



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Director-General

SANCO

04.12.2009

Brussels,
SANCO D5 DS/dj D(2009) 450351

Your Excellency,

Subject: Transport of unweaned calves and lambs on long journeys

Following my previous request for information on the abovementioned subject last year (reference: SANCO D5 LPA/nl D(2008)450043) several Member States have provided detailed and useful information on the transport of unweaned calves and lambs and I would like to thank you for your contributions.

At the origin of this request, animal welfare organisations claim that the provision of paragraph (a) of point 1.4 of Chapter V of Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005¹ of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport is unworkable (for commercial consignments) and that, as a consequence, the transport of unweaned animals should be limited to eight hours.

Indeed, Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 provides, in substance, that after nine hours of travel, unweaned animals (i.e. unweaned calves, lambs, kids and foals which are still on a milk diet and unweaned piglets) must '*be given a rest period of at least one hour sufficient in particular for them to be given liquid and if necessary fed*'.

Based on their observations, animal welfare organisations claim that this provision is not implemented for the following reasons:

- The water systems employed by transporters are not fit for that purpose. Unweaned animals are not accustomed to the drinking equipment commonly used on lorries;
- Unweaned calves and lambs cannot be adequately fed and watered inside the means of transport. Drinking equipment are designed for water at ambient temperature while unweaned animals are used to milk substitutes given warm.
- Unweaned calves and lambs are not able to feed themselves inside the means of transport. As only cold water is available, most animals do not drink and the ones who drink may develop water intoxication.

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¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005¹ of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) N° 1255/97 (OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1.

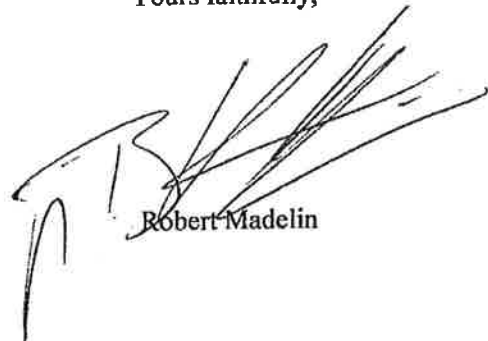
From the contributions received, it appears that a number of Member States do not experience transport over long journeys (i.e. over eight hours) for this type of animals. From the Member States having a specific experience on the subject, it appears that:

- Drinking equipment is verified during the process of approval of the vehicle but there is seldom a specific examination of whether the system is adapted or not to unweaned animals.
- It is not common practice to provide milk substitutes to unweaned animals during transport or rest periods. Electrolytes are not often used either because most pipes can not be easily cleaned after use. Milk substitutes are sometimes carried in case of emergency, but in any case they are not used in the drinking equipment of the lorry. There is no practical system for providing unweaned animals warm liquid.

As a conclusion, and in order to ensure a uniform application of this particular provision of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, we would recommend taking the following measures for the transport of unweaned animals on long journeys:

- For practical purposes, calves could be considered as unweaned under the age of two months and lambs under the age of six weeks;
- Before or during the transport, the competent authority should systematically investigate which arrangements have been made to ensure that animals are offered electrolytes or milk substitutes during the resting period.
- Metal nipples or troughs alone should not be considered as being adapted for the drinking of unweaned animals. Only vehicles equipped with pails and flexible teats should be considered acceptable for that purpose.
- Transport of unweaned animals over long journeys should not be authorised if the outside temperature during the journey is likely to be below 0 °C.

Yours faithfully,



Robert Madelin

Cc: CVO