Terrestrial Animal Health Code:
Chapter 7.2. - Transport of animals by sea
Chapter 7.3. - Transport of animals by land

Tomasz Grudnik
WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels

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SECTION 7. ANIMAL WELFARE

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### Chapter 7.2
Transport of animals by sea
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- Responsibilities
- Competence
- Planning the journey
- Documentation
- Pre-journey period
- Loading
- Travel
- Unloading and post-journey handling
- Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the importation of a shipment

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Animal behaviour

Importance of understanding animal behaviour

• signs of poor animal welfare
• handling (e.g., concept of flight zone and point of balance,)
• design of facilities and minimize distractions that may cause approaching animals to stop, baulk or turn back.
Competence

• All people responsible for animals during journeys should be competent to carry out the relevant responsibilities.

• Competence in areas other than animal welfare would need to be addressed separately.

• Competence may be gained through formal training and/or practical experience.
Joint responsibility of all people involved.

- exporters
- importers
- owners of animals
- animal handlers
- business or buying/selling agents
- shipping companies
- masters of vessels
- managers of facilities
- veterinarians
- Competent Authority of the exporting country
- Competent Authority of the importing country
Responsibilities of Competent Authorities

• establishing minimum standards for animal welfare: requirements for inspection of animals before and during their travel, certification and record keeping
• approving facilities, containers, vehicles and vessels for the holding and transport of animals
• setting competence standards for animal handlers and managers of facilities
• implementation of the standards, including through accreditation of / interaction with other organisations and Competent Authorities
• monitor and evaluate health and welfare of the animals at the point of loading/unloading
In addition, Competent Authority of the importing country:

- ensuring that the exporting country is aware of the required standards for the vessel transporting the animals
- give animal consignments priority to allow import procedures to be completed without unnecessary delay
- report back to the sending Competent Authority on significant animal welfare problems which occurred during the journey
Adequate planning is a key factor affecting the welfare of animals during a transport

Chapter describe all elements necessary element of planning the journey

presentation of animals for the journey,
type of transport vessel required,
route, taking into account distance, expected weather and sea conditions,
nature and duration of journey,
daily care and management of the animals, including number of handlers
avoiding the mixing of animals from different sources
provision of appropriate equipment and medication
emergency response procedures
Documentation

- journey travel plan and emergency management plan;
- date, time and place of loading and unloading;
- veterinary certification, when required;
- animal welfare competencies of the driver
- number of animal handlers on board, and their competencies
- animal identification to allow animal traceability
- details of any animals considered at particular risk of suffering poor welfare during transport
- documentation of the period of rest, and access to feed and water, prior to the journey
- stocking density estimate for each load in the consignment
- the journey log - daily record of inspection and important events
Documentation
Veterinary certification

• fitness of animals to travel;
• animal identification (description, number, etc.);
• health status including any tests, treatments and vaccinations
• details of disinfection carried out when required
Pre-journey period

Animals that are unfit to travel include, but may not be limited to:

- sick, injured, weak, disabled or fatigued;
- unable to stand unaided or bear weight on each leg;
- blind in both eyes;
- cannot be moved without causing them additional suffering;
- newborn with an unhealed navel;
- females travelling without young which have given birth within the previous 48 hours;
- pregnant animals which would be in the final 10% of their gestation period at the planned time of unloading;
- animals with unhealed wounds from recent surgical procedures
Loading

- Planned
- Competent supervision
- Competent personnel
- Facilities
- Handling
- Appropriate tools - limitation on use electric goads
Travel

Observation (after loading and during a journey) of the health and welfare of animals and ventilation, watering and feeding systems operation – corrective actions, as necessary.

Sick or injured animals should be segregated and should be appropriately treated or humanely killed.
Unloading

- Planned
- Competent supervision
- Competent personnel
- Facilities
- Handling
- Appropriate tool
- Sick and injured animals
- Cleaning and disinfection
Refusal

Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the importation of a shipment

The welfare of the animals should be the first consideration

• suitable isolation facilities to unload animals from a vessel (without posing a risk to the health of the national herd)

• provisioning of the vessel with water and feed as necessary.

• assessment of the ongoing health and welfare situation.

If the matter cannot be urgently resolved, call on the WOAH to mediate to identify a mutually agreed solution.
**SECTION 5.**
TRADE MEASURES, IMPORT/EXPORT PROCEDURES AND VETERINARY CERTIFICATION

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