

Sharing experience - response for an emergency – transport by sea

Adina CIUREA - ROMANIA

- **3rd meeting of National Contact Points (NPC) on long-distance transportation in Europe, 20 - 22 June 2023, Dublin, Ireland**



Export of livestock from Romania

Romania exports live animals by sea and by land.

By sea: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Kuwait, Morocco, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar;

By land: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia, Turkey.

SVFSD Constanta

- Assesses the files and authorises the transporters;
- Inspects (on the spot – in the port Midia) and approves the livestock vessels.



Maritime incident – 24.11.2019

The incident took place on 24.11.2019 in port Midia-Constanta;

14.600 lambs had just been loaded on the livestock vessel Queen Hind registered under Palau flag heading to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia; the animals were coming from assembly centers located within counties Tulcea and Constanta, at short distance from the port;

The livestock vessel started tilting soon after leaving the moorings, and eventually overturned on its side, in the turning basin;

Efforts were made for stabilizing and turning over the ship;

The maritime authorities assessed the situation and decided the abandonment of the ship; the crew members were rescued.

Information on the vessel

- The ship was built in 1980, and converted in 2017 for the transport of live animals;
- 11 journeys (up to 19000 animals per journey) took place that year (March-November, 2019) on Queen Hind without incidents, from port Midia to Iran, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait;

At that time, the vessel held a certificate of approval of livestock vessels for journeys exceeding 10 nautical miles, issued by the local veterinary authority in Constanta;

- Certificate of approval RO-CT-N-058-7920675 issued on 06.03.2019
- Approved for adult and young cattle – area of 3827m²
- Approved for transport of adult and young sheep – area of 5011 m².

AUTORITATEA NAȚIONALĂ SANITARĂ VETERINARĂ ȘI PENTRU SIGURANȚA ALIMENTELOR
NATIONAL SANITARY VETERINARY AND FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY
DIRECȚIA SANITARĂ VETERINARĂ ȘI PENTRU SIGURANȚA ALIMENTELOR CONSTANȚA
SANITARY VETERINARY AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE OF CONSTANȚA

CERTIFICAT DE AUTORIZARE SANITARĂ VETERINARĂ PENTRU MIJLOACE DE TRANSPORT ANIMALE VI PENTRU CĂLĂTORII RUTIERE DE LUNGĂ DURATĂ SAU MIJLOACE DE TRANSPORT NAVAL PENTRU CĂLĂTORII PESTE 10 MILE MARIINE

1. NUMĂRUL CERTIFICATULUI	RO-CT-N-058-7920675 / QUEEN HIND	
1.1. LICENȚĂ / NUMBER	DA	
1.2. Ușor sau Sistem de Navigație	DA	
1.3. Echipat cu Sistem de Navigație	YES	
2. Tipuri de animale care pot fi transportate	Tineret / Adults – Bovine, Ovine, Caprine	
2. Tipuri de animale care pot fi transportate	Young : Măștițe – Cattle, Sheep, Goats	
3. SUPRAFAȚĂ B-36/PLATES	P.D. 1 – 310 m ²	P.D. 5 – 744 m ²
3.1. ARBĂ LA M ² /DECK	P.D. 2 – 412 m ²	P.D. 6A – 60 m ²
	P.D. 3 – 651,00 m ²	P.D. 6 – 479 m ²
	P.D. 4 – 679,30 m ²	P.D. 6A – 468 m ²
	P.D. 4A – 659,30 m ²	P.D. 7 – 552 m ²

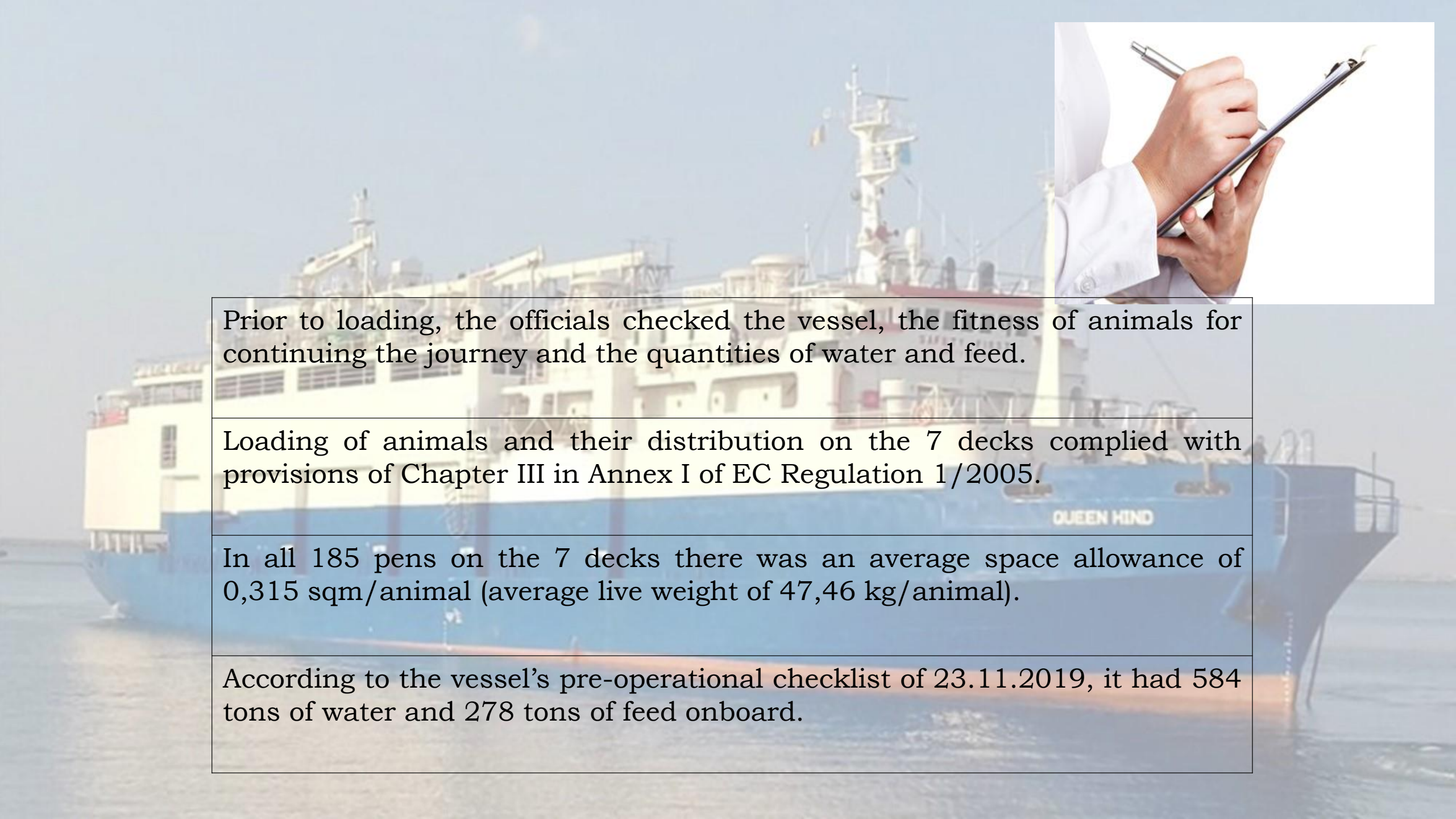
Suprafața totală pe punte: 1.234,567 (3827 m²) Oțel și oțeluri pe toate punțile: (4931 m²)
Cămin, oțel pe toate punțile: 2.345,67 (5011 m²)
* Pentru transportul animalelor pe toate punțile se datorează
4. Data autorizării și validării: 16.07.2022

4. AUTORITATEA CARE EMITE AUTORIZAȚIA
BODY ISSUING THE AUTHORIZATION
DIRECȚIA SANITARĂ VETERINARĂ ȘI PENTRU SIGURANȚA ALIMENTELOR CONSTANȚA
SANITARY VETERINARY AND FOOD SAFETY DIRECTORATE OF CONSTANȚA
5. Adresa și telefonul autorității: 3800 MENDELEA STR. 39011
3800 MENDELEA STR. 39011

2.1. Telefon	2.2. Fax	2.3. E-mail
+40241682417	+40241682119	office.constant@sanvsa.ro
2.4. Telefon	2.5. Fax	2.6. E-mail
06.03.2019	CONSTANȚA	
2.7. Disc	2.8. Date	2.9. Stamp

**Journeys performed by Queen Hind in 2019
from port Midia Constanta**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of animals loaded</i>	<i>Destination</i>
1	08.03.2019	13.786	Iran
2	19.04.2019	17.400	Jordan
3	07.05.2019	16.000	Jordan
4	24.05.2019	18.000	Jordan
5	09.06.2019	18.000	Jordan
6	23.06.2019	19.000	Jordan
7	07.07.2019	18.700	Jordan
8	19.07.2019	18.591	Jordan
9	07.08.2019	19.100	Jordan
10	26.08.2019	13.980	Kuwait
11	01.11.2019	15.000	Saudi Arabia



Prior to loading, the officials checked the vessel, the fitness of animals for continuing the journey and the quantities of water and feed.

Loading of animals and their distribution on the 7 decks complied with provisions of Chapter III in Annex I of EC Regulation 1/2005.

In all 185 pens on the 7 decks there was an average space allowance of 0,315 sqm/animal (average live weight of 47,46 kg/animal).

According to the vessel's pre-operational checklist of 23.11.2019, it had 584 tons of water and 278 tons of feed onboard.



- According to maritime authorities, the accident on 24.11.2019 was most likely caused by incorrect ballasting of the vessel;
- It is also possible that one of the contributing factors was the master's lack of experience.

- After the incident, an action plan was put in place at the LVU (SVFSD Constanta) in order to rescue the sheep that were still alive onboard;
- 252 sheep were rescued, sheltered and kept under veterinary observation; out of them, 180 sheep were clinically stabilized and subsequently taken over by an NGO for animal protection;
- The carcasses were incinerated in ABP approved establishments. Retrieval and refloating of the vessel from the turning basin was carried out afterwards by the Romanian state, based on a service agreement.



Measures taken following the accident (1)

- supplementing the number of veterinarians in the Exit Point ;
- reviewing the internal procedures for loading/unloading of the livestock;
- retraining the personnel in the Exit Point;
- implementing contingency plans for each journey;
- drafting a specific procedure – **Intervention in the Exit Points in case of incidents involving vessels transporting livestock intended for export to third countries**



Measures taken following the accident (2) - The procedure for intervention

Includes:

- The actions to be taken by the official veterinarians: in the Exit Point, at local level and at central level (NSVFSA);
- The actions taken by the provisional keepers who were given custody of the animals that were saved.

The provisional keepers may not alienate (transfer ownership) the animals. They may keep the animals until determining the legal ownership. The animals on Queen Hind had been already sold to the owner in a non-EU country. Unsuccessful attempts were made to contact the owner. Therefore, the animals continue to be kept by an NGO.

Measures taken following the accident (3)

In order to prevent animal welfare incidents from occurring during maritime transport, national legislation was amended and completed, on the basis of the Network Document on Livestock Vessels:

- involving experts with a high level of expertise in thoroughly checking the technical aspects that exceed the competencies of the official veterinarians: requirements on construction and equipment of the vessels are checked before approval and before each loading by official veterinary inspectors and independent authorized maritime inspectors and the accompanying documents are checked by representatives of the Romanian Naval Authority – national legislation started from 2020;
- the vessel's master sends to the official veterinarians in the Exit Point reports on the protection of animals transported, daily as well as at the end of the journey



Conclusions

- Controls for animal welfare are not geared to detect issues that could cause vessels to tilt and overturn. Moreover, official veterinarians would not have the necessary skills to detect these issues. This is why we cooperate with experts in order to perform thorough inspections.
- Controls on vessels carried out by professionals from other authorities, such as Port State Control, are more suited to detect problems linked to tilting and overturning. This animal welfare disaster highlights that these controls are not only important for maritime safety at sea but also for animal welfare.
- The different authorities carrying out controls on livestock vessels should work together to prevent such events from happening.
- Starting with 2023, there are new EU regulations according to which such controls are performed by official veterinarians and maritime experts.



Thank you for your attention!