

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations

Analysis of the major deficiencies detected in Cyprus in 2010 and an action plan to address them, pursuant to Article 27(2) of the Regulation

Major deficiencies detected with regard to long-distance transports

General information:

Within Cyprus, distances are relatively short, so the only long-distance transports are for consignments of animals to and from other countries. Mammalian food-producing species are transported by road, and the vehicles are then loaded onto roll-on-roll-off 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, the vast majority of which are ruminants (sheep and goats), are checked. 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 checks) and at the place of destination (physical check and document check).

Based on the above and with a view to the correct interpretation of the annual report, it should be noted that, as regards ruminants and some consignments of poultry, the same consignment of animals is recorded both in the fields relating to transfer points and in the fields relating to the inspections carried out at the place of destination.

It should also be noted that in Cyprus there are no animal markets or control posts.

Deficiencies:

The inspections carried out on consignments of animals from other Member States to Cyprus identified certain cases of non-compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 with regard to measures which must be taken to meet the needs of the animals during the journey, regular monitoring of welfare conditions and the provision, at regular intervals, of water, food and rest breaks to the animals, as well as the required documentation, e.g. journey log, documents and certificates which transporters must carry with them. Most of the infringements related to the transport of poultry.

The measures taken were notices issued to transporters, informing the authorities in the Member States of departure of the animals and the Member State of the transporter's authorisation, as none of these transporters had authorisations issued by the authorities in Cyprus.

With regard to this issue, the checks carried out on arrivals of food-producing species will

continue, all the necessary administrative/criminal penalties will be imposed, and the competent authorities of the other Member States will be informed.

Major deficiencies detected in relation to transport over short distances

General information:

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

Deficiencies:

The most common shortcomings found in the course of the above checks relate to the manufacturing and/or maintenance of vehicles.

The comprehensive inspection of animal transport vehicles started in 2010. The inspections continued in 2011 in the context of the ongoing process of issuing authorisations to transporters who undertake journeys of more than 65 kilometres and less than eight hours. Training of transporters, with the associated tests, was also conducted.

In conclusion, it should be noted that, compared to 2010, 31.6% more checks were carried out in 2011 for the protection of animals during short-distance transports.