

Swedish Board of Agriculture

Department for Animal Welfare and Health
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Analysis and Action Plan according to article 27 (2) of Council regulation (EC) No 1 /2005 for animal transports controlled during 2012

Analysis and Action plan of the 2012 Swedish Annual Report on the Protection of Animals during Transport.

Analysis

According to the statistics reported to the Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA) by the County Administrative Boards (CABs) the number of controls of animal transports carried out, according to Article 27 in regulation (EC) No 1/2005, have increased to 651, which is a huge increase compared to the figures for 2011 (165 controls). (No other controls are included in this report, as there is no obligation in the legislation to report the compulsory inspections of the regulation to the SBA – nor are the controls carried out by the official veterinarians at slaughterhouses (OVS) included. However infringements detected at these latter controls are reported to the CABs.)

Of the 21 CABs in Sweden, all but one have carried out a varying number of controls (from 7 to 116) 2012. This is more CABs than in 2011, when only 67 percent, or 14 out of the 21 performed checks - and the years before, when it was even less. So it is an upwards trend.

Of the controls, 193 have been on-road checks, 288 at the place of destination (often a slaughterhouse), 33 at markets and similar events (e.g. competitions) and 119 at the place of departure. The most common transports controlled are transport of animals destined for slaughter (pigs, cattle, poultry, sheep and reindeer) and transport of horses. Other animals controlled are for example laboratory and pet animals.

The most common infringements were lacking transport documents (transporter authorization, certificate of competence and certificate of approval of means of transport and journey log). However, lack of proper signs and temperature monitoring were also quite common. Very few concerned infringements with direct consequences for the animals, such as ventilation, climatic conditions, exceeded transport times, not enough bedding, animals not separated, rough handling at loading, electric failure concerning multi-decks etc

In conclusion, all but one CAB have carried out more controls during 2012 and the number of controls has increased quite remarkably compared to previous years. The main reason for this is the CABs animal transport project 2012, during which about 550 vehicles were controlled.

Concerning measures taken, the CABs have used the legislative powers they are entitled to, in order to handle the infringements reported; i e, extra controls, formal commands, fines and consideration for formal prosecution (four cases). However, in most cases the problems have been solved after information given by the CAB to the transporter.

Actions taken or planned by the County Administrative Boards

- During 2012 the CAB animal transport project, where all CABs participated, was carried out. One of the goals was to increase the number as well as the quality of transport controls, especially on-road and at border points. Another purpose was harmonization of the controls, and also to risk base them. The project was led by a CAB project group, but also involved cooperation with the slaughter industry, the Police, the Swedish Customs, the National Food Agency and the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

The controls were concentrated during a four week autumn-period, including a one-day border point action in nine counties in cooperation with the Swedish Customs, at which about 100 transports at twelve border points were controlled. In all about 550 vehicles were controlled in the project, which created a marked increase in the number of animal transport controls in Sweden.

Though several deficiencies (mainly concerning documentation) have been detected, the general welfare during animal transports was assessed as good. An important issue that the project high-lighted, was the lack of valid health certificates, vaccination and ID-documents seen in 16 percent of the transports of pet animals (mainly dogs) over the Swedish borders. Another issue is the problems of access to the animals for inspection and care in the modern multi-tier vehicles. The project increased cooperation between the relevant authorities and a number of areas where simplification of the reporting system and guidance could be done, have been detected.

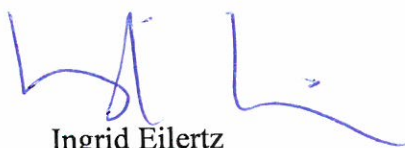
Several of the CABs intend to continue with animal transports controls in the form of projects during 2013, inspired by the 2012 project.

Actions taken or planned by the Swedish Board of Agriculture

- During 2012 SBA together with the Swedish Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), assigned by the Swedish

Government, conducted a study of how the stress for animals during transports could be reduced. The study, that focused on the loading and unloading of animals, was carried out as a literary review and discussions within a reference group with persons from authorities, scientific institutions, transporters and the agricultural industry. The resulting list of suggestions included both creating better on-farm loading facilities as well as ways of obtaining optimal transport logistics.

- The process at the SBA of revising checklists and manuals and the data system for the animal welfare controls at the CABs, will be continued during 2013. The purpose is to make the controls more effective and uniform in all parts of the country. The CABs transport project has been very important for this work (see above).
- A model for risk based controls (not only those concerning transports) built on consensus between the SBA and the CABs has been finalized during 2012 and will be used during 2013.
- The process of updating the national legislation concerning official animal welfare controls was ended, and the new legislation came into force in September 2012 (Statens jordbruksverks föreskrifter om offentlig djurskyddskontroll, SJVFS 2012:20) The legislation includes advise for the CABs on creating a plan for the fulfilling of the demands in Article 27 of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
- During 2013 the system of information between the SBA and the CABs, the OVs and the National Food Administration, will be further developed so that the demands in the Commission Implementing Decision 2013/188/EU, can be met.



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