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Dear Mr. MADELIN,

I have the pleasure to convey to you the attached letter from Mr. Peychev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Bulgaria containing the annual report for 2007 on the inspections carried out in the field of protection of animals during transport, according to Regulation 1/2005.

The abovementioned information was sent also by e-mail to:
Laura.perez-alvares@ec.europa.eu

The Bulgarian side remains at your disposal in case that more clarification is needed.

Meanwhile please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Boyko KOTZEV
Ambassador

To
Mr. Robert MADELIN
Director General
DG SANCO
European Commission

Cc:
Mr. Bernard VAN GOETHEM,
Director,
Directorate 'D'- Animal Health and Welfare
DG SANCO
The European Commission



Ministry of Agriculture and Food
NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICE

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1789-320/16.06.2009

ANNUAL REPORT
OF BULGARIAN NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICE
ON ANIMAL WELFARE DURING TRANSPORTATION IN 2007

Republic of Bulgaria became an EU Member State on 01.2007.

January that same year was the time of entering into effect of Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on protection of animals during transportation. Ever since that moment, the competent authority (NVS) of Bulgaria responsible for animal welfare have started the controls on compliance with the requirements of this regulation. In implementation of its Articles 10(1) and 11(1), NVS issued the first authorization /'license'/ for transport of animals within short distances on 24.11.2006 and the first authorization for transport of animals within long distances on 06.11.2006.

A total of 42 authorisations for long journeys and a total of 90 authorisations for short journeys have been issued in 2007.

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



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2007.

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 2007 there were two veterinarians with the 'Animal Health' Directorate at NVS Headquarters /central level/ that were 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, there were two veterinarians with the 'Euro-integration and European Relations' at NVS central level that have rendered methodological support and taken active part in developing and issuing ordinances, instructions and guidelines.

At regional level (RVS), there are official veterinarians nominated by special order issued by their RVS Director as responsible for all animal welfare issues.

Furthermore, AW controls are explicitly included in job description responsibilities of all the 264 municipal official veterinarians (for animal health) working at municipal (sub-regional) level of animal health.

Random selection was the principle applied for inspections of AW during transportation that have been performed by RVS bodies in 2007, 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 2007, a total of 80 inspections have been performed during transportation, 8560 at the point of final destination, 11 at animal markets, 205 at the point of loading for departure, 3 at staging (rest) points and 27 at intermediate points.

A total of 8 886 inspections have been done, during which 11 790 cattle, 135 419 pigs, 412 076 small ruminants, 742 equidae, 8 630 452 poultry and 9 618 heads of other species have been checked. A total of 6 235 documentary checks have been done.

Those 8 886 inspections performed include probably some of the checks performed by the official veterinarians /veterinary inspectors/ at slaughterhouses, since in some of the reports for 2007 there is not clear distinction between inspections performed by veterinarians responsible for controls on transportation and those done by the official veterinary inspectors responsible for AW controls in slaughterhouses. Excluding the inspections performed by slaughterhouse official veterinarians, there were a total of 679 inspections performed by the RVS animal health veterinarians responsible for AW controls and by the municipal official veterinarians responsible for animal health (AW included) at municipal level.

Within those inspections 70 infringements /deficiencies/ of AW rules during transportation have been identified, 9 prescriptive acts have been issued and 37 acts 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.

Since the territory of Republic of Bulgaria is relatively small, transportation of live animals is been effected within few hours and the short-distance journeys are the predominant ones, and the AW responsible veterinarians have done relatively small number of inspections of live animal transports within the country.

In 2007, there were relatively small 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.

There were no inspections at arrival of consignments of live cattle intended for breeding and coming from Republic of France, Federal Republic of Germany and Republic of Austria. The same been the case with consignments of small ruminants coming from Kingdom of Spain and Republic of France.

Despite that Article 74(2) of the Law on Veterinary Activities explicitly say that "any traders receiving consignments of live animals are obliged to notify respective regional veterinary service about the arrival of such consignments, in order to ensure their veterinary inspections", in many cases respective RVS have not been notified about such arrival(s). Thus, there have not been any inspections at arrival of cattle consignments coming from Federal Republic of Germany into the administrative districts (RVS) of Targovishte and Vratsa, where later there have been higher mortality among those cattle. The RVS have not drawn up any penalising acts to the owners of animals that had not notified about the arrival of those consignments.

Another weak point is the inspecting of long-journey transport vehicle to be performed jointly with the police. There is not any single report presented into NVS HQ by any RVS for any such inspection performed in 2007.

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. Relatively low is the number of inspections done by the RVS of Sofia-town.

The inspections performed in 2007 have been documented in a 'protocol' (an evidence document), while ever since 11.12.2007 a check list approved at that same date have been used for the purpose.

According the data delivered by official veterinarians (VPH inspectors) working in slaughterhouses the number of inspections performed therein is 17 060 in 2007. However, there is no clarification about the number of inspections done at the time of unloading and accommodating the animals arriving to be slaughtered and how many are the checks done on stunning procedures and their compliance. Pursuant to all the inspections done in slaughterhouses, there are 4 prescriptive acts drawn up.

The cases of export of large and small ruminants consigned to FYR of Macedonia, republic of Albania and to Kosovo are covered by 67 inspections done by the official veterinarians at respective border inspection post (BVIP), but those have not revealed any serious deficiencies and/or infringements.

In 2007 the BVIP of Gyucshevo has been and EU exit point for 26 414 large ruminants included in a total of 363 consignments, but no AW checks have been performed thereon. No AW check(s) have been performed on the 330 heads of small ruminants exported within 7 consignments through that same BVIP.

As serious infringement within trade of equidae intended for slaughtering should be considered the fact of not delivering back the route plans after been used and the resulting lack of option to undertake any corrective or other adequate measures.

Concerning training sessions performed on national level to encompass all issues related to AW and protection of animals during transportation, please find attached herein under the list of all training events carried out in 2007.



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Concerning the requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) 1/2005 and ensuring compliance with them through relevant controls, NVS have ensured the training at regional level to 114 municipal official veterinarians, 29 policemen of the respective units with the Ministry of Interior, 14 animal traders 34 persons of the staff working in collection centres.

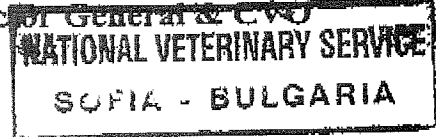
In big share of the RVSs there was no training in 2007 on AW requirements resulting from Regulation (EC) 1/2005, this being considered by the NVS 'Animal Health' Directorate at central level as unsatisfactory action omitted by the AW responsible veterinarians at RVS level.

In 2007, there were 67 official veterinary inspectors of the VPH sector and 64 persons working in slaughterhouses (as stunners and other stockers) trained in specific AW requirements related to their specific job.

Hereby, the NVS would like to express its deepest regrets for all the misunderstandings resulting in the delay of the 2007 Report on the controls on compliance with the rules laid down in Regulation (EC) 1/2005.

Dr. Yordan Voynov, MVSc.....

/Director General & CVO



MR. ROBERT MADELIN
HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Curriculum of the course
“Animal welfare during transport” for drivers of motor vehicles
transporting animals

Lectures on “Animal welfare during transport”

I. Introduction to the regulations governing the welfare of animals during transport.
 Law on veterinary activity - 01.11.2005. /1 contact hour/.

1. Chapter VII: Protection and animal welfare.

2. Section IV: Transport of animals.

a/ Approval of means of transport for the transport of animals.

b/ Requirements for transporters and attendants, who are accompanying the animals during transport.

3. Section V: Control on the fulfillment of the requirements for protection and animal welfare.

II. Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations /2 contact hours /.

1. Scope, definitions and general conditions for the transport of animals

a/ General conditions for the transport of animals

b/ Prior inspection and approval of means of transport

c/ Training courses and certificate of competence

2. Required state of fitness of the animals for transportation.

3. Provisions for all means of transport during transportation of different species of animals:

a/ large ruminants and equidae;

b/ small ruminants and swine;

c/ poultry;

4. Provisions for the accompanying documentation, needed for the transport of animals.

III. Provisions for preparation of the journey log for transport of animals in order to ensure fulfillment of the animal welfare requirements. /1 contact hour /:

a/ Specimen “Planning”

b/ Specimen “ Declaration by transporter”

c/ Specimen “Anomaly report”

IV. Main factors causing stress in animals /1 contact hour /.

V. Special features of behavioral characteristics in different species of domestic animals /2 contact hours /.

1. large ruminants and equidae;

2. small ruminants and swine;

3. poultry;

VI. Elements of the microclimate during transportation of animals /1 contact hour /:

a/ vibrations

b/ noise

c/ movement

d/ temperature

e/ humidity

VII. Preparation and inspection of the animals prior to transport /1 contact hour /.

VIII. Loading of different animal species in specialized means of transport /0,5 contact hour /.

IX. Separation, grouping and restraintment of different animal species in the means of transport. /0,5 content hour /.

X. Obligations of the driver of the vehicle during the transport of animals. /1 contact hour /:

a/ ventilation control

b/ feeding, water supply and resting periods for the animals

c/ conduct in extreme situations in traffic accidents.

XI. Unloading of different animal species /0,5 contact hour /.

XII. Watching of videos and other demonstration materials for animal welfare during transport. /2 content hours /.

XIII. Discussion of errors, failures and current problems regarding animal welfare during transport. /0,5 contact hour /.

XIV. Practical training /1 contact hour /.

1/ Determining the zone of influence in different animal species.

2/ Practical seminar on the arrangement and grouping of animals.

3/ Practical seminar on different methods for restraintment of the animals.

XV. Assessment of the acquired knowledge by examination test /1 contact hour /.

Total: Lectures – 14 contact hours

Practical seminars – 1 contact hour

Examination - 1 contact hour

29.01.2008
Sofia

Prepared by:.....
/Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Zhikov/