Animal Welfare during transport

FACT SHEET

Background information

The EU has had legislation on animal welfare during transport since 1977. The legislation was last revised through the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, extending the scope of the requirements to operations related to transport (e.g. the handling of animals at assembly centers or in slaughterhouses). At international level, the OIE has adopted standards on the protection of animals during transport. Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 overhauled existing EU rules on animal transport, defining the responsibilities of all actors in the transport chain to effectively enforce the new requirements. It offers more efficient monitoring tools, e.g. checks on vehicles via navigation systems as of 2007, and stricter rules for journeys exceeding 8 hours, including a substantial upgrading of vehicle standards.

The Commission opted for a stable legal situation for the time being to allow EU countries and stakeholders to focus on enforcing the legislation and is considering non-legislative actions to improve the welfare of animals during transport. Among the actions that are part of the EU strategy for the Protection and Welfare of animals (2012-2015), there is, as a key objective, the support for international cooperation. Training in the areas of animal welfare issues is considered an important lever, in view of developing good practices and compliance with the EU legislation and international standards.

Objectives

The training course will allow participants to achieve the necessary skills to:

- interpret relevant EU legislation and international framework (as the OIE guidelines);
- apply scientific basis for proper transport of the animals (animal behaviour, concept of stress and its implication in the quality of the -meat, animal physiology in particular drinking and feeding needs);
- check transport conditions and records (fitness for transport, vehicle standards, space allowances, temperatures, travelling time limits, tachographs and navigation systems etc.);
- manage practical aspects of handling of animals (loading and unloading activities) and emergency care for animals during transport;
- assess the design of vehicles facilities (density, drinking devices, headroom, ramps of access, stalls when required, etc…);
- identify best solutions to achieve the requirements on Control Posts;
- facilitate the monitoring and proper enforcement of relevant animal welfare requirements during transport.

The course will also provide practical training inspection at Control Posts, complying with EU animal welfare requirements.
Content of the training

The contents of the training course are listed below:

- EU legislation on animal transport, Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005: critical interpretation and controversial issues, enhancing implementation and increasing awareness on EU legislation on animal transport, role of the Competent Authority in improving Animal welfare during transport;
- Comparative assessment of FVO inspections in EU with reference to AW standards during transport;
- The opportunities of TRACES and TRACES enforcements for the Italian NCA;
- Transport of animals: OIE Animal Welfare standards and perspective;
- Road checks during long distance transport and social laws, fitness of animals for the intended journey, journey logs;
- Predictive modeling of the responses of animals to transportation to assess welfare;
- Animal-based measures in the framework of animal welfare during transport and assessment of critical control points during journey, loading and unloading and effective veterinary checks in a changing system;
- High quality Control Posts and Animal Transport Certification;
- Influencing Animal Welfare policies at national level by active leadership;
- Stakeholders’ perspective on AW during long journey transport and knowledge building in Animal welfare during transport

Targeted audience

Official veterinarians belonging to NCAs of EU MSs, Candidate and Third Countries, involved in enforcement of legislation on animal transport; official controls on document, structural and physical aspects of animal transport; development of good practices to improve the application of European norms and/or international standards.

Calendar and locations

I edition: 26-29 May 2015, France
II edition: 17-20 May 2016, Poland