

## Background

Animal transport can be the most challenging event in an animal's life. Transport is a stressful operation in the life of farm animals, whether transported to slaughterhouses, holdings or reproduction sites, and risks rise as the distance over which animals are transported increases.

International trade issues and border controls can seriously affect the duration of transport. Ensuring animal welfare during transport creates a set of challenges for all parties involved.

Many countries throughout the world lack national regulations. Implementing WOA standards on animal transport is of crucial importance. The Terrestrial Animal Health Code [Chapters 7.2. Transport of animals by sea](#) and [7.3. Transport of animals by land](#) of the WOA terrestrial code for animal welfare provide valuable guidance to improve the welfare during animal transport.

## Purpose of the checklist

This document complements the WOA standards and does not replace the recommendations provided in the Terrestrial Code. It aims to provide guidance as to what actions to consider when planning transport for animals. Models of a checklist for transport by land and sea are presented in Annexe 1 and 2, respectively.

## Scope

The checklist applies to the following live domesticated and free-moving animals: cattle, buffaloes, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, and equines as well as animals travelling in containers: poultry and rabbits. The checklist can also be applicable to some other animals, e.g., deer, camelids, and ratites.

Arrangements should be foreseen to collect information at the destination regarding some key data, such as weight on arrival or mortalities.

## Objective

- To provide a list of items for checking by different actors to ensure that animal welfare is protected throughout the full journey/transport of the animal.

## Target audience

All animal transport stakeholders, including farmers, business operators, transporters, veterinary services, and competent authorities, as well as any other relevant participant in the transport operations.

## Definitions

### ANIMAL WELFARE<sup>1</sup>

means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

### BUSINESS OPERATOR<sup>2</sup>

means a person who represents a person or company in matters of business and who can make business decisions, agreements, etc. e.g., importers, exporters, buyers, and sellers.

### COMPETENT AUTHORITY<sup>1</sup>

means a Governmental Authority of a Member Country having the responsibility in the whole or part of the territory for the implementation of certain standards of the Terrestrial Code.

### ANIMAL HANDLER<sup>1</sup>

person with a knowledge of the behaviour and needs of animals who, with appropriate experience and a professional and positive response to an animal's needs, can achieve effective management and good welfare. Competence should be gained through formal training or practical experience.

### TRANSPORTERS<sup>2</sup>

means a company that transports goods, gas, oil, etc. from one place to another. e.g., cargo companies (trucks, vessels).

### VEHICLE/VESSEL<sup>1</sup>

means any means of conveyance including train, truck, aircraft or ship that is used for carrying animals.

### VETERINARY AUTHORITY<sup>1</sup>

means the Governmental Authority of a Member Country having the primary responsibility in the whole territory for coordinating the implementation of the standards of the Terrestrial Code.

### VETERINARY SERVICES<sup>1</sup>

means the combination of governmental and non-governmental individuals and organisations that perform activities to implement the standards of the Terrestrial Code.

### JOURNEY<sup>1</sup>

An animal transport journey commences when the first animal is loaded onto a vehicle/vessel or into a container and ends when the last animal is unloaded, it also includes any stationary resting/holding periods. The same animals do not commence a new journey until after a suitable period for rest and recuperation, with adequate feed and water.

<sup>1</sup> WOA Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Glossary, <sup>2</sup> Cambridge Dictionary

## Annexe 1

This checklist model aims to support the different actors with responsibility in a transport operation to ensure compliance with the recommendations of Chapter 7.3 Transport of Animals by Land, of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. According to the context (geographical, climatic, animal species, etc), other questions could be added.

**Shipment information**

Animal species:  
Origin:  
Destination:  
Name of the establishment:  
Business agent details: `

**Vehicle (s) information**

Vehicle (s) Owner:  
Name of the Driver/Animal handler (s):  
Model:  
Year:  
Colour:  
License Plate:

N°	Items	Achievement stage			
		Yes	No	N/A	Comments
<b>Planning of the transport (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.3.5.)</b>					
1	If the transport is an international one. Are business operators/drivers/handlers familiar with minimum standards for animal welfare (where these exist) in the place of departure and destination?				
2	Is there a journey plan in place that provides details of the route (e.g., least loading plan, journey duration, itinerary and location of resting places)?				
3	Have all relevant stakeholders (e.g., Business operator, transport company, vehicle owner, driver, animal handlers, managers of facilities at the start and at the end of the journey) been provided with a copy of the journey plan?				
4	Have advance arrangements/bookings been made with all the carrier(s) participating in the transport of the live animals?				
5	Have the transport companies, vehicle owners and drivers chosen vehicles/containers appropriate for the species transported and the journey (e.g., do these provide adequate ventilation and protection from adverse weather conditions)?				
6	As appropriate for the species, age, and duration of the journey, have the animals been provided with a suitable amount of feed and water for the entire transport/journey?				
7	Have special provisions for transport in vehicles (road and rail) on roll-on/roll-off vessels or for containers been considered in advance?				
8	Is the space on the vehicle or in the container appropriate to the species, size, and weight. e.g., does it meet the need for the animals to lie down (for example, cattle, sheep, pigs, camels and poultry), or to stand (horses)?				
<b>Responsibilities (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.3.3)</b>					
9	Is there a clear identification of the different responsibilities and roles for all people involved in the transport/journey. Have they been identified in the emergency plan?				
<b>Competences (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.3.4.)</b>					
10	Does the animal's handler/driver have appropriate training, competence, and knowledge about the relevant animal species to be transported, including the animals' senses and behaviour, and knowledge of how to move the animals?				
<b>Documentation (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article: Article 7.3.6)</b>					
11	Is there any type of authorisation required before the start of the transport/journey?				
12	Is there an emergency plan and journey log available for the whole transport/journey?				
13	Is there compliance with any required veterinary or other certification at the destination?				
<b>Pre-journey (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.3.7.)</b>					
14	Have the animals been selected to avoid adverse animal welfare consequences during transport? (e.g., animals of different species or sizes; animals with big horns will not be transported together; maintenance of social groups and/or selection of compatible groups)				
15	Are the animals healthy and fit for transport? (e.g., pregnant animals)				
16	Will an animal handler/handlers be present for the duration of the journey who is competent with the species being transported?				

Annexe 2

This checklist model aims to support the different actors with responsibility in a transport operation to ensure compliance with the recommendations of Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea, of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. According to the context (geographical, climatic, animal species, etc), other questions could be added.

**Shipment information**

Animal species:  
Origin:  
Destination:  
Name of the establishment:  
Business agent details:

**Vessel information**

Name of the vessel:  
Vessel Owner (Flag):  
Name of the Captain:  
IMO Registration number:  
Capacity:  
Construction year  
Any relevant authorisation number:

N°	Items	Achievement stage			Comments
		Yes	No	N/A	
<b>Planning of the transport (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.2.5.)</b>					
1	If the transport is an international one. Are business operators/drivers/handlers familiar with minimum standards for animal welfare (where these exist) in the place of departure and destination?				
2	Is there a journey plan in place that provides details of the route (e.g., least loading plan, journey duration, itinerary and location of resting places)?				
3	Have all relevant stakeholders (e.g., Business operator, transport company, vehicle owner, driver, animal handlers, managers of facilities at the start and at the end of the journey) been provided with a copy of the journey plan?				
4	Have advance arrangements/bookings been made with all the carrier(s) participating in the transport of the live animals?				
5	Have the transport companies, vehicle owners and drivers chosen vehicles/containers appropriate for the species transported and the journey (e.g., do these provide adequate ventilation and protection from adverse weather conditions)?				
6	As appropriate for the species, age, and duration of the journey, have the animals been provided with a suitable amount of feed and water for the entire transport/journey?				
7	Have special provisions for transport in vehicles (road and rail) on roll-on/roll-off vessels or for containers been considered in advance?				
8	Is the space on the vehicle or in the container appropriate to the species, size, and weight. e.g., does it meet the need for the animals to lie down (for example, cattle, sheep, pigs, camels, and poultry), or to stand (horses)?				
9	Are there facilities available to segregate sick/injured animals (e.g., hospital pens)?				
10	Are there sufficient veterinary supplies (e.g., medication) for the number of animals on board?				
11	Is there sufficient food and water available in the event of unforeseen delays e.g., due to extreme weather conditions?				
<b>Responsibilities (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.2.3)</b>					
12	Is there a clear identification of the different responsibilities and roles for all people involved in the transport/journey. Have they been identified in the emergency plan?				
<b>Competences (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.2.4.)</b>					
13	Does the animal's handler/driver have appropriate training, competence, and knowledge about the relevant animal species to be transported, including the animals' senses and behaviour, and knowledge of how to move the animals?				
<b>Documentation (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article: Article 7.2.6)</b>					
14	Is there any type of authorisation required before the start of the transport/journey?				
15	Is there an emergency plan and journey log available for the whole transport/journey?				
16	Is there compliance with any required veterinary or other certification at the destination?				

**Checklist model V.5 . Animal transport by land.**

<b>Pre-journey (Reference: Terrestrial Code Article 7.2.7.)</b>				
17	Have the animals been selected to avoid adverse animal welfare consequences during transport? (e.g., animals of different species or sizes; animals with big horns will not be transported together; maintenance of social groups and/or selection of compatible groups)			
18	Have the animals been pre-conditioned to the shipboard diet and methods of supplying feed and water?			
19	Are the animals healthy and fit for transport? (e.g., pregnant animals)			
20	Will an animal handler/handlers be present for the duration of the journey who is competent with the species being transported?			

draft