

II. During transport, in accordance with Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005:

Pursuant to Article 27(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, this report sets out the major deficiencies detected at the time of checks for compliance with animal welfare requirements during transport and the actions taken by the Bulgarian authorities to address them.

By Order RD 11-907 of 02.05.2017, the Executive Director of the BFSA approved the updated standard operational procedure (SOP) for carrying out official checks on compliance with animal welfare rules on long journeys.

http://www.babh.government.bg/userfiles/files/Proceduri%20BABH/ZHOJKF/SOP%20AW%2017_Final_02.05.2017-1-1.docx

In line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, 2016 saw the continuation of the issuing of special licences to drivers of motor vehicles transporting live animals, thus guaranteeing compliance with the rules governing animal welfare and protection during transport.

In 2015, 94 short-haul and 19 long-haul licences were issued. The AHWFCD keeps an up-to-date register of licences issued for the transport of live animals pursuant to Article 166 Veterinary Practice Act. Information on the approved vehicles is kept up to date in the BFSA computer system.

Regarding the implementation of Article 24(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005: there is continued sending of reports to other contact points under Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and receipt of reports from them in connection with violations of animal welfare detected during transport.

In 2016, four reports were received from other contact points and 652 reports were sent by the BFSA contact point to other Member States' contact points. Most of the BFSA reports were communicated by the official veterinarians at the Kapitan Andreevo border inspection post.

In 2016 there was a positive trend in the number of reports concerning detected infringements of the rules on animal welfare during transport.

Over recent years, the close cooperation with various Member States has been reflected in good communication and prompt notifications.

This is the result of the regular meetings of contact points for animal welfare during transport, the agendas of which always cover good communication and exchange of information and experience, good practices and guidelines. In 2016, a total of 20,185 checks were carried out. The percentage of non-compliances detected in 2016 was 0.63 (%). The following table illustrates the above information:

Number of checks and compliance rate (%)

Inspections and cases of non-compliance	2013	2014	2015	2016
Motor vehicles inspected	20,660	11,631	19,693	18,656
Non-compliance rate	0.57	4.20	0.44	0.63

The number of checks on means of transport is smaller than 2015 but the percentage of non-compliances remains close.

Official checks carried out on farms and during transport of live animals are improving as a result of regular training provided for official veterinarians and meetings held on a regular basis with all animal welfare stakeholders.

Stepping up inspections to ensure compliance during transport

1. In addition to written instructions and in order to ensure the welfare of animals transported from Bulgaria to Turkey, the BFSA requires that the vehicles used are approved for animal transports with a travel time of more than 8 hours, even where the necessary travel time is shorter.

2. Upon detection during official controls, infringements committed by transporters from various Member States in 2016 were promptly notified to the competent authorities pursuant to Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

3. Non-compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 is punishable by penalties in accordance with the Veterinary Practice Act imposed on natural and legal persons, as applicable.

4. Follow-up monitoring: Following the infringements observed, regular inspections are carried out by experts so as to ensure compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

Comparative analysis:

1. In 2016 roadside checks during transport were carried out jointly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The aim was to enhance surveillance in general and put an end to the transport of live animals in means of transport unauthorised for the purpose;

2. In 2016, the BSFA's Head Office did not receive any applications for the temporary withdrawal of licences for the transport of animals or drivers' certificates under the Veterinary Practice Act;

3. In authorised transporters the detected non-compliances are less and less significant

4. The training provided, also under the BTSE programme, improved the knowledge and skills of experts in charge of licensing transport vehicles.

The comparative analysis conducted leads to the conclusion that there is a trend towards improved effectiveness of controls.