

accompanied by a Journey Log containing all the information relevant to the journey. However, registered horses transported for competition, racing, cultural events or breeding are exempt from the requirement for Journey Logs, in the expectation that standards higher than the basic requirements set out in the EU Regulation will be provided for these animals during their transportation.

Training of livestock hauliers

Training of livestock hauliers is now a legal requirement. This is essential to ensure that animals have the appropriate conditions and are carefully handled while in transit. In addition, from the 5 January 2008 all drivers and livestock attendants transporting farm animals or horses for commercial purposes on journeys over 65km, must hold a certificate of competence which has been awarded by an independent assessor.

HSA's view

The HSA believes that all animals destined for food should be slaughtered at a suitable abattoir, as close to the point of production as possible. If animals need to be transported long distances for further fattening or breeding, the quality of the journey is considered to be of the utmost importance.

What does the HSA do?

The Humane Slaughter Association is the only registered charity which specialises in the welfare of livestock in markets, during transport and at slaughter. It is an independent organisation, beholden to neither government, trade nor emotional pressures, and thus is able to play an unbiased role in promoting the humane treatment of livestock.

It achieves its aims by arranging practical training sessions, by producing videos and publications, funding research projects, visiting markets and abattoirs and providing constructive advice and information for all those involved in animal handling, transport and slaughter. This positive, rational approach continues to achieve significant improvements to food animal welfare.

How can you help?

HSA depends upon voluntary subscriptions, donations and legacies for its income. Support is needed from both individuals and corporate groups so that the Association may continue to play an effective role in the welfare of food animals.

The annual subscription for individual members is £15, for societies and corporate groups £20 or £30 and for those in full-time education £5.

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MOVING FORWARD?

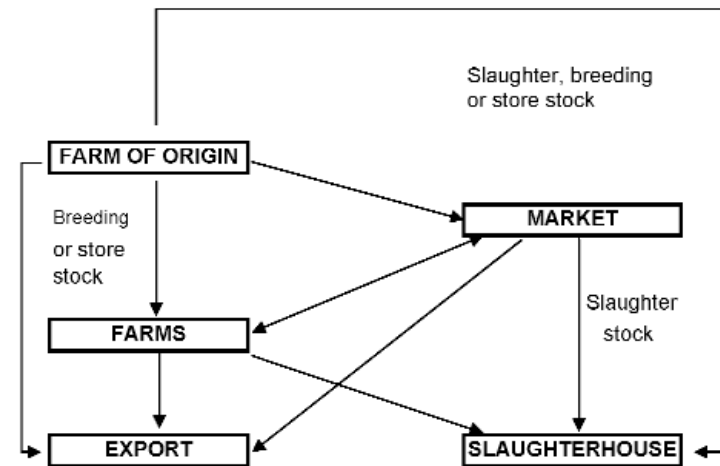


Animals are transported within, out of or into the UK for many reasons, but the bulk of farmed animals are transported from the farm of origin for five main reasons:

- To slaughterhouses to be killed for meat;
- To markets for sale to other farmers, for slaughter or for export;
- To other farms for fattening before slaughter;
- To other farms for breeding or milk production;
- Directly for export.

In addition there is transhumance, particularly of sheep, where animals are moved between pastures on a seasonal basis.

Journeys vary in length from a few miles between farms or to local slaughterhouses to many hundreds of miles when animals are moved across the EU for breeding, fattening or slaughter. In addition, relatively small numbers of high-value breeding stock may be transported thousands of miles to anywhere in the world.



Number of animals transported

There is no central record of the number of farm animals transported annually within the UK. However, in Great Britain approximately 25.3 million cattle, sheep and pigs were moved to slaughter in 2006/07, and about 2.5 million in Northern Ireland. In addition, large numbers of

Transport of Animals

animals were moved to markets in Great Britain for sale. The most recent available figures (2004) indicate that in total approximately 14.8 million cattle, sheep and pigs were sold through markets in Great Britain. These animals would then have been transported either to farms for breeding or fattening, for immediate slaughter or for export. Some animals, in particular sheep and calves, are exported directly from the farm to other EU and third countries. Approximately 11,000 live sheep and cattle were exported for slaughter or further fattening in 2006.

What legal protection is there for animals during transportation?

Farm animals transported within the European Union for commercial purposes are protected by EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. The Regulation is directly applicable in all EU Member States and, apart from the requirement for certificates of competence (see below), came into effect on 5 January 2007. The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Orders 2006/07 for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland implement additional national rules within the UK. The Regulation also covers the welfare of animals being exported from the EU to third countries.

The Regulation specifies the requirements for the transport of animals by road, rail, air and sea. It lays down general standards for the transport of all animals, including a legal requirement that all livestock are fit to travel before the journey begins, and will remain in a fit state throughout the journey. Animals must be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering. The Regulation is enforced by the appropriate authorities in each Member State, and veterinary experts from the EU Commission may make on-the-spot checks to ensure the Regulation is being applied consistently. In the UK the primary responsibility for enforcement lies with Local Authorities, with Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service) also carrying out enforcement work at markets, ports, roadside checks and supervised loadings of animals being exported.

Methods of transport

Within the UK today the vast majority of livestock are transported by road with a small number travelling on inter-island sea ferries (eg animals being transported from the Orkney Islands to the Scottish mainland, and from Northern Ireland to the UK mainland).

Animals which are transported overseas may be transported by a combination of road, rail, sea and air, although only valuable breeding or competition animals are likely to be transported by air.

Vehicles used

Road vehicles come in a variety of sizes with some animals being transported individually or in small groups, eg horse boxes or farm trailers, while others are transported long distances in multi-deck specialised livestock transporters. The Regulation requires that the means of transport must be designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering, and ensure the safety of the animals. Vehicles used to transport farm animals and horses on journeys lasting more than eight hours must have a vehicle approval certificate issued by, or on behalf of, the competent authority of the Member State. In England the competent authority is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and in Scotland it is the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs

Department (SEERAD). [Both have designated certifying bodies to carry out inspections and provide certification.]

Livestock transported by ship may either be held on the vehicle (eg on Roll on-Roll off ferries), or unloaded and held in approved pens/stalls which provide sufficient protection from the weather and the sea. Animals kept in pens/stalls must be provided with bedding, food and water. Specially designed containers are used for transporting animals by air or rail.

Does transportation cause animals distress?

Animals which are transported regularly to shows, or for sporting events, are likely to become accustomed to the experience and are less likely to become stressed. However, the majority of farm animals will only be in a vehicle a few times in their lives, and certainly not enough to become accustomed to the experience. They are much more likely to become distressed by the noise, movement, vibrations, temperature variations, crowding and lack of food and water that they will experience during transportation. Loading and unloading are frequently the most stressful periods for animals during transportation, and care needs to be taken to ensure that facilities are appropriate and that the animals are handled calmly and quietly at these times.

What are the requirements for the provision of food and water?

Food and water must be offered to animals at suitable intervals, and must be appropriate in quality and quantity to the species and their age. At the very least, mammals and birds must be fed every 24 hours and given water every 12 hours. However, the requirements will differ between species, for example cattle and sheep can travel without feed and water for longer periods than pigs and horses. The EU Regulation specifies that pigs transported over 65 km must have continuous access to water, but the UK authorities have granted a derogation from this requirement for journeys of up to twelve hours within the UK only. However, they must be offered water at appropriate intervals and allowed adequate time to drink.

For how long can animals be transported?

On 'standard' vehicles farm animals and horses may not be transported for more than eight hours. Vehicles which meet higher standards (eg carry appropriate bedding, food and water, have ventilation systems, etc) may be used to transport animals for longer periods. Un-weaned animals can be transported for a maximum of nine hours after which they must be given liquid and, if necessary, fed, and rested for at least one hour. They may then be transported for a further nine hours. Pigs can be transported for a maximum of twenty-four hours provided they have continuous access to water. Horses may be transported for a maximum of twenty-four hours provided they are given water and, if necessary, fed every eight hours. All other farm animals (excluding poultry) may be transported for a maximum of fourteen hours before being given at least one hour's rest and watered and, if necessary, fed. They may then be transported for a further fourteen hours.

Transport of horses

The UK has national rules ("minimum values") intended to prevent the unnecessary transport of low value ponies to Europe for slaughter. These rules effectively stop the export from the UK of live horses for slaughter. Live horses being transported for over eight hours to another EU member state, or to a third country, must be