals by land:



Significant duplication on the AW transport codes



Update with the scientifical and technical information- inconsistencies and the new areas of research that are inadequately covered in current version of the chapters;

## WHY?

Proposal- to have **just one chapter** that includes the generalities of the animal transport and the specificities of each type of transport (road, water, air): Air transport- International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommendations

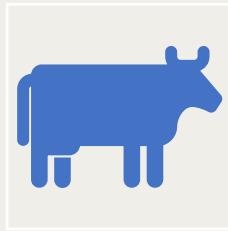


**“Animal welfare during transport”**



science based- references on the text

# Revision of the AW transport chapter- TOR and objectives



To select criteria (**animal - based measures**) for the welfare of the animals during all the transport of animals by sea and land operations



**Harmonize with other chapters**



Cover the **responsibilities and competencies** of the personnel, business operators and the Competent Authorities



Recommendations on the **preparation regarding the transport** of animals by sea and land

- ✓ Follow a similar structure of the recently revised Chapter 7.5. 'Animal welfare during slaughter',
- ✓ including 'animal-based measures' to assess the welfare of animals during the whole transport operation; However, when necessary, include design or management-based measures.

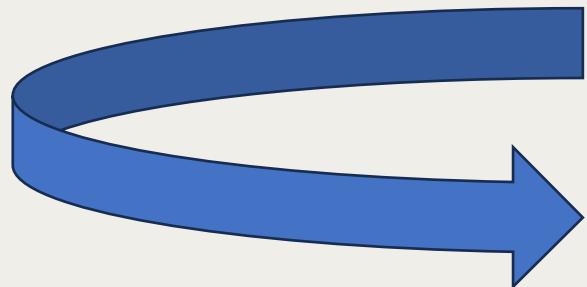
# Revision of the AW on transport codes- TOR and objectives

- ✓ **Chronological order**, aligned with what could be considered during animal transport (operations).
- ✓ The recommendations should **cover the complete journey** (even if different means of transport are involved) of an animal
- ✓ be **easy for readers**



# Scope

*These recommendations apply to the following live domesticated animals: cattle, buffaloes, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and equines. They will also be largely applicable to some other animals, e.g. deer, other camelids and ratites. Wild animals and feral animals may need different conditions*



# Proposal

**Transport by land, air, water and on foot**

**Context of commercial activity**

Apply primarily to domesticated animals, but can also be applied in general to other species.

However, **wild and captive wild animals may need different conditions**- Additional information for the transport of these species can be found at the CITES guidelines for non-air transport ([https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/resources/transport/transport\\_guidelines\\_2013-english.pdf](https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/resources/transport/transport_guidelines_2013-english.pdf) ).



## New definitions- proposals

- ❖ Align with the current scientific and practical information of the entire transport process
- ❖ Include definitions for actors involved in the operations that are carried out during animal transport and the revision of some existent definitions on the glossary

**Transport**- means the planning, preparation, the *journey* itself, and the post-journey period.

**Transporter**- means any person or company transporting animals on their own account or on behalf of a third party.

**Journey organiser**-means the person(s) or company responsible for ensuring the planning and the necessary logistical arrangements for the entire journey are made in advance, including those necessary to safeguard the animals' welfare. This could be the role of the exporter or importer, the transporter, the freight forwarder, the owner of the animals, the keeper or the driver



# Scenario

## Key actors

### er

Is the person that plans the journey- This is specially important in more complex journeys- examples transports that involve sea and road transport

Can be the person that contracts the transporter(s)

The person in contact with the CA- have all the information

Can be the person in charge of the loading Operations- contracts the personnel

Should think about the contingencies and have a plan

# Hazards for animal welfare during transport

Similar structure of the recently adopted Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter

Identify the main hazards, how to access them and the actions to minimise the impact of the hazards on the AW on transport

## Hazards

Structural of the means of transport and facilities

Inadequate planning

Inappropriate handling

## Actions

Good planning

Training and competence

Proper facilities and equipment

Maintenance and use of the premises

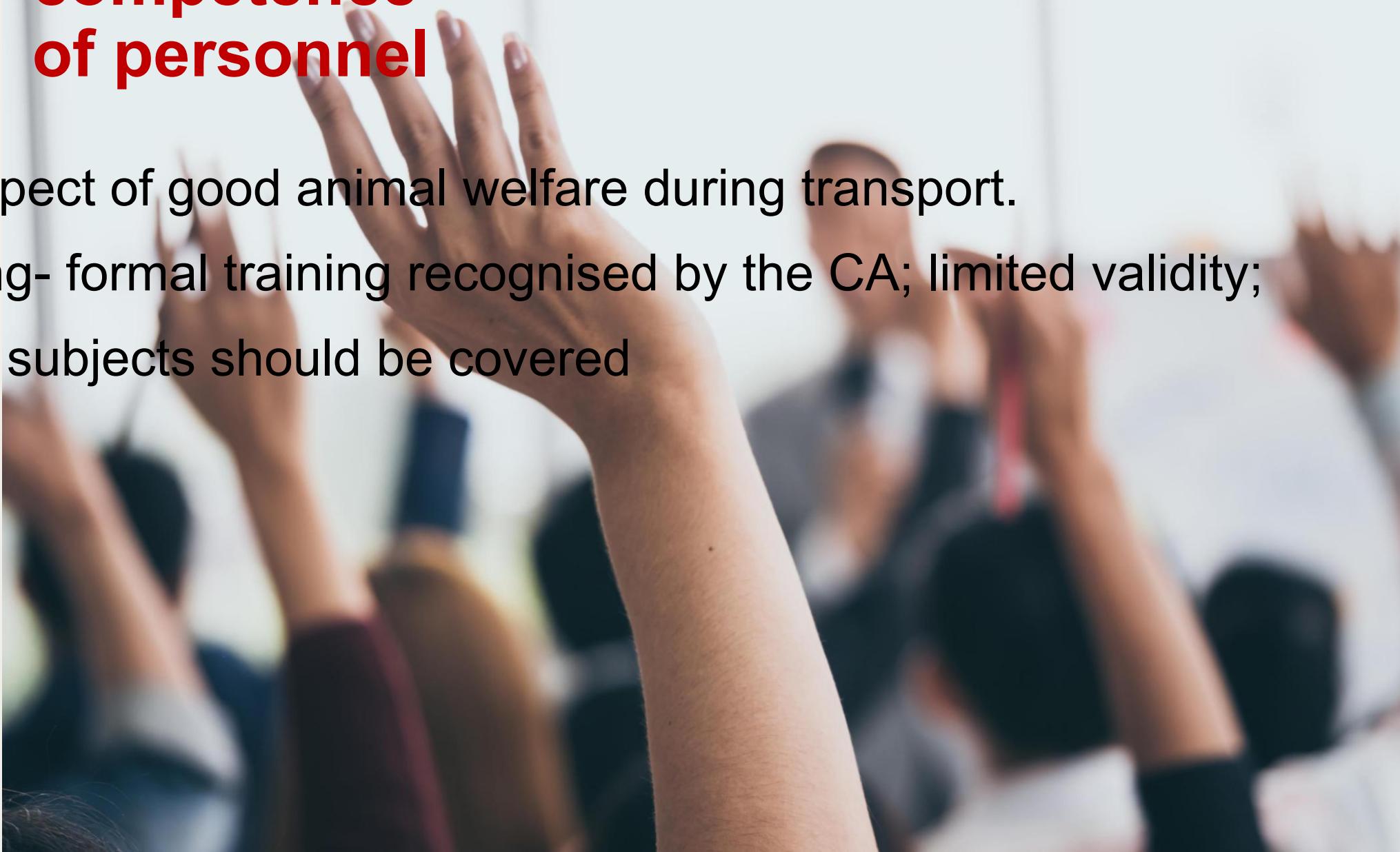
## How to access the AW- measures

- To access the welfare of animals during transport- animal, resource and management-based measures.
- Preferred the Animal based measures
- Define the measures and the thresholds (science based)- adapted to the different conditions in which animals are transported.
- *Where to collect this data by the Competent Authority (Members)*
- Actions to be adopted



# Training and competence of personnel

- key aspect of good animal welfare during transport.
- Training- formal training recognised by the CA; limited validity;
- Which subjects should be covered





# Responsibilities for all involved in transport

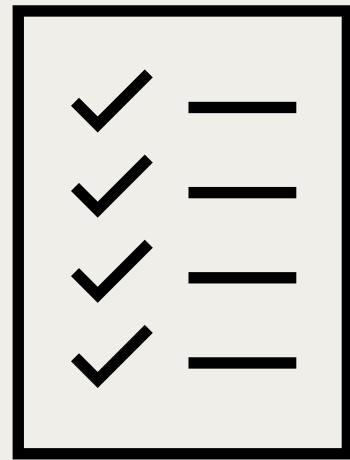
**!!!Each person involved on the transport should be aware of their own responsibilities**

joint responsibility of all people involved,

- Journey organiser
- Farmer
- Animal handlers
- Manager of intermediary facilities
- Transporters
- Competent authorities

# Contingency plans

- ✓ contingency plan **in place for every journey** (if they are repeated the same contingency plan with the update contacts)- all stakeholders involved
- ✓ Cover the **all journey**
- ✓ Very important in **most complex journeys**- example: journeys involving different types of transport
- ✓ Take in consideration the different hazards; type of transport, species, animal type, weather and the nature and duration of the journey
- ✓ Think about the actions to be taken in each possible situation
- ✓ Make the contingency plan aware of all the people involved



**What can go wrong?**

**What actions should be taken?**

**Responsibilities**

**Who to contact?**

### At the sea ports/sea transport:

- escape of animals
- Unfit, ill or compromised animal
- Animals fall to the sea
- Delays due to bad weather and other unexpected situations
- Vessel Mechanical breakdown
- Vessel sinks
- Captain illness
- rejection of the consignment on arrival or at the border control post



# Contingency situations- rejection of the consignment

Before the journey



confirmation of the acceptance of the consignment by the Competent Authorities at the destination.

AW should be a priority !!

Actions in case of rejections on arrival

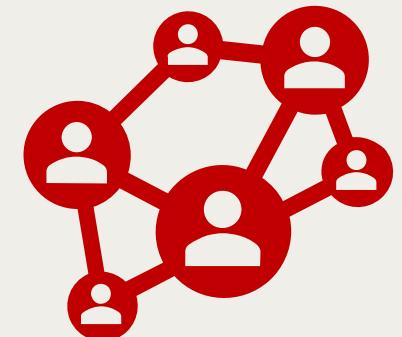


Some recommendations:

Communication between the CA (origin/destination) and with the importer/exporter to find a solution

Actions to guarantee the feeding, drinking and care of the animals ( even in the means of transport)

Facilities to unload the animals ( non sanitary reasons)



# Planning the journey



appropriate means of transport to the species, categories and type of animals;

coordination of the different parts of the journey to prevent avoidable delays;

documentation to accompany the animals in accordance with the requirements of the transit and destination countries;

the selection of the best route, taking into account prevailing conditions and species-specific requirements;

the selection of the optimal weather conditions for the journey;

appropriate preparation of the animals for the journey;

appropriate loading and unloading facilities;

arrangements for bedding, resting, feeding and watering the animals during the journey as required;

competent personnel who will handle or drive the animals;

environmental conditions in the animal compartment during the journey;

contingency plan and emergency response plan;

sanitary measures to minimise the risk of transmissible disease.

Comprehensive planning is key to minimising the risk of injury or undue suffering during or after a *journey* [FAWAC, 2007].

# Documentation

- Documentation plays an important role
- Allows the adequate planning and control of animal transport, especially in complex journeys
- The documentation required should be proportionate to the *animal welfare* risk.
- **Animals should not be loaded until the required documentation is complete.**



International transport-veterinary health certificate  
critical aspect that can impact animal welfare if it does not comply with the requirements of the country of destination.



# Documentation

## Examples:

- **journey plan**,
- **veterinary certification and sanitary requirements**, when required;
- **Costums documentation** when required
- **Number and animal identification**
- **Proof of competencies** of the personnel
- **the journey log** - daily record;
- Contingency plan



# Technical articles:



- Introduction
- Animal welfare concerns
- Animal based or other measures
- Recommendations:
  - ✓ General
  - ✓ Specific- species specific/ means of transport

- Journey duration and requirements for water, feed and rest
- Fitness for transport
- Selection of compatible groups
- Handling
- Loading and unloading
- Environmental conditions.
- Space allowance
- Condition of the means of transport
- Intermediate facilities
- **Transport on foot (transhumance)**
- Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey on an international transport.



# Transport on foot (transhumance)

In many parts of the world, animals are often moved on foot

- Hazards
- Animal based measures
- Recommendations:

Planning

Routs

Fit animals

Availability of feed, water and milking

Predators

Etc...





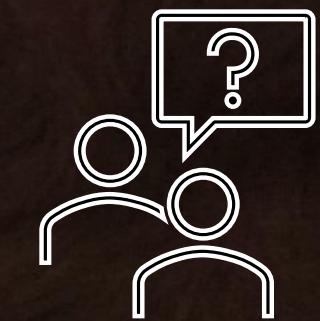
# Other items

Include references to other documents once they are finalised:

- The emergency plan model,
- Model of a journey plan
- checklist model

A close-up, low-angle photograph of a horse's head. The horse has a light-colored, possibly white or cream, mane and a dark brown body. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the mane and the bridge of the nose, while the rest of the face and body are in deep shadow. The horse's eye is visible on the left side of the frame.

Thank you for  
your  
attention!!



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