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

Portugal

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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
7 - 9 November 2023, Tunis, Tunisia
Competent Authority(ies)

General Direction of Food and Veterinary (DGAV)

✓ Animal Health
✓ Animal Welfare
✓ Animal Identification
✓ Food Safety
✓ Feed
✓ Animal By-products

PSC- Sea transport- Since 2023, it's obligatory the presence of a maritime surveyor during the AW inspections

Police- GNR and PSP
Role of DGAV

• Legislation, Procedures, guides of good practices, national control plan
• Transporters authorization and means of transport certification
• Means of transport certification and controls; loading operations- all the operations; Control plan-controls to loading operation (PPA)
• Training of Official
• Work with the organizers and transporters- regular meetings and sensibilization sessions
• Measures in case of non compliance- notifications, sanctions and suspension/withdraw. Not allowing the load of animals in specific vessels/operations.
• Communication with the CA of destination and CA of other MS
Main exporting countries- By sea and by road
Number of export Operations and animals exported by sea in 2021- 2022- 2023

Number of export Operations and animals exported by road in 2021- 2022- 2023- 2/3 exports per year. To Maroco. Nowdays the number of exports are increasing
• Two sea ports - Setúbal and Sines

• Approved by DGAV as exit points

• Conditions to perform the loading Operations - loading structures; contingency planning

• Farms of origin - Region of Lisbon and Tagus valley (LVT) and Alentejo
Planning
- Documentation validation
- Transporter authorisation and vessel certification
- Approval of the Operations
- Transporter and organiser contingency plan (adverse weather, breakdowns, delays, etc.)
- Import permits

Pre-loading approval of the vessel - vessel conditions, space allowance, feed/water/bed; ventilation, drainage, lighting, ... Treatments; cleaning and disinfections; crew training and competence

Loading operations
- Control the fitness for transport
- Controls the road transport
- Control the unloading/loading and handling of the animals
- Control of the animals on the vessel prior to departure

Transport
- Daily records
- Photos and videos
- Contact whenever there are problems

At sea port of destination
- Feedback of the animal and vessel conditions on arrival
Pré-loading livestock vessels controls- Main points

- Documentation-procedures/records/crew training and competence
- Space allowance
- Feed, water, bedding material
- Pen structure and maintenance, pavement, ramps and passageways
- Ventilation
- Lighting
- Drainage system
- Power supply
- Alarms
- Fire fighting
- Animal treatment-drugs
- Emergency killing of the animals
- Cleaning and disinfection
Negative outcomes 2023

Some vessels had a negative result on the inspection (2 vessels)- delayed the approval to load.

- Vessel was not properly cleaned; rupture of the pipes;

- Vessel with: Insufficient lightning, lack of proper training, improper cleaning and disinfection, improper restraint of the ovines on the pens, no water analysys, the stunning gun didn’t had cartridges adapted to all the types of animals, no ammonium measurement device and no procedures regarding ammonium, the pen identification didn’t correspond to the stowage plan; Documentation problems; procedures didn’t mention the european legislation;

The vessel was detained one month by DGAV and the PSC- On arrival no problems were found.

The vessel made three journeys with no problems (didn’t returned back)

All the information is on Thetis system
Positive experiences 2023

- Two vessels start to operate between Portugal and Israel - Obligatory the presence of the board and crew with specific training (training is given in PT);
- Reinforce Transporters procedures and records and communication - Daily records of the vessel-report back to the CA of departure - each time more this is a routine of the transporter
- Reinforce Transporter contingency plan - report the CA of departure and destination whenever there are problems
- Session with organisers to discuss the strong and weak points of the export Operations - land operations
One case of delay due to bad weather- very positive experience- Contingency plan-contact with the CA

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Kindly be informed that due to the bad weather conditions expected in the Eastern Mediterranean on 29 MARCH 2023, our ship will wait approx. 18hrs in a sheltered area for the safety of animals on board. We have sufficient amount of fodder and bedding material on board. Pfs see attached pictures for your kind attention.

Regards

AVISO DE SEGURANÇA: Email externo à DGAV. Tenha cuidado antes de abrir arquivos e links. Nunca introduza dados ou senhas associados à sua conta.

Good days:

Kindly be informed Vessel is currently underway to her destination. Pfs find attached masters report and pictures for your kind attention

Regards
Communication with the CA on destination...

- To be sure that the vessel can be loaded - import permits
- When there is a health problem and some consignment cannot be transported - immediate communication between CA on destination and PT CA;
- To follow a specific vessel - the first time he operates in Portugal
- Whenever we consider that it is a risky vessel - adoption of correction actions after report of non-compliances
- In case of contingency - example - delays to the bad sea conditions
- Exchange of views regarding specific issues

Very positive experience with the CA in country of destination
Marocco export by sea

- **Started in 2023** - just two operations but very successful in our view

- Journeys between **22- 32 hours**

- **Contact with the CA in Marroco**, to better understand what were their requirements; which documents were necessary to send in advance?

- It’s important to **establish procedures between the CA** - no information is missing and we are sure that the animals can be loaded

- Transporter authorisation and certificate of approval; health documentation

- Got import permits
Marroco export by sea

- Asked for Feedback information- dead animals; sick animals and treatment; litter condition. Environmental conditions, animal conditions (dirtiness, etc..), availability of feed and water

- Got very nice and detailed reports on the conditions of the animals on arrival
Transport of animals by land - To Marocco

There is an increased interest on the export of animals by land to Maroko

Key aspects have to be considered:

- **Planning of the journey**- Transporters authorisation; vehicle certification, driver certificate of competence; space per animal, journey and resting times; weather and sea conditions- validation of the journey; sea port times; control times

- **Contingency planning**- weather conditions; ferry transport (sea and weather conditions), delays, breakdowns, places to unload the animals; other transportes; contacts of the CA; contacts of private vet, etc..

- **Retrospective controls**
Transport of animals by land - To Marocco - Actions in progress...

• Meetings and training of the OV
• Specific instructions and procedures for this type of journey - being developed
• Meeting with the organisers - November
• Specific contingency planning for this type of journey
• Communication with Spain and Marocco
Success of a good Livestock vessel and road transport!!

- **Good vessel/vehicle**
  - Good transporter - with a proper policy regarding animal transport; procedures; planning and contingency

- **Animal transport**
  - One organizer that understands his responsibilities - planning and contingency

- **Good crew/driver**

Communication and collaboration between CA
Thank you

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