

## Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land and sea

# IRELAND

### Policy & Background:

-Aidan Cahill (Superintending Veterinary Inspector) Dublin (HQ Policy VECIT Division), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

### Inspection and Approval of Dedicated Livestock Vessels:

-Donal O Mahony (Veterinary Inspector) Waterford Regional Office, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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**Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa**

**7 - 9 November 2023, Tunis, Tunisia**

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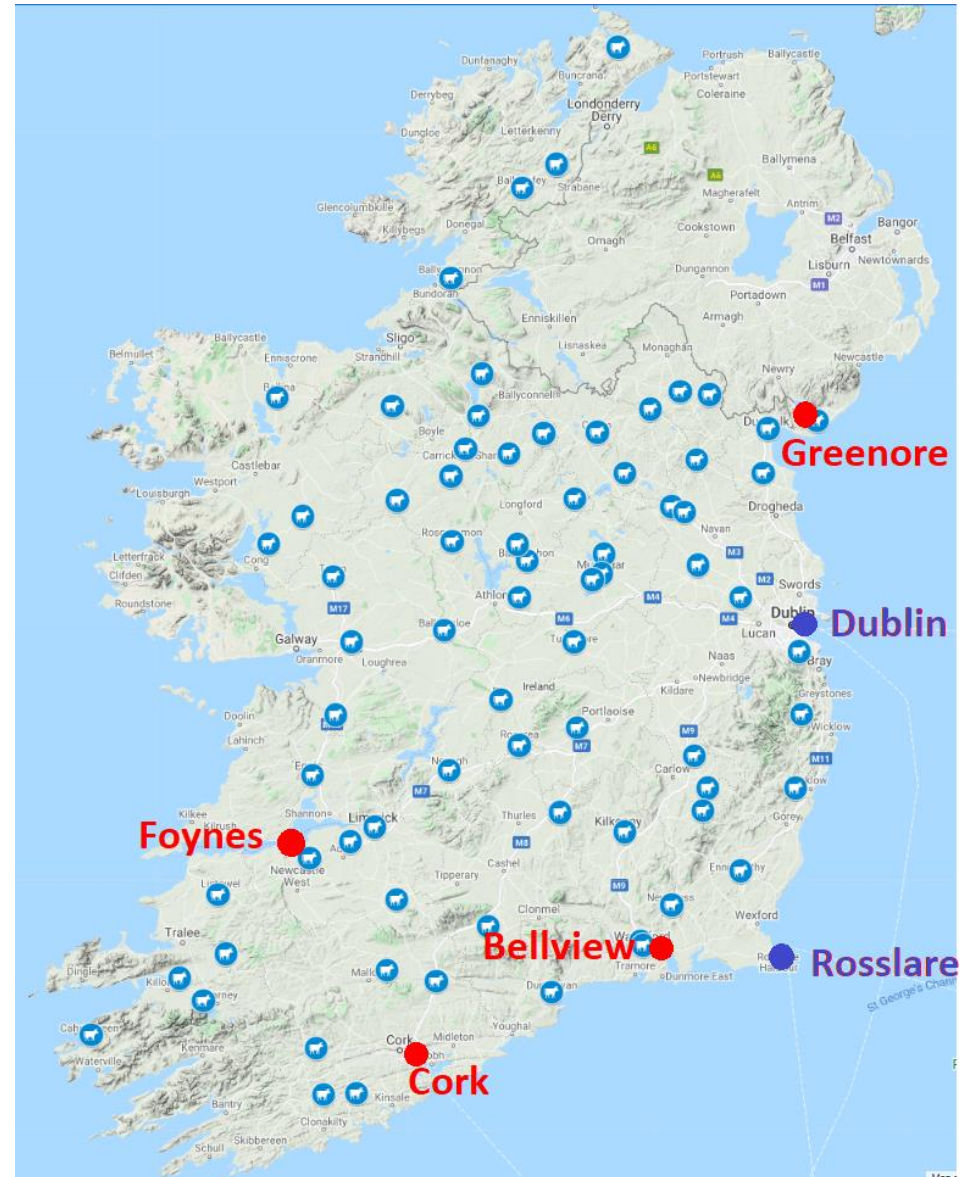
# National Animal Welfare Standards: Dedicated Livestock Vessels



1. National Rules in Ireland (including how livestock vessels are inspected and approved)
2. Checks Before, During and After Loading of Cattle

## Overview of country livestock transport and trade

- Map of assembly centres and major loading points for sea transport
- Standards are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 – for inspection of animals, means of transport, drivers, transporters, fitness for transport, certification and record keeping.
- Relatively few livestock imports



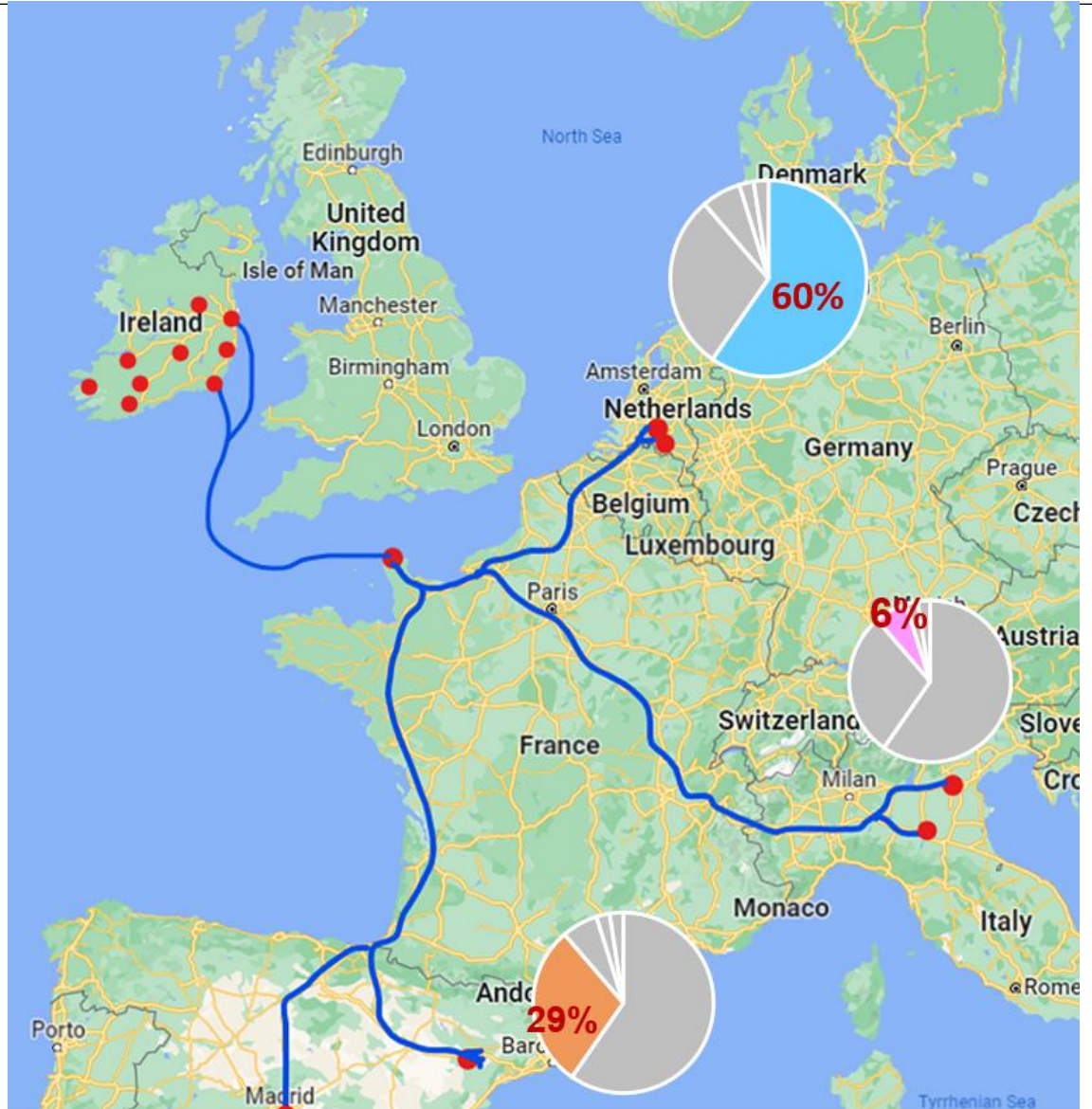
# Overview of country- livestock transport and trade

Cumulative Total by Country - all cattle traded from Ireland				
Country	2023 to 29/10/2023	2022 (full year)	2021 (full year)	2020 (full year)
NETHERLANDS	107,099	97,776	49,178	48,865
SPAIN	69,142	73,239	73,538	81,278
NORTHERN IRELAND	47,255	48,775	72,781	64,222
ITALY	33,649	29,846	29,754	21,836
POLAND	16,306	3,973	1,544	3,132
HUNGARY	3,977	1,463	1,863	205
ISRAEL	3,443			
ROMANIA	3,354	76	100	245
BULGARIA	2,403	450	119	140
TURKEY	2,229	5,571		11,826
LIBYA	311	9,196	6,467	13,009
EGYPT		3,617		
JORDAN		3,387		
Others	8,096	8,958	12,209	20,906
<b>totals</b>	<b>297,264</b>	<b>286,327</b>	<b>247,553</b>	<b>265,664</b>

- Most trade consists of calves traded to EU countries by truck & ferry.
- However, although lower in number, many stronger and more valuable animals are traded by dedicated livestock vessels, to trading partners in Mediterranean Region as shown and also:
  - Tunisia,
  - Lebanon,
  - Algeria,
  - Morocco

## Trade to European Union countries

- Large numbers of bovine animals to Netherlands, Spain, Italy – most are unweaned or young calves.
- Travel by truck and ferry
- Can only enter continental Europe via Cherbourg port currently
- Two Control Posts in Cherbourg – 12 hours rest for all unweaned calves, feeding.



- Calves drinking milk replacer in purpose built lorry with integrated feeding system (Finkl/Berghuis))



# Dedicated Livestock Vessels: Background

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- Typically 8-10 voyages per year of cattle from Ireland aboard dedicated livestock vessels
- Average of approx 1800 cattle per voyage
- Mediterranean region
- Journey approx 10-12 days
- Ireland has national legislation that goes beyond EU rules



## Numbers of cattle exported from Ireland to Mediterranean-region countries neighbouring EU

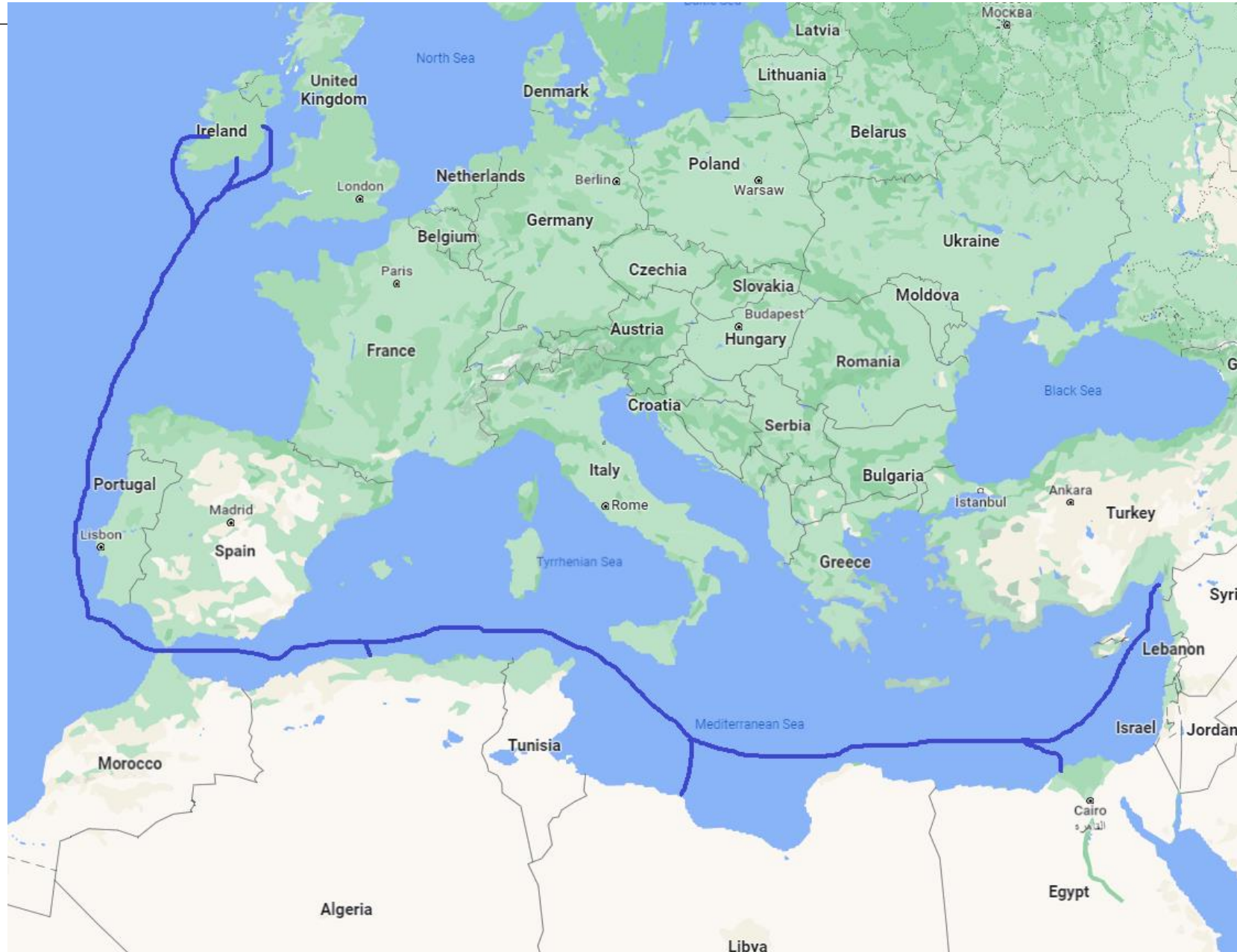
COUNTRY TOTALS	2023 (to 29/10/2023)	2022	2021	2020	total	% of total
ALGERIA	380			1,088	<b>1,468</b>	2.6%
EGYPT		3,617			<b>3,617</b>	6.5%
ISRAEL	3,443				<b>3,443</b>	6.2%
JORDAN		3,387			<b>3,387</b>	6.1%
LEBANON		791				
LIBYA	311	9,196	6,467	13,009	<b>28,983</b>	52.2%
MOROCCO		111		61	<b>172</b>	0.3%
TUNISIA	235			164	<b>399</b>	0.7%
TURKEY	2,229	5,571		11,826	<b>19,626</b>	35.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,598</b>	<b>22,673</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>26,148</b>	<b>61,095</b>	



# Livestock exports from Ireland on Dedicated Livestock Vessels

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- Atlantic portion of journey – potential for high waves.
- Mediterranean portion – potential for high temperatures.
- Onward journey of cattle after voyage - reliant on operator for information.
- Conditions and care of animals aboard ship.



# Competent Authority(ies) & standards:

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- Irish Competent Authority = Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Authorities of other EU Member States are involved if animals are transported by road through Europe to a Mediterranean port (e.g. France, Spain, Croatia, Slovenia)
- Standards are those laid down in EU Rules
  - (primarily [Regulation \(EC\) No 1/2005](#) on the protection of animals during transport)
  - Lays down standards for fitness of animals, pre-transport inspection, certification, record-keeping, assembly centres, vehicles and ships.
- Ireland also has national legislation for vessels, and ferries carrying livestock, that goes beyond EU rules
  - [Statutory Instrument no 356 of 2016](#) for dedicated livestock vessels
  - [Statutory Instrument no 580 of 2007](#) for roll-on-roll-off ferries carrying livestock in vehicles

# Ireland's National Rules



- [Statutory Instrument no 356 of 2016](#) Dedicated Livestock Vessels- Sets out:
  - Vessel inspection and approval
  - Weather conditions
  - Voyage Plan
  - Inspection before loading
  - Duties of Master of the Vessel, and loading and care of livestock, stocking densities
  - Stability requirements, design of pens, stalls & passageways, ventilation, electrical, drainage, lighting, fire-fighting systems
  - Master's Report
  - Feed, water, patrols of crew

# Implementation of the Standards:

## *Process for livestock vessel approval (Irish national rules)*

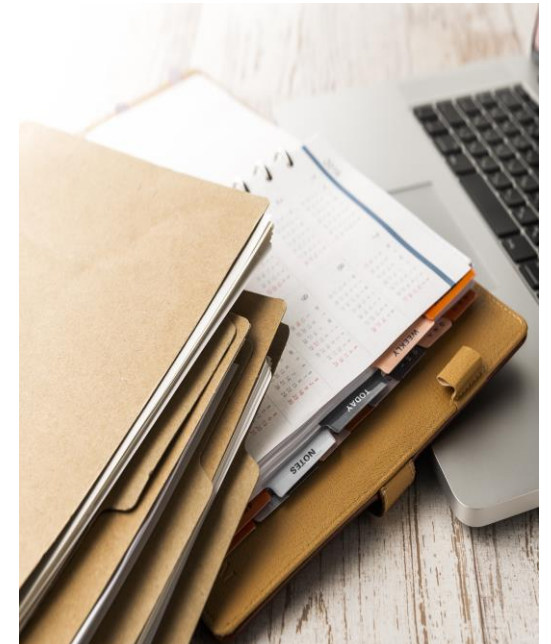
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**!! Only an approved livestock vessel may transport livestock!!**

- **Documentary check first – document review fee €900**

- To screen out the lowest quality vessels:

- Flag State must be on White List** as published annually by the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control
- Performance Level of the Recognised Organisation (RO)** issuing statutory certificates on behalf of Flag state must be recorded as **High** in the RO performance table published by the Paris MoU
- Performance Level of the International Safety Management (ISM)** operating company must **not** be listed as “**Low or Very Low**”



# Implementation of the Standards:

## *Conditions for vessel approval (Irish national rules)*

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### Documentary check:

- History of vessel, crew profile (relevant experience and competence), Stability information
- International Convention Certificates
  - International Convention Certificates
  - Safety Construction certificate
  - Safety Equipment certificate
  - Safety Radio Certificate
  - International Load Line Certificate
  - International Oil Pollution Certificate
  - International Air Pollution Certificate
  - International Sewage Pollution Certificate
  - Maritime Labour Convention Certificate
- Detailed plans, livestock pen plan, test results, power systems, ventilation, drainage, fuel capacities, storage, fire-fighting, lighting, drinking water, emergency backup systems

# Implementation of the Standards:

## *Physical inspection of the vessel*

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- €10,000 deposit to cover inspection fee & travel costs
  - Vessel will only be inspected if document review is satisfactory.
  - Inspection usually not carried out in Ireland.
  - **Joint inspection with specialised Veterinary Inspector and Marine Surveyor.**
  - Opening meeting – important to meet the officers. Outline plan for inspection.
  - Extremely detailed – all systems – can take 1-2 days
  - May require additional documents or additional stability calculations
  - Detailed inspection and demonstration of machinery, alarm tests, pens, all required equipment.
  - Deck surface non-slip, easily cleaned; Fittings safe & suitable

# Physical Inspection of Vessel

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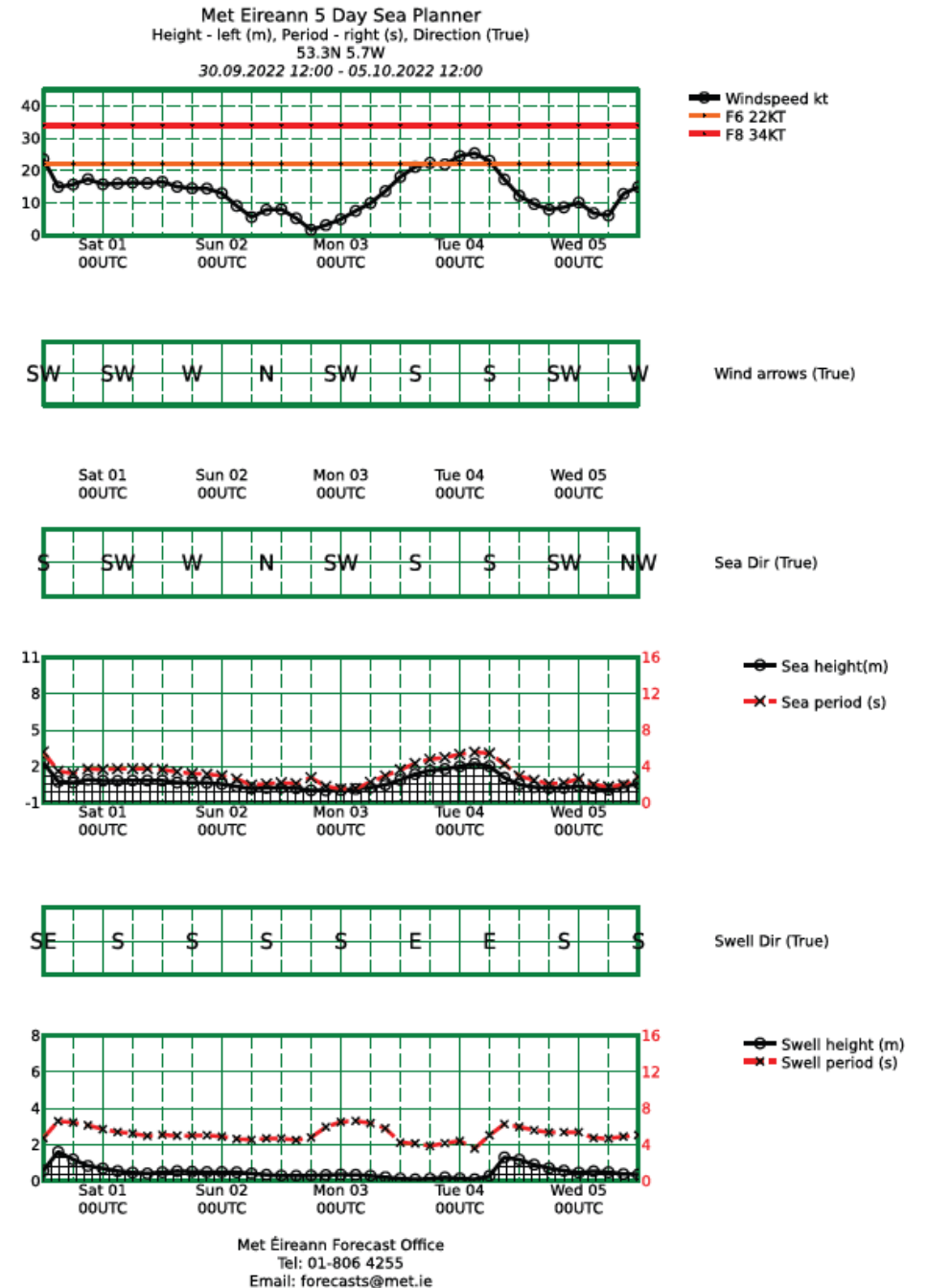
- Insulation provided for engine room bulkhead, tank-top floor, uppermost roofs
- Electrical cables and electrical fittings safely secured
- Design, dimensions and strength of pens and passageways, pen numbering, hospital pens
- Loading arrangements –ramps, slopes, foot battens, side protection and surfaces
- Ventilation, lighting, drainage (flood the decks), firefighting, feed, fresh water
- Engine room, electrical generation, water storage/generation, backup systems all inspected.
- Closing meeting with officers – outline preliminary findings.
- Two independent inspection reports; re-inspection of any non-compliances, final reports
- Approval Certificate, with conditions as appropriate. Approval for up to 5 years





## 2. Implementation of the Standards: Checks before, during and after loading

- Five days notice of loading required
- Specialised weather report from Met Éireann (Ireland's state weather service)
- Does not depart if predicted wind of F8
- Vessels of <90m does not depart if predicted wind of F6







# Checks before, during and after loading

- Feed: 2% of live body weight of Hay of good quality
- 1.6% of live body weight of meal
- Generally mixture of 1/3 Hay and 2/3 meal
- Reserve of 25% or 3 days whichever lesser



# Checks before, during and after loading

- **Documentary check** – Master’s report of last voyage (mortalities, sick/injured, weather encountered), cleansing & disinfection, crew list, cattle capacity plan, vessel approval certificate –conditions attached?
- **Physical inspection** – important as fittings deteriorate rapidly at sea – cleanliness, ventilation, drainage, feed & water storage & delivery, structure & facilities – pens, ramps, passageways; lighting, bedding
- **Loading Inspection**– Veterinary Inspector with Technical Agricultural Officers monitoring at all times – handling practices, fitness for transport, stocking density



# Checks before, during and after loading

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- Stocking densities varies for journeys >12 days or into Red Sea (approx. 11% more space allowance)
- Loading Plan
- Stockman
- Veterinary Inspector travels with first voyage after initial approval and occasional voyages thereafter – welfare outcomes during voyage considered good.



# Thank you

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