



Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
**NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICE**  
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1898-344/01.07.2009

**ANNUAL REPORT  
ON  
ANIMAL WELFARE CHECKS DURING TRANSPORT  
BULGARIA, REPORTIN PERIOD - 2008**

A total of 20 authorisations for long journeys and a total of 59 authorisations for short journeys have been issued in 2008.

Herein under attached is the registry of the long journeys authorisations issued in 2008.



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This registry is publicly available at the NVS web-site.

In implementation of Article 17 of the said regulation, NVS have arranged that veterinary faculties are to carry out the training courses for acquisition of competence certificate by drivers of transport vehicles transporting live animals and respective animal keepers (attenders). These training courses take place in the veterinary faculty at Trakia University (in Stara Zagora) and the veterinary faculty at Forestry University (in Sofia).

Herein under attached are respective training programmes of both faculties.



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Taking into account the recommendation of one of the previous DG (SANCO) mission, NVS have approved these training programmes of both faculties to be applied and actually applied in 2008.

The road transport vehicles used for transportation of live animals along long distances (for long-distance journeys) are subject to preliminary approval by the regional veterinary services (RVS), which (in case of compliance) would issue authorisation certificate for a transport vehicle eligible for long-distance journeys (under a nationwide applicable model form coded as K3Ж-44, approved under Order № 463/16.06.2006 issued by NVS Director-General). Herein under attached is this model form.



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In 2008 additional expert was nominated as responsible at central level for the issues related to and the controls on compliance with all the rules and requirements for animal welfare and protection of animals. In addition, veterinarians with the 'Euro-integration and European Relations' at NVS central level render methodological support and take active part in developing and issuing ordinances, instructions and guidelines.

Random selection was the principle applied for inspections of AW during transportation that have been performed by RVS bodies in 2008, since they have not had respective preliminary plan for such inspections. Inspection have been performed during transportation, at the time of arrival and accommodating the animals for slaughtering in slaughterhouses, at the time of loading of animals intended for trade and export into third countries, and also at animal markets or collection centres.

In 2008, a total of 798 inspections have been performed during transportation, 4909 at the point of final destination, 24 at animal markets, 192 at the point of loading for departure, 6 at staging (rest) points and 40 at intermediate points.

A total of 5969 inspections have been done, during which 20 966 cattle, 168 217 pigs, 92 591 small ruminants, 741 equidae, and 4 145 165 poultry have been checked. A total of 1 883 documentary checks have been done.

Within those inspections 76 infringements /deficiencies/ of AW rules during transportation have been identified, 6 prescriptive acts have been issued and 30 acts (penalties) for administrative infringement have drawn up. The other identified deficiencies have not been covered by relevant measures undertaken.

The most frequent infringements of animal welfare rules are lack of veterinary movement documents and lack of authorisation document for short-distance journeys, incorrectly filled transporters diaries and lack of rout plans at the place of departure.

In 2008 compared to 2007 there is increased number of inspections of transports of live animals subject to intra-Community trade, i.e. between Bulgaria and the other EU Member States or vice versa.

In 2008 98 inspections of transport vehicles were carried out, together with the police.

Most of the inspections dealing in trade with live animals from Republic of Bulgaria to any EU Member State have been performed at the point of loading of animals before transportation, but the number of inspections done at the point of loading of equidae intended for slaughtering in Republic of Italy is not sufficient.

In 2008 a notification was received by the Organization for the Protection of Animals "Animal Angels" for violations of Bulgarian carriers transporting equine and small ruminants for Italy. During the transportation of equine and small ruminants in the route plan no resting at approved staging point was foreseen.

Special meeting between experts responsible for animal welfare from the headquarters at the NVS and the RVSs of Pazardzhik and Sliven was carried out on which were considered those violations and corrective measures were taken to prevent future infringements.

The inspections performed in 2008 have been documented in check lists (model approved by the Director General

According the data delivered by official veterinarians working in slaughterhouses the number of inspections performed therein during entering and unloading of animals is 5000 in 2008.

In 2008 at BIPs have been carried out checks on 42 consignments of pregnant heifers destined for Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia (BIP - Burgas), 71 consignments of large and small ruminants with destination Albania and Kosovo (BIP Gueshevo), 608 consignments of small ruminants to Albania and Kosovo (BIP Zlatarevo). No infringements have been detected.

In 2008 were conducted 2 seminars at national level for training in animal welfare requirements.

- From 02.07.2008 to 04.07.2008 in Plovdiv: "Animal welfare during transport", organized by TAIEX OFFICE. 36 people attended - experts from the Directorate of Animal Health and welfare at the HQ of NVS and experts from the RVSs responsible for animal welfare rules in the respective region.
- From 10.09.2008 to 12.09.2008 in Burgas: "Making welfare checks at border inspection posts, organized by TAIEX OFFICE. 46 people were present - experts from the Directorate of Animal Health and welfare at the HQ of NVS and experts from the RVSs responsible for animal welfare rules in the respective region.

The level of training requirements for official veterinarians dealing with animal welfare is unsatisfactory at some of the RVSs, which is defined as weakness by the NVS.

The 264 official municipal veterinarians lack the necessary preparedness regarding the reporting of tachograms, transporters diaries and route plans for the detection of infringements concerning the requirements of Regulation 1/2005/EO. In 2009 is foreseen training to be carried out of the above officials on the requirements of Regulation 1/2005/EO.

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