

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.

Where non-compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 was established, corresponding sanctions were imposed on legal and natural persons under the Veterinary Practices Act (ZVD). The ZVD amendment of 19 February 2016 introduced a multifold increase in the size of penalties imposed for non-compliance with animal welfare requirements.

Animal welfare during transport is coming increasingly into the spotlight, and farmers are taking the rules more seriously.

By Order RD 11-1914 issued on 21.12.2015, the Executive Director of the BFSA approved the standard operational procedure (SOP 15) for carrying out official checks on compliance with animal welfare rules on long journeys.

<http://www.babh.government.bg/userfiles/files/Proceduri%020BABH/ZHOJKF/SOP-RS%20finish SP.pdf>

In line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, 2015 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.

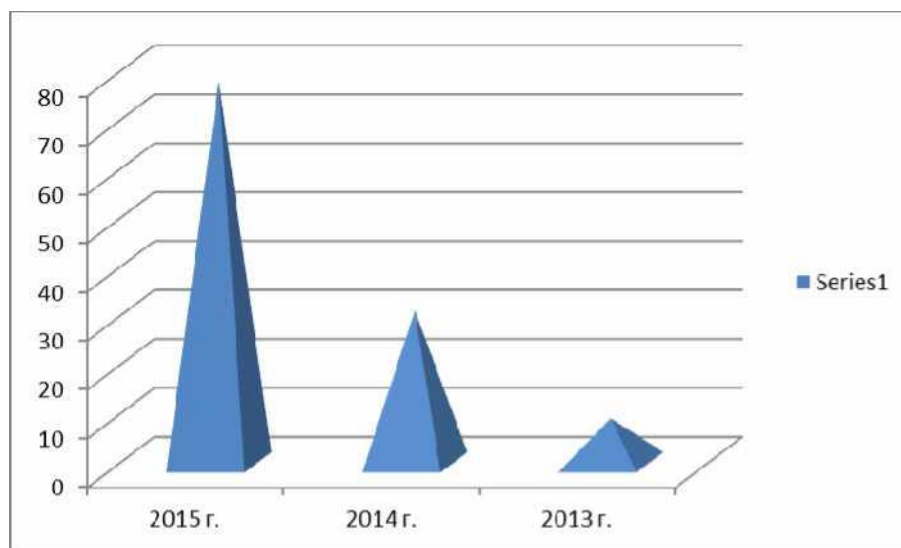
In 2015, 70 short-haul and 25 long-haul licences were issued. The AHWFCD keeps an up-to-date register of licences issued for the transport of live animals pursuant to Article 166 ZVD. Information on the approved vehicles is kept up to date in the BFSA computer system.

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 2015, nine reports were received from other contact points and seventy eight 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.

2015 brought a positive trend in the number of reports received from other Member States concerning detected infringements of the rules on animal welfare during transport by Bulgarian carriers.

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.



Graph 3: BFSA reports on animal welfare infringements committed by carriers from other MSs

In 2015, a total of 17 915 checks were carried out. The percentage of non-compliances detected in 2015 was 0.44 (%). The following table illustrates the above information:

Inspections and cases of non-compliance	2013	2014	2015
Motor vehicles inspected	20660	11631	19693
Non-compliance rate	0.57	4.2	0.44

Number of checks and compliance rate (%)

More checks were carried out overall compared to 2014, when the bluetongue situation caused lower exports of animals. The number of non-compliances established and administrative infringement notices issued was significantly higher: 51 in 2014, 70 in 2015.

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 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 2015 were promptly notified to the competent authorities pursuant to Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.
3. Penalties Non-compliance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 is punishable by imposition of the penalties provided for in the ZVD 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 2015 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. The amount of the penalties imposed was increased;
3. In 2015, 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;
4. The training provided, also under the BTSF 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.

The tables below set out data from controls carried out during transport in 2015: