



Welfare of Animals During Transport

Advice for transporters of poultry

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A new EU Regulation for transporting animals applies from 5 January 2007.

If you transport animals you should make sure you know about the new rules and procedures that affect you. These rules are intended to improve the welfare of animals during transport. **The rules came into force on 5 January 2007** and apply to anyone transporting live vertebrate animals in connection with an economic activity.

There are a number of specific points that anyone transporting poultry* needs to take account of. These are summarised in this leaflet.

More detailed guidance can be found on the Defra website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare

* Taken in this context to include domestic fowl, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea, fowl, quails, pheasants and partridges.

Are you affected by the new rules?

The Regulation sets out new rules for those who transport animals in connection with an economic activity. In the UK this is considered to be any transport of animals undertaken as part of a business or commercial activity, which aims at achieving financial gain, whether direct or indirect, for any person or company involved with the transport. The Regulation does not apply to:

- Transport of animals not in connection with an economic activity.
- Transport to or from veterinary practices or clinics under veterinary advice.

The Regulation requires anyone transporting animals on any journey to ensure that:

- No one shall transport animals, or cause them to be transported, in a way likely to cause them injury or undue suffering.
- Journey times are kept to a minimum.
- The animals are fit to travel.
- Those handling animals have been trained and are competent.
- The vehicle and its loading and unloading facilities are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering and to ensure the safety of the animals.
- Water, feed and opportunity to rest are made available to the animals as appropriate, and sufficient floor space and height is available in the transport.
- Documentation is provided which shows the following: origin and ownership of animals; place of departure and destination; date and time of departure and expected duration of journey (usually referred to as an Animal Transport Certificate).

The Regulation sets out additional requirements if you transport poultry on 'short' journeys over 65km (approximately 40 miles) and up to eight hours. Transporters must:

- Hold a Type 1 transporter authorisation.
- Ensure that drivers and attendants are in possession of a certificate of competence.
- Demonstrate that they have appropriate staff and equipment to transport animals in a proper way, and to have no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the preceding three years.

There are, in addition to the above, a number of other requirements for 'long' journeys of over eight hours. Transporters of poultry must:

- Hold a Type 2 transporter authorisation.
- Have contingency plans in place in case of emergencies.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Journey times and provision of water and food

The Regulation does not specify a maximum journey time for poultry. However, it does set a maximum time after which provision of water and food is required:

- 12 hours for adult birds.
- 24 hours for chicks – provided the journey is completed within 72 hours after hatching.

In effect, because adequate provision of water and food to poultry is difficult in most commercial transport situations, these times are a practical limit to the length of journey.

- Journey time does not include time spent loading and unloading the poultry.

General points

- There is no requirement for inspection and approval of poultry containers or the vehicles on which they are carried, even for journeys of more than eight hours.
- Poultry should be assessed for fitness to travel before being crated and loaded for transport.
- If the transporter does not make the 'fitness assessment' then there should be a clear and documented procedure for who takes responsibility for this task.
- Once loading starts the transporter is wholly responsible for the welfare of the poultry until they are unloaded.
- Poultry are particularly prone to thermal stress during transport and remedial action may need to be taken quickly if unsuitable conditions develop during the journey (see Defra publication PB 11260*).

* Livestock transport vehicles – A guide to best practice for vehicle ventilation.

Space allowances

Space allowances for road transport remain unchanged from the previous rules.

Category	Area
Day old chicks	21 – 25 cm ² per chick
Other poultry: weight in kg	
< 1.6	180 – 200 cm ² /kg
1.6 – 3.0	160 cm ² /kg
3.0 – 5.0	115 cm ² /kg
> 5.0	105 cm ² /kg

FURTHER ADVICE

This leaflet provides a brief overview of the main requirements of the Regulation with regards to poultry. Other leaflets are available covering requirements for cattle, goats, pigs, horses and sheep. A general leaflet has also been produced.

Detailed guidance, forms and further advice can be found on the Defra website at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare

Or by contacting the relevant administration below.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Animal Welfare Team
Transport and Markets
Area 8B
9 Millbank c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR
Tel: 020 7238 5907
Web: www.defra.gov.uk

National Assembly for Wales

Office of the Chief Veterinary
Officer (OCVO)
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
Tel: 029 2082 3059
Web: [www.wales.gov.uk/
environmentandcountryside](http://www.wales.gov.uk/environmentandcountryside)

Scottish Government Rural Directorate (SGRD)

Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh
EH14 1TY
Tel: 0131 244 6482
Web: www.scotland.gov.uk

Department for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland (DARD)

Room 728, Dundonald House
Upper Newtownlands Road
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