

Please Note: Regardless of the distance being travelled all horses must be accompanied with a valid passport and documentation setting out the origin and destination of the journey and the expected journey time.

For transport of animals outside of Ireland, check with the competent authority in the particular Member State of destination as to whether any additional documentation is required.

5. VEHICLES

5. Vehicle Requirements

The design of the vehicle must be to a standard that provides for the safety of horses during loading, transit and unloading and protect them from unnecessary suffering, injury and from the weather.

The vehicle must also be escape-proof and sufficiently strong to bear the weight of the horse(s) to be transported. The walls, partitions, floors and side protection gates must be free of any sharp edges, protrusions, gaps, holes and spaces that are likely to cause injury. Slippery conditions on floors must be avoided. There must be access, with sufficient lighting, to the horse(s) in the vehicle to allow it/them to be inspected and cared for.

In addition, sufficient space should be provided inside the horses compartment to ensure that there is adequate ventilation above the horse when it is in a naturally standing position, without on any account hindering its natural movement.

Vehicles in which horses are transported must be clearly and visibly marked indicating the presence of horses.

6. SCOPE

This Regulation applies to the transport of all species of vertebrate animals, including poultry and to all transport vehicles.

7. REFERENCES

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1 of 2005 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) No 1255/97.

8. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please see our website:

www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport

or contact:

Transport Section

National Beef Assurance Division

Department of Agriculture and Food

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THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & FOOD
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA AGUS BIA

GUIDELINES*

FOR
COUNCIL REGULATION
(EC) NO. 1 OF 2005
OF 22 DECEMBER 2004
ON THE
PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
DURING TRANSPORT
AND
RELATED OPERATIONS
CONCERNING THE TRANSPORT
OF HORSES



**The guidelines do not purport to be an interpretation of the legislation.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regulation

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1 of 2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations lays down the welfare requirements and conditions for the transport of animals and the related operations of handling, loading and unloading. The Regulation came into operation on 5 January 2007 and applies to the transport of live vertebrate animals including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, dogs and poultry transported in connection with an economic activity on journeys over 65km.

The Regulation introduces changes designed to improve animal welfare standards during transport and related operations. The new rules harmonise transport requirements throughout the Community and apply directly to each Member State.

These guidelines explain the main requirements of the Regulation in relation to the transport of horses in connection with an economic activity.

2. APPLICATION OF THE REGULATION

2. Who will the Regulation apply to?

The Regulation will apply to any person who transports horses in connection with an **economic activity**.

The Regulation provides that:

- All horses being transported must be fit to travel and must be transported in a manner that is not likely to cause injury or undue suffering; and
- A person transporting horses beyond 65kms must be authorised and additional provisions apply in the case of transporting horses on journeys in excess of 8 hours.

However, the Regulation does not apply to the transport of horses:

- Where the transport is not in connection with an economic activity (e.g. in connection with movements to and from local shows or gymkhanas); and
- Where the transport is directly to or from a veterinary practice or clinic under the advice of a veterinarian.

The requirement to hold a certificate of competence (see below) and a transport authorisation (see below) does not apply in relation to cases involving a person transporting one horse or where two horses are accompanied by a driver and an attendant who has responsibility for the welfare of the animals. In these circumstances a mare and a foal travelling together may be considered as a single unit.

3. DOCUMENTS

3.1 Certificate of Competence

The Regulation requires that a person who drives a horse transport vehicle on journeys over 65km or an attendant must have received training in specific aspects of animal health and welfare.

A certificate of competence will be required for such drivers and attendants from 5 January 2008. However, where the driver performs the function of an attendant, only the driver of a horse transport vehicle requires a certificate of competence. In effect one person on a transport vehicle requires a certificate of competence.

However, if there are two persons driving the transport vehicle over the course of a long journey, each of the drivers is required to hold a certificate of competence.

3.2 Authorisation

The person, business or company that owns a vehicle or vehicles that transport horses, on journeys over 65km for

commercial purposes, requires an authorisation to be kept at the business address. See Section 8 for contact point to obtain an application form for an authorisation. Authorisations issued in accordance with the Regulation will be valid for 5 years unless otherwise specified.

There are two levels of authorisation in place:

- (1) Type 1 Authorisation — where horses are transported on journeys over 65km but less than 8 hours in duration; and
- (2) Type 2 Authorisation — where horses are transported on long journeys (over 8 hours in duration).

3.3 Vehicle Approval Certificate

Vehicles used for the transport of horses on long journeys (transport from Ireland) must be inspected and approved by the Department of Agriculture and Food. Guidelines on the specifications required for vehicles to be approved are available from the Transport Section (contact details below). Inspections of vehicles used to transport horses on long journeys can be arranged by contacting the Transport Section.

Subject to a satisfactory inspection a certificate of approval will be issued, and this document should be carried on the vehicle at all times.

4. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED ON JOURNEYS

4.1 Journeys over 65km but less than 8 hours in duration (transports undertaken within the island of Ireland).

- (i) Copy of Type 1 Authorisation [or Type 2 Authorisation].
- (ii) Certificate of Competence [from 5 January 2008].

4.2 Journeys over 8 hours in duration (Long Journeys – transport from Ireland).

- (i) Copy of Type 2 Authorisation.
- (ii) Certificate of Competence [from 5 January 2008].
- (iii) Vehicle Approval Certificate.