

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

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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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



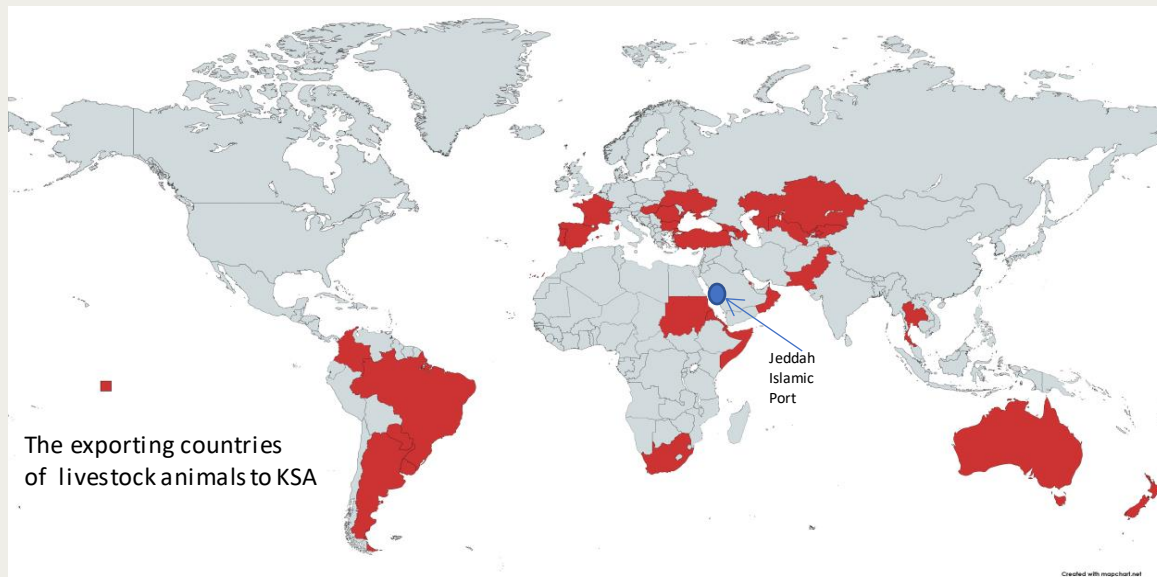
World Organisation
for Animal Health
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Overview of country livestock transport and trade

Main trading countries and routes (by sea and by land)

- KSA is one of the main importing countries for livestock, with very limited exportation of live animals.
- The main long distance transportation is the sea route.
- Currently, KSA is importing livestock from more than 30 countries worldwide.

Main trading countries and routes



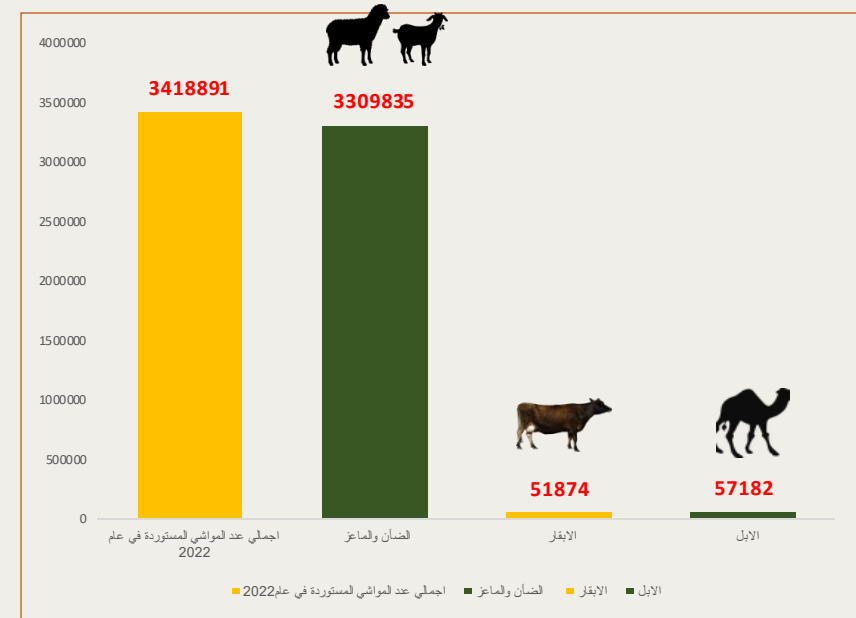
الدول المسموح استيراد مواشئ حية
أتم تحديث بتاريخ 1445/4/1هـ

WEQAA CENTER | مركز وقاء

رقم	اسم الدولة	أبل	أضراس	صان	ماعز	استيراد لغرض الذبح	استيراد لغرض التربيه
1	البحرين	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	عمان	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	البرازيل	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	--
4	الأوروغواي	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	الأرجنتين	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	استراليا	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	نيوزيلندا	--	✓	✓	--	--	✓
8	باكستان	✓	--	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	جورجيا	--	--	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	البنغلاديش	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	المصر	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	البرهان	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	كازاخستان	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	رومانيا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	أوكرانيا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	فرنسا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	--
17	اسبانيا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	إيطاليا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	بنغلاديش	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	السودان	✓	--	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	كولمبيا	--	✓	--	--	✓	--
22	موريتانيا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	جنوبي	✓	--	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	الموغال	✓	--	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	جنوب افريقيا	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	فيلاد	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	تركيا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	مولدوفا	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	أيرلندا	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	أذربيجان	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Number of exported/imported animals and trends

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is considered one of the largest countries in the region in importing livestock.
- KSA is importing an average of 4-6 million animals every year.
- Most of the imported animals are sheep and goats (3.309.835 head in 2022).
- The trend of importing animal is nearly similar except in 2021 and 2022 (Covid-19) was decreases the needed animals for Hajj season.



Total imported animals to KSA via main sea and land ports in 2022.

Ports	Sheep & goats	Camels	cattle	horses
Jeddah Islamic port	2,636,855	27,055	32,156	
Al Bataha	49,643	8,034	38	509
Alrukaa	96,035	6,626		
King Fahad bridge				96
alhaditha	503,046	781	9,132	82

The number of imported animals to KSA in 2022.

Type of animal species	The number of imported live animals (Head)
Sheep and Goat	3.309.835
Cattle	51.874
Camel	57.182
Total	3.418.891

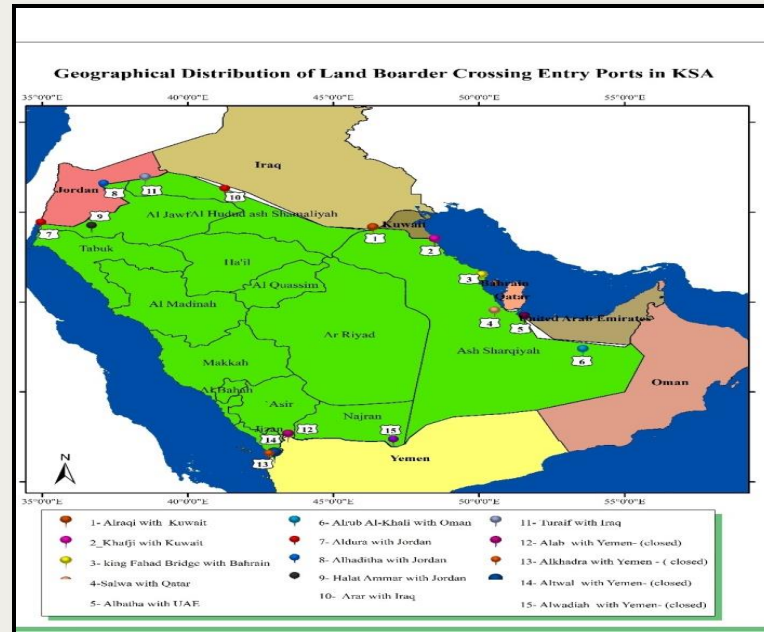
Main border control posts / animal holding or quarantine facilities

Quarantine check points in KSA

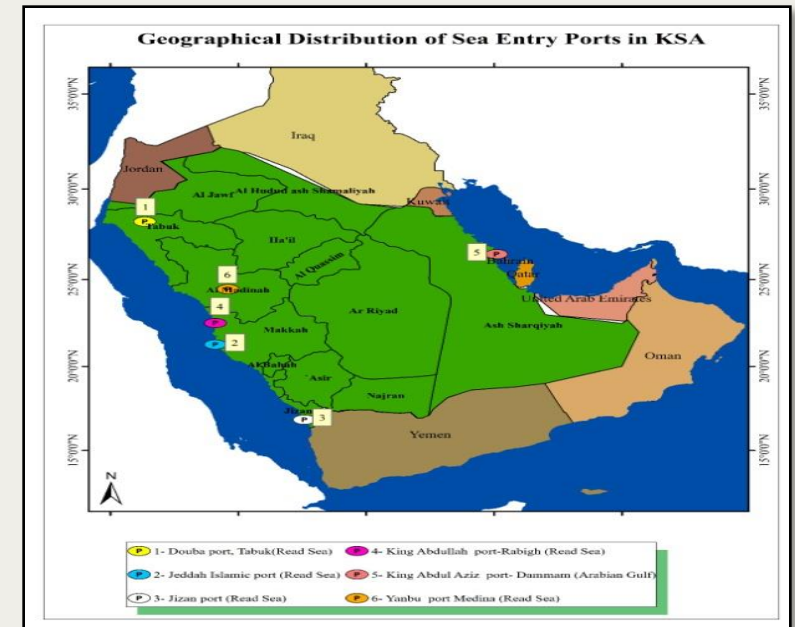
بيان بأسماء المحاجر الحيوانية والنباتية باللغة العربية

الرقم	اسم المحجر باللغة العربية	اسم المحجر باللغة الإنجليزية
منافذ جوية		
١	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار الملك عبدالعزيز بجده	Animal and Plant Quarantine at King Abdulaziz International Airport
٢	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار الأمير محمد بن عبدالعزيز الدولي	Animal and plant Quarantine at Prince Mohamed International Airport
٣	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار الملك خالد الدولي	Animal and Plant Quarantine at King Khalid International Airport
٤	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار الملك فهد الدولي	Animal and Plant Quarantine at King Fahad International Airport
٥	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار الإحساء الإقليمي	Animal and Plant Quarantine at Al-Ahsa Airport
٦	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار سكاكا الإقليمي	Animal and Plant Quarantine at Jawuf Airport
٧	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار الأمير نايف بن عبدالعزيز	Animal and Plant Quarantine at Prince Naif Airport
٨	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمطار نجران الإقليمي	Animal and plant Quarantine at Najran Airport
منافذ بحرية		
٩	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بميناء جدة الإسلامي	Animal and Plant Quarantine at Jeddah Islamic port
١٠	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بميناء ينبع	Animal and Plant Quarantine at Yanbu port
١١	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بميناء الملك عبدالعزيز بالدمام	Animal and Plant Quarantine at King Abdulaziz port
١٢	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بميناء الملك عبد الله بربيع	Animal and Plant Quarantine at King Abdullah port
١٣	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بميناء ضياء	Animal and Plant Quarantine at Diba port
١٤	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بميناء جازان	Animal and Plant Quarantine at Jazan port
١٥	المحجر النباتي بميناء الجبيل	Plant Quarantine at Al Jouba'il port
منافذ برية		
١٦	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بالجاف	Animal and Plant Quarantine in Dry port
١٧	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمنفذ الحديثة	Animal and Plant Quarantine in Al-Haditha
١٨	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمنفذ حالة عمار	Animal and Plant Quarantine in Hali Ammar
١٩	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمنفذ الدرة	Animal and Plant Quarantine in Durah port
٢٠	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمنفذ طريف	Animal and Plant Quarantine in Turaif
٢١	المحجر الحيواني والنباتي بمنفذ جديدة عرعر	Animal and Plant Quarantine in Gadedat Arar

Land ports in KSA



Sea ports in KSA





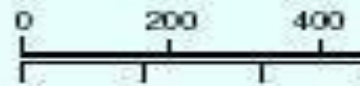
Land entry points

Haditha
Tareef
Arar
Halat Ammar
Al Durra

Regai
Khafgi
King Fahd Bridge

Salwa
Batha

Wadiaa
Alab
Khadra
Tuwal



The designations used...
...ment or acceptance



Sea entry points

Diba Port

Yanbo'a Port

Jeddah Port

Riyadh Dry Port

Jazan Port

Al Gubeil Port

King Abdul-Aziz Port

Competent Authority(ies)

What is/are Competent Authority(ies) responsible for animal welfare during transport by land and sea?

The competent authority in KSA is the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA), represented by:

1. - The national Center for Prevention and Control of Plant Pests and Animal Diseases (WEQAA Center).
2. - The National company for Agriculture.
3. The General Department of Quarantine.

-All people responsible for animals during journeys are competent to carry out the relevant responsibilities listed in Article 7.2(3) .3. and article 7.2(3).4.

-MEWA supervise and assess competence of responsible for animal welfare in the exporting countries and during the journey by sending responsible official veterinarians to the exporting countries.

- The competent authorities directly assess the animal welfare on KSA ports .

-There is penalties for the operating companies for implementation of the animal welfare standards to the imported animals.

What is/are the other Authority(ies) involved cross-border transport of animals by land and sea?

The responsible sections for international communication in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for issuing animal health certificates with the exporting countries.



National animal welfare standards

What are a minimum animal welfare standards on animal transport established in your country, that include:

KSA are following the Animal welfare according to:

- The terrestrial animal Health Code, Section 7 (animal welfare).
- Animal Welfare Act (System) of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
- **requirements for inspection of animals before, during and after their travel**
- The inspection of imported animals by a veterinarian is mandatory in all stages of importation of live animals to KSA according to the veterinary health certificates and standards of importation.
- **the definition of animal ‘fitness to travel’**
- According to the article 7.2 (3).7, animals should be inspected by a veterinarian or an animal handler to assess fitness to travel. If its fitness to travel is in doubt, it is the responsibility of a veterinarian to determine its ability to travel. Animals found unfit to travel should not be loaded onto a vessel. b) Humane and effective arrangements should be made by the owner or agent for the handling and care of any animal rejected as unfit to travel.

National animal welfare standards

- **certification and record keeping?**

Article 7.2(3).6. regarding documentation, animals should not be loaded until the documentation required to that point is completed. At the time of certification, the veterinarian should notify the animal handler or the driver of any factors affecting the fitness of animals to travel for a particular journey.

- **Do you have established standards for facilities, containers and vehicles for the transport of animals established in your country?**

Means of transportation must be ventilated and appropriate space to be availed according to the type of animal, the total amount of animals must not exceed 70-80% of the total space of the means of transportation.

National animal welfare standards

What are the standards for the competences of animal handlers, drivers and managers of facilities, business operators in relevant animal welfare issues established in your country?

In KSA, there is a strict governmental supervision and assessment of the operating business companies for approving facilities, vehicles, vessels and ensure that all people responsible for animals before, during, and after journeys to be competent in accordance responsibilities listed in article 7.2(3).3.

The assessment of the competence of animal handlers are regularly performed in line with standards including appropriate space allowance, and feed, water and ventilation; loading and unloading; fitness to travel; documentation requirements; cleaning and disinfection; and maintaining a journey log and other records.



Implementation of the standards

How is the Competent Authority implementing standards on animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in your country?

- The animal welfare issues are part of the protocols agreed between KSA and the exporting countries according to section 7 of Veterinary Animal Health Code.
- Protocols with exporting countries includes issues of animal welfare such as number of animals according to the transportation means, in addition to animals weight and general situation and the specifications of transporting containers/cages
- Specification of transporting containers/cages includes provision of adequate space, ventilation, cleaning and provision of enough food and water.

Monitoring and evaluation

How is the Competent Authority monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of standards on animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport in your country?

- The animal welfare issues are considered in the health certificates accompanying the live animals consignments imported to KSA
- There is a section of animal welfare within MEWA responsible for monitoring of all issues related to animal welfare.
- The competent authorities represented by, MEWA, WEQAA center supervise and ensure the implementation of the animal welfare standards. The executive competent authorities is the National Agriculture Company and the General department of Quarantine. The organization and collaboration of these authorities ensure the governmental monitoring and evaluation of the animal welfare.
- the Competent Authority is monitoring through Verification of health status, movement certificates, and the reports received from transporters, cross checking with MEWA personnel at entry points, and assuring the owners not to move during hot weather times.

Cross-border transport of animals

What are the procedures, including certification, applicable before and at departure, in transit and at arrival for cross-border transport of animals by land and by sea your country?

The general department of Animal Health Risk in the Animal Sector of WEQAA center is responsible for setting animal health certificates for importation of live animals and The General Department of Animal Quarantine is responsible for implementation of all measures of animal welfare at arrival and unloading and post-journey handling for cross-border transport of animals by land and by sea. All measures of animal welfare at the exported country and during the journey are regularly followed up and reported to the competent authorities.

What is the procedure to report back to the sending Competent Authority significant animal welfare problems which occurred during the journey?

- Regular reports about animal welfare before, at the journey are received from the animal quarantine officers in the quarantine posts.
- The importers/ traders are accountable for violations for animal welfare according Animal Welfare Act of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf Law or its Executive Regulations.

Conclusions

Overall, do you consider that your country is in compliance with WOA standard regarding animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport of animals by land?

KSA is in compliance with WOA standard regarding animal welfare during long distance and cross-border transport of animals by land.

Please list the main gaps/weaknesses or challenges for the Competent Authority(ies) in your country to implement WOA standards and country legislation and requirements on animal transport.

- The international events such as covid -19 pandemics and natural crisis.
- The global climatic changes that can affect transportation.
- The incomplete animal identification and vaccination information in the exporting countries.
- Large number of imported animals.
- More awareness programmes/ campaigns of animals welfare issues are requested.
- More close and better coordination between competent authorities and other national and international stakeholders is required.

Thank you

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