



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate G – Crisis management in food, animals and plants
Director

Brussels,
SANTE G2/YSL/sc (2020)3180625

Subject: Watering and feeding intervals, journey times and resting periods for animal transport on roll-on-roll-off vessels

Dear Ms Moffat,

Thank you for your e-mail of 14th May 2020 concerning the welfare of animals transported by sea on roll-on-roll-off vessels (RORO).

In your e-mail you request the technical views of the Commission services on Point 1.7 of Chapter V of Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005¹ on the protection of animals during transport (hereinafter referred to as “the Regulation”).

Your questions concern possible derogations to the watering and feeding intervals in the case of animals transported on RORO vessels.

Point 1.7 of section 1 (“Domestic Equidae, domestic animals of bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species”) of Chapter V of Annex I to the Regulation states:

(a) *Animals must not be transported by sea if the maximum journey time exceeds that laid down in point 1.2, unless the conditions laid down in points 1.3 and 1.4, apart from journey times and rest periods, are met.*

(b) *In the case of transport by sea on a regular and direct link between two geographical points of the Community by means of vehicles loaded on to vessels without unloading of the animals, the latter must be rested for 12 hours after unloading at the port of destination or in its immediate vicinity unless the journey time at sea is such that the voyage can be included in the general scheme of points 1.2 to 1.4.*

Points 1.2 and 1.3 referred to above require for long journeys that the conditions set out in Chapter VI of the same Annex are met.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1).

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Point 1.4 referred to above defines the watering and feeding intervals, journey times and rest periods when using road vehicles in the context of long journeys.

Chapter VI of Annex I to the Regulation fixes additional provisions for long journeys of domestic equidae and domestic animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species. In particular, it contains specific conditions regarding the equipment on water supply and notably requires under paragraph 2.1 that:

The means of transport and sea containers shall be equipped with a water supply that makes it possible for the attendant to provide water instantly whenever it is necessary during the journey, so that each animal has access to water.

My understanding is that since the exemption in point 1.7(a) specifically refers to journey times and rest periods, the requirements of points 1.3 and 1.4, such as watering and feeding intervals, apply to transport by sea.

This view is confirmed in the case of watering intervals by the fact that the provisions of Chapter VI on water supply require vehicles to be equipped for that purpose.

Point 1.7(b) only refers to journey times and resting periods without altering the meaning of point 1.7(a) regarding watering and feeding intervals.

Please note that this letter represents the technical views of the services of the Commission and has been prepared in order to assist you, based on the information that you provided to the Commission services. It does not commit the European Commission. Only the Court of Justice of the European Union is entitled to interpret Union law with final binding authority.

Yours sincerely,

Bernard Van Goethem