

Federal Ministry of Health

European Commission DG SANCO

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Report of Austria on Inspections according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 carried out in Austria in 2009

Dear colleagues,

Please find the Austrian report on inspections according to Article 27 of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 carried out in Austria in 2009 attached to this e-mail.

According to Article 27 (2) we would like to present an analysis of the major deficiencies detected and to inform you about actions planned to address them:

- The report form provided is not applicable to Austrian system. In contrast to table provided statistics on animal transports in Austria are based on number of consignments, not on number of animals transported. Therefore a different table is submitted.
- Statistic indicates that percentage of infringements found during controls on the road is significantly higher than at places of origin or destination. Therefore local authorities have been instructed to maintain the relatively high number of road controls and an evaluation of controls at places of destination (i.e. slaughterhouses) will take place in summer 2010.
- Nonconformity of the planned transport duration with the actual duration is reported quite often. Official veterinarians have been remembered to verify conformity during road controls and instructed to correct the duration proposed by TRACES - when dispatching transports at the places of origin.

- An increased integration of TRACES System in the reporting system would facilitate administrative burden as well as provide sufficient data about international transport routes to Member states. This does not necessarily underline the need of "real time tracing system" as planned in Commission Regulation 1/2005/EC. Upgrading TRACES to a user-friendly database containing all data about number, route and infringements – maybe also including temperature measurement and duration of transport - of all transports carried out could be a far more economical alternative to that system, but produce the same impact.
- Commission Regulation Nr. (EC) 1/2005 still contains several imprecise rules that periodically cause lack of legal formality. Especially the missing specifications concerning the transport of calves, the definition of adequate drinking devices, minimum heights and authorisations of transports cause problems executing this regulation. According to information recently provided by the European Parliament a report on the implementation of Commission Regulation (EC) Nr. 1/2005 will be presented in the end of 2011. Therefore we strongly suggest to deal with these topics in working groups.

Austria likes to thank the Commission for its work and hopes this report will support our common interest on improving animal welfare during transport.

Best regards

For the Minister: Mag. Ulrich Herzog

Enclosure: 1

signed electronically