

Country report on animal welfare during long distance transport by land

Republic of Albania

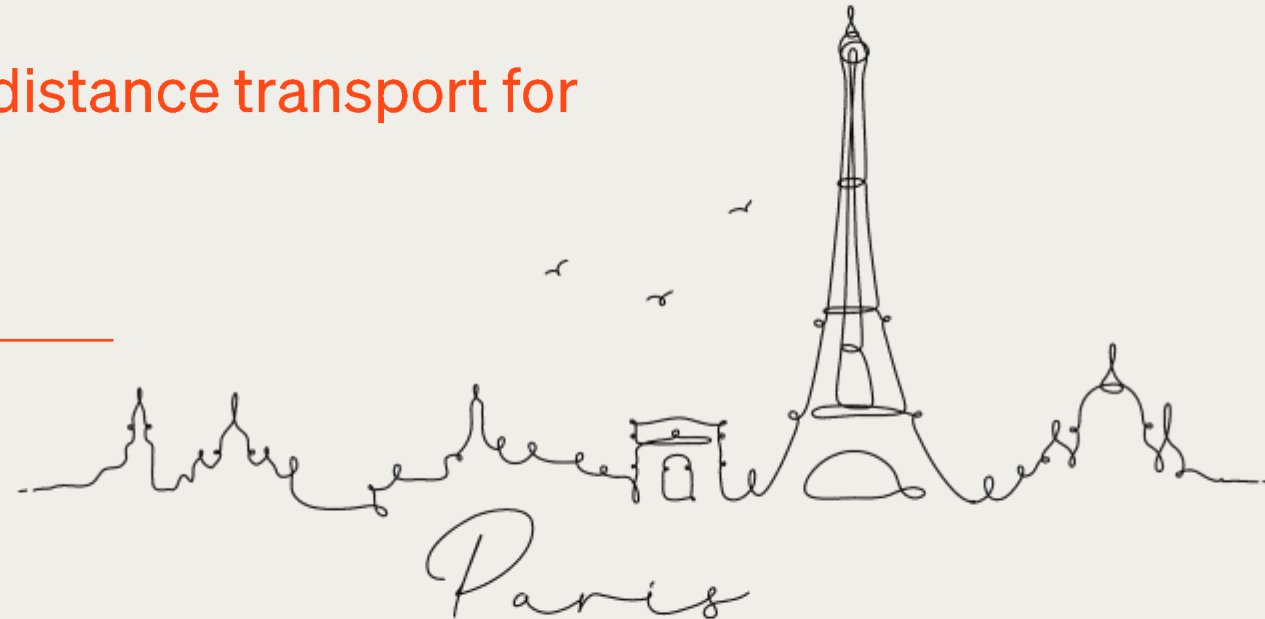
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Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport for Europe

16 – 18 December 2024, Paris, France



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1924



Overview of country livestock transport and trade

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development No. 168, dated 24.05.2012 "On the approval of Border Inspection Points, where veterinary, phytosanitary and food inspection for humans and animals is carried out in the Republic of Albania" has approved **13 BCPs** in which:

- **10 permanent BCPs** are approved for the **passage of consignment with live animals** and products of animal origin.
- 3 BCPs with prior notice which are approved for the passage of products of animal origin

BCPs of the Albanian borders with EU:

- At the border with Italy – BCPs of Durrës and Vlora.
- At the border with Greece- BCPs of Kakavija, Qafe Bote, Kapshtica and Gorice.

BCPs of the Albanian border with third countries (CEFTA)

- At the border with Montenegro- BCPs: Hani i Hotit
- At the border with North Macedonia - BCPs: Qafe Thane, Bllate
- At the border with Kosovo - BCPs: Morine, Qafe Morine



Overview of country livestock transport and trade

Main border control Post:

- Hani i Hotit, Kakavijë, Kapshticë, Morinë, Qafë Thanë

Main trading countries and routes:

- **2022- Greece, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Netherland, France, Germany.**
- **2023- Greece, Romania, Hungary, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Slovakia, Croatia, Netherland, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, Spain**
- **2024- Greece, Hungary, Romania, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Netherland, Germany, Ireland, Denmark, Italy, Estonia, Spain.**

Number of imported animals:

- **2022-** 203,499 animals (bovine, small ruminants and pigs);
- **2023-** 257,964 animals (bovine, small ruminants and pigs);
- **2024-** 230,822 animals (bovine, small ruminants and pigs).

Republic of Albania is not listed for export of live animals in EU.

Competent Authority(ies)

National Authority of Veterinary and Plant Protection (NAVPP)

- **Regional veterinary service (RVS)**
 - 4 Regional Directories for Veterinary and Plant Protection Service performs control of transporters based on article 72 of Law No. 10465, dated on 29.9.2011 “On Veterinary Service in Republic of Albania”, as amended and Order of Minister No. No. 354, dated 21.12.2011 “On the protection of animals during transport” which partially approximated 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.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Is the competent authority in charge for legislation and policy of animal welfare during transport.

National Food Authority

- Is the Competent Authority for Border Inspection Points in Albania.

National animal welfare standards

In Albania, the animal welfare standards for animal transport are largely aligned with the European Union's regulations, specifically Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, such as:

Control of animals, before, during and after travel

- check of their health status;
- Check to ensure animals are fit and able to travel;
- checks of animals welfare including ventilation, feed, water and rest) during travel;
- control upon arrival to ensure they have not suffered any injuries or undue stress during the journey;
- Tachograph;
- the condition and the place of the means of transportation of animals.

Fitness to Travel

- Checks to be ensure that animals are considered fit for travel, healthy, not injured, and able to withstand the journey without suffering undue stress or injury (Taking in considerations age, species, and any special needs the animal may have)

Certification and Record Keeping

- Transport authorization from NAVPP;
- Health veterinary certificate and certificate of the movement of animals;
- Transport documentation (date, owner of animals, date and time of loading, destination, time of journey);
- documentation that ensures the trainings of personnel;
- control of the equipment;
- operational procedures to ensure animal welfare;
- data log;
- Documents of cleaning and disinfection of means of transport, based on the model given by national authority;
- Validity of all documentations.

National animal welfare standards

Albania has established standards for facilities, containers, and vehicles used in the transport of animals. These standards are designed to ensure the safety and welfare of animals during transport aligned with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

Facilities and Containers

- **Design and Construction:** Facilities and containers must be designed and constructed to avoid injury and suffering, ensuring the animals' safety. This includes providing sufficient height and floor space, as well as proper ventilation.
- **Loading and Unloading:** Facilities must be designed to facilitate easy and safe loading and unloading of animals. This includes minimizing the risk of injury during these processes.
- **Space Allowances:** Adequate space must be provided for each animal, taking into account their size and species.

Vehicles

- **Approval and Maintenance:** Transport vehicles must be approved by competent authority (NAVPP) and maintained in good condition to ensure they are safe and suitable for transporting animals.
- **Equipment:** Vehicles must be equipped with necessary items such as water, feed, and bedding to ensure the animals' comfort during the journey.
- **Training of Personnel:** Personnel handling animals must be adequately trained for transportation of animals.

National animal welfare standards

Standards for the competences of animal handlers, drivers and managers of facilities, business operators in relevant animal welfare issues.

Animal Handlers

Drivers



Knowledge and Skills: Handlers must be experienced and competent in handling and moving animals, understanding their behavior patterns and needs.

Training: Handlers should receive training in animal welfare, behavior, and safe handling techniques.

Responsibilities: They are responsible for ensuring the animals' comfort, providing necessary water and feed, and adhering to transport regulations and Law of Veterinary Service.

Training and Certification: Drivers must be trained in the safe operation of means of transport and the specific needs of the animals they are transporting.



National animal welfare standards

Standards for the competences of animal handlers, drivers and managers of facilities, business operators in relevant animal welfare issues.

Managers of Facilities



- Facility Management:** Managers must ensure that facilities are designed and maintained to prevent injury and suffering, with adequate space and ventilation.
- Inspection and Compliance:** They are responsible for regular inspections and compliance with animal welfare standards.



Business Operators



- Certification and Record Keeping:** Operators must obtain certification and maintain detailed records of animal transport, including health checks and any incidents.
- Training and Awareness:** They must ensure that all personnel involved in animal transport are adequately trained and aware of animal welfare issues.

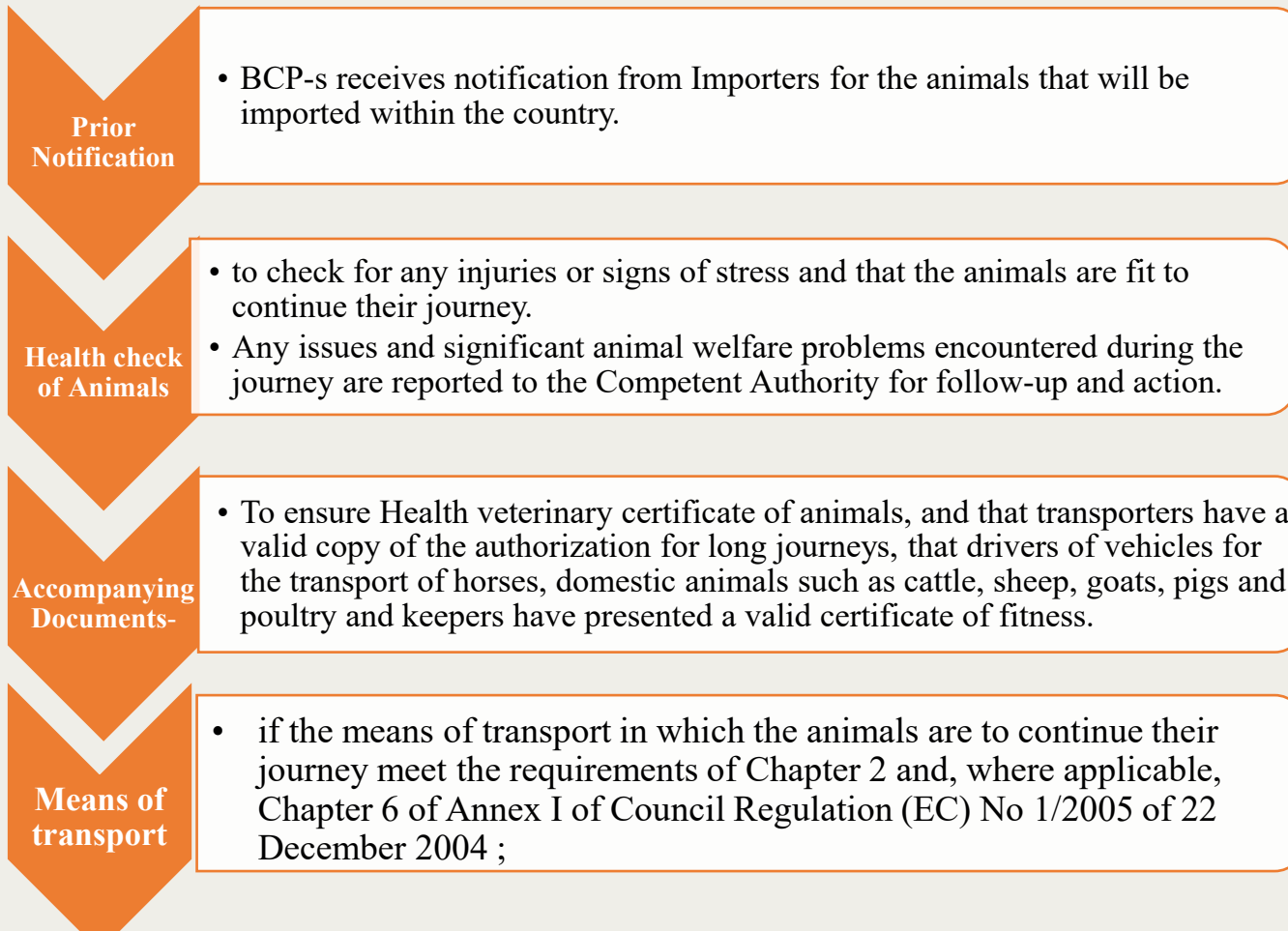


Implementation of the standards

- In Albania the Competent Authority which is responsible for implementing standards on animal welfare during transport is **National Authority of Veterinary and Plant Protection**.
- They implement all animal welfare standards of Law No. 10465, dated on 29.9.2011 “On Veterinary Service in Republic of Albania”, as amended and Order of Minister No. **No. 354, dated 21.12.2011** “On the protection of animals during transport” which partially approximated **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
- Within NAVPP is a specific sector “**Animal Health and Welfare Sector**”, which monitors daily the all activities and documentations released from Official Veterinarian for all transporters.
- Official Veterinarian conduct regular controls and monitoring of animal means of transport to ensure compliance with animal welfare standards.
- The Competent Authority issues authorizations for transporters, ensuring they meet the required standards for animal welfare.
- **Professional Order of Veterinary Doctor in Albania** provide training and raise awareness among transporters, handlers, and other stakeholders about animal welfare regulations and best practices.
- Transporters are required to maintain detailed records of animal transport, which are reviewed by the Competent Authority to ensure compliance.
- CA collects reports from controls and feedback from stakeholders to continuously improve animal welfare standards and practices.

Cross-border transport of animals - Procedures for Cross-Border Transport of Animals in Albania

Republic of Albania is not an exporting/transiting country for consignments of live animals.



- In the case of long journeys, for domestic equidae and domestic animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species, the official veterinarians at the points of entry in border inspection posts shall carry out and record the checks listed in Section 2, "Place of arrival", for long journeys in Annex II. The records of these checks shall be kept by the competent authority for a period of not less than three years from the date of the check.
- Where the Official Veterinarians establishes that the animals are unfit for their journey, they shall be unloaded, given water and food and rested. Animal Welfare problems are evaluated and then official veterinarian decide if the consignment is to be send back or no.

Conclusions

Albania has made significant strides in aligning its animal welfare standards with WOAHA guidelines, but there are still some gaps and challenges that need to be addressed:

Main Gaps/Weaknesses

Insufficient Resources: Limited financial can hinder the effective implementation and enforcement of animal welfare standards.

Training and Awareness: more comprehensive training programs for transporters, handlers, and veterinarians to ensure they are fully aware of and capable of implementing WOAHA standards.

Challenges for Competent Authority

Compliance: Encouraging full compliance from all transporters and handlers with the established standards and regulations.

Public Awareness: Raising public awareness about the importance of animal welfare during transport to garner support for stricter enforcement and better practices.

Thank you

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