

**COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1/2005 OF 22 DECEMBER 2004 ON THE
PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT AND RELATED
OPERATIONS**

**Analysis of the major deficiencies detected in Cyprus in 2009 and an action
plan to address them, in accordance with Article 27(2) of the Regulation**

Major deficiencies detected in relation to transport over long distances

General:

Within Cyprus there are no long-distance journeys, therefore all long-distance transport involves consignments of animals to and from other countries. Mammalian food-producing species are transported by road and the vehicles are then loaded onto ro-ro ferries which undertake the journey from the port of Piraeus in Greece to the port of Limassol in Cyprus and vice versa (average duration 36-40 hours). Because of the small number of shipments, all consignments of mammalian food-producing species are checked, the vast majority of which are ruminants (sheep and goats). The duration of the journey from the port of Limassol to the place of destination does not exceed two hours.

On arrival in Cyprus, all consignments of ruminants, and a number of consignments of other species, are checked both at the place of transfer at the port of Limassol (mainly document check) and at the place of destination (physical check and document check).

Based on the above and with a view to correct interpretation of the annual report and the relevant table, it should be noted that the same consignment of animals is recorded both in the fields which relate to transfer points and in the fields which relate to the inspections carried out at the place of destination.

Finally, it should be noted that in Cyprus there are no markets or control posts.

Deficiencies:

1. The most significant problem Cyprus faces with regard to long-distance transport is that it is not possible to send consignments of animals, particularly pigs, to other Member States of the European Union.

This is because of the geographical location of Cyprus, which is isolated from the rest of the European Union, and the fact that these animals are transported by sea, as described above, namely by ro-ro ferry from the port of Limassol to the port of Piraeus.

The problem has arisen because of the lack of a control post for animals at Piraeus port or in the immediate vicinity, with the result that the provisions of the Regulation relating to rest for the animals cannot be met.

For this reason, in 2009 the veterinary authorities prohibited the shipment of live pigs using the method described above.

However, since in the meantime a control post (approval number GR-CP-03-002) was set up at the beginning of 2010 near the port of Piraeus, specifically at Oinofita Viotias, the problem with the shipment of live pigs is expected to be solved, though partly rather than fully given that the capacity of the post in question is small.

2. The checks carried out on consignments of animals (mainly sheep and goats) from other Member States to Cyprus identified some cases of non-compliance with the provisions of the Regulation concerning the necessary documents, e.g. the journey log, documents and certificates which transporters must carry with them, and concerning the stocking density. Deficiencies relating to the manufacturing and/or maintenance of vehicles were identified in very few cases.

With regard to this issue, the checks carried out on all arrivals of mammalian food-producing species will continue, and the competent authorities of the Member States of departure will be informed where necessary.

Major deficiencies detected in relation to transport over short distances

General:

For transport within Cyprus, which always involves short journeys because of the size of Cyprus, checks are mainly carried out at the place of destination and for the most part in the slaughterhouses.

Deficiencies:

1. The most common shortcomings observed in the course of the above checks relate to the manufacturing and/or maintenance of vehicles (the equipment for loading and unloading animals, partitions, roof and so forth), and the stocking density of the animals being transported.
2. While animal transportation in Cyprus involves, for the most part, journeys of less than 65 kilometres, all transporters are entered in a single register after their vehicles have been inspected and approved. Transporters who undertake journeys of more than 65 kilometres and less than eight hours have not obtained authorisation in accordance with Article 10 of the Regulation.

This procedure is under review and in the course of 2010 the process of authorising transporters who undertake journeys of more than 65 kilometres and less than eight hours will begin. The authorisation procedure will include the re-inspection of all animal transport vehicles to ensure that they fulfil the requirements of the Regulation, since, as established during the inspections carried out, the majority of shortcomings relate to the manufacturing and/or maintenance of vehicles and their equipment.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the checks carried out on vehicles in 2009 for the protection of animals during transport were increased by 78% over the same checks on animal transport vehicles in 2008.