

Animal Welfare during Transport

To: Food and Farming Group, Defra

Can you confirm for me if DEFRA has a ruling on the decision as to whether Camelids come under the requirements for 'farm animals' (such as cattle, and sheep) or 'other species' as defined in the Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006.

The particular area of interest for clarification is whether a 'certificate of competence' is required, additional to transporter authorisation.

Many thanks,
Nick Weber. Chairman British Camelids Ltd.

Response

Your enquiry has been passed to me for a response. New rules on the welfare of animals during transport came into force on 5 January 2007. This is Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. The Regulation is implemented in England by The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Regulation aims to improve animal welfare by raising transportation standards and applies to the transport of live vertebrate animals in connection with economic activity.

The Regulation requires those transporting animals on all journeys to ensure that journey times are kept to a minimum, animals are fit to travel, those handling animals are competent, vehicles used are designed, constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering and water/feed are provided as necessary and sufficient floor space and height is allowed.

As you are already aware, anyone moving animals over 65 km in connection with an economic activity needs a transporter authorisation.

Additionally, by 5 January 2008, transporters and attendants using road vehicles to transport cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, horses and poultry over 65km must have been independently assessed for competence and be in possession of a certificate of competence to transport these animals.

Camelids are not included in the aforementioned list and therefore competence assessment is not required for handlers and transporters of these species.

Hope this clarifies.

Best regards

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