

Work of the WOAH *ad hoc* Group on the current workplan and revision of the Terrestrial Code chapters on animal transport

5th meeting of WOAH regional network of National Contact Points on long-distance transportation in Europe
Thessaloniki, Greece
11-13 March 2025



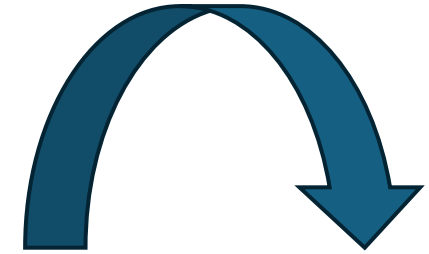
Maria Correia
General Direction of Food and Veterinary
Portugal



Introduction

Introduction

- ✓ Transport of live animals is a **complex issue** with potential high **impact on animal welfare** and for which **societal concerns** are growing
- ✓ It's a subject that needs **the involvement of the different stakeholders** and the comprehension of the **shared responsibilities** among them



Governments establish welfare measures



Impact on AW

Society concerns



Ethical responsibility



Production



Animal Transport

Trade

Economic impact

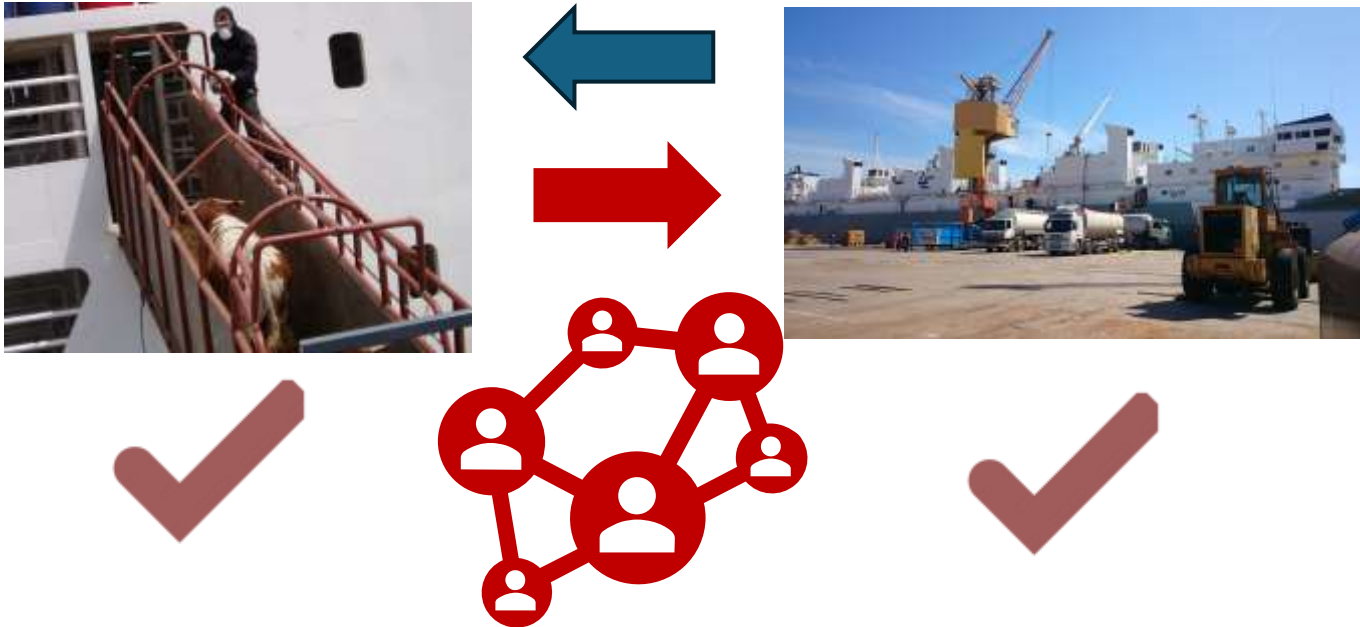
Food safety

Use of medication



Animal Health

Animal transport and trade



- **Complex Operations**

- Involves different stakeholders-transporters/exporters/importers/Farmers/organisers/CA
- Need a good planning and coordination
- Communication between CA-Health and AW issues; Documentation
- The importance of having good means of transports and personnel with competence as well as good management during the transport
- Contingency plans

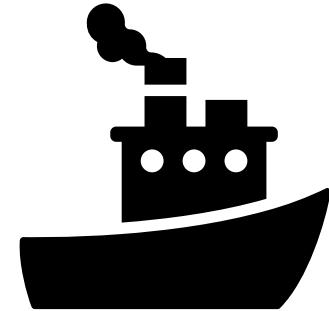
ANIMAL TRANSPORT CHAPTERS IN TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE

SECTION 7- ANIMAL WELFARE

CHAPTER 7.2 - TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY SEA

CHAPTER 7.3.- TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY LAND

CHAPTER 7.4.- TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY AIR



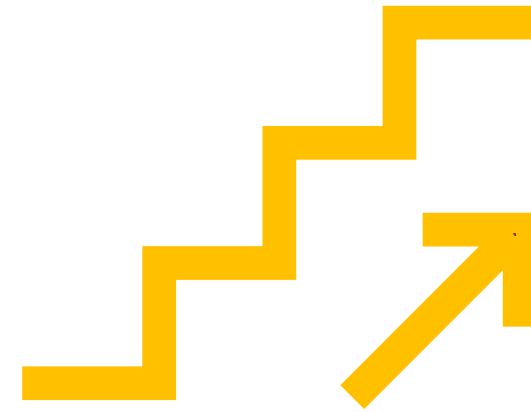
WOAH standards on AW during transport play an important role on the improvement of AW during transport



- ✓ Based on the science knowledge
- ✓ Minimum requirements for animal transport- general principles and specific requirements for the different types of transport (road, sea and air transport)
- ✓ Covers the different phases of transport and the main critical points
- ✓ Highlight the shared responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved
- ✓ Take in consideration the different realities world wide regarding animal transport

WOAH standards on AW during transport play an important role on the improvement of AW during transport

- ✓ Basis for the further actions at National level- enforcement of the codes- National regulatory framework or standards, guides of good practice ; development of training programs; etc
- ✓ Consideration to factors such as geographical situation, climatic, means of transport, type of production systems and species-specific requirements.
- ✓ **Relevance on the international trade of animals**
- ✓ Basis for networking/communication/cooperation among the WOAH members regarding animal transport



Gradual
improvement of the
AW during transport



AW transport code revision

WOAH ad hoc Group on the revision of Chapter 7.2. and 7.3. Transport of animals by sea and land

- Maria Jorge CORREIA (chair)
- Laura LAPITZ
- Jennifer WOODS
- Aidan CAHILL
- Nikki KELLS
- Johannes Shoopala
- Stanislav RALCHEV
- Barbara Paladino

- Leopoldo Stuardo

- Two meeting
- WOAH Headquarters- Paris



Different realities and expertises

AW on transport code revision

01

ITS A WORK IN
PROGRESS

02

AT THIS STAGE THERE
ARE JUST
PROPOSALS!!

03

THE CODE
COMMISSION AND
THE WOAHA MEMBERS
HAVE A VERY
IMPORTANT ROLE ON
THE PROGRESS OF
THIS WORK

Revision of the AW transport codes- TOR and objectives

Code Commission from its September 2020 meeting



General revision on Chapter 7.2 Transport of animal by sea and 7.3. – Transport of animals by land:

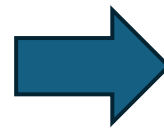


Significant duplication on the AW transport codes



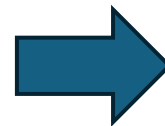
Update with the scientific and technical information- inconsistencies and the new areas of research that are inadequately covered in current version of the chapters;

WHY?



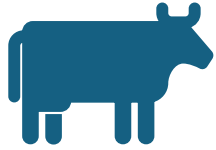
Proposal- to have **just one code** that includes the generalities of the animal transport and the specificities of each type of transport (road, water, air): Air transport- International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommendations

“Animal welfare during transport”



science based- references on the text

Revision of the AW transport codes- TOR and objectives



To select criteria (**animal - based measures**) for the welfare of the animals during all the transport of animals by sea and land operations



Harmonize with other chapters



Cover the **responsibilities and competencies** of the personnel, business operators and the Competent Authorities



Recommendations on the **preparation regarding the transport** of animals by sea and land

- ✓ Follow a similar structure of the recently revised Chapter 7.5. 'Animal welfare during slaughter',
- ✓ including 'animal-based measures' to assess the welfare of animals during the whole transport operation; However, when necessary, include design or management-based measures.

Revision of the AW on transport codes- TOR and objectives



sourcing and preparation of animal for export



moving and handling animals;



truck or vessel preparation and general management;



loading and management requirements;



lairage design and construction;



care of animals during the journey;

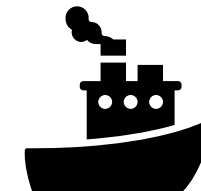


management of special situations, such as, management of pregnant animals or disease outbreaks;



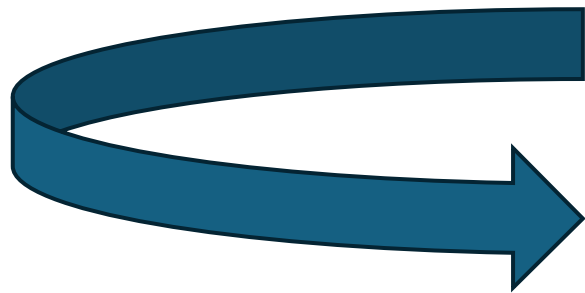
monitoring and reporting recommendations.

- ✓ chronological order, aligned with what could be considered during animal transport (operations).
- ✓ The recommendations should cover the complete journey (even if different means of transport are involved) of an animal
- ✓ be easy for readers



Scope

These recommendations apply to the following live domesticated animals: cattle, buffaloes, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and equines. They will also be largely applicable to some other animals, e.g. deer, other camelids and ratites. Wild animals and feral animals may need different conditions



Proposal

Transport in the context of **commercial activity** apply primarily to **domesticated species**, but can also be applied in general to other species.

However, **wild and captive wild animals may need different conditions**- Additional information for the transport of these species can be found at the CITES guidelines for non-air transport (https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/resources/transport/transport_guidelines_2013-english.pdf).

New definitions- proposals

- ❖ Align with the current scientific and practical information of the entire transport process
- ❖ Include definitions for actors involved in the operations that are carried out during animal transport and the revision of some existent definitions on the glossary

Transport- *also includes the planning, preparation, the journey, the post journey*

Transporter- *means any person or company transporting animals on their own account, or for the account of a third party.*

Journey organiser-*means the person(s) or company responsible for ensuring the planning and the necessary logistical arrangements for the entire journey are made in advance, including those necessary to safeguard the animals' welfare. This could be the role of the exporter or importer, the transporter, the freight forwarder, the owner of the animals, the keeper or the driver*

JourneyOrganiser

Is the person that plans the journey- This is specially important in more complex journeys- examples transports that involve sea and road transport

Can be the person that contracts the transporter(s)

The person in contact with the CA- have all the information

Can be the person in charge of the loading Operations- contracts the personnel

Should think about the contingencies and have a plan

Training and competence of personnel

- key aspect of good animal welfare during transport.
- Training- formal training recognised by the CA; limited validity;
- Which subjects should be covered





Responsibilities for all involved in transport

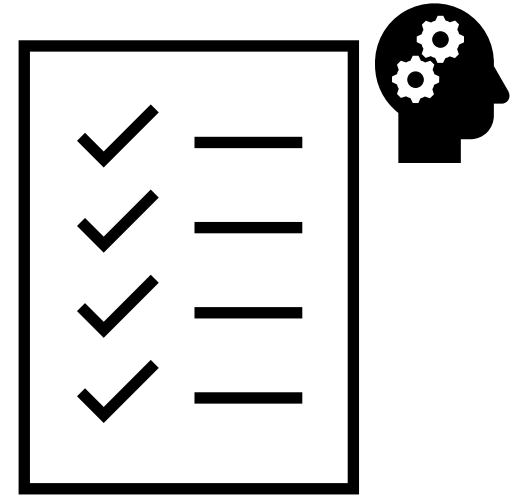
!!!Each person involved on the transport should be aware of their own responsibilities

joint responsibility of all people involved,

- Journey organiser
- Farm or other animal facility managers
- Animal handlers
- Manager of intermediar facilities
- Transporters
- Competent authorities

Contingency plans

- ✓ contingency plan in place for every journey (if they are repeated the same contingency plan with the update contacts)- all stakeholders involved
- ✓ Cover the all journey
- ✓ Very important in most complex journeys- example: journeys involving different types of transport
- ✓ Take in consideration the different hazards; type of transport, species, animal type, weather and the nature and duration of the journey
- ✓ Think about the actions to be taken in each possible situation
- ✓ Make the contingency plan aware of all the people involved



What can go wrong?

What actions should be taken?

Who to contact?

Planning the journey



appropriate means of transport to the species, categories and type of animals;	coordination of the different parts of the journey to prevent avoidable delays;	documentation to accompany the animals in accordance with the requirements of the transit and destination countries;	the selection of the best route, taking into account prevailing conditions and species-specific requirements;
the selection of the optimal weather conditions for the journey;	appropriate preparation of the animals for the journey;	appropriate loading and unloading facilities;	arrangements for bedding, resting, feeding and watering the animals during the journey as required;
competent personnel who will handle or drive the animals;	environmental conditions in the animal compartment during the journey;	contingency plan and emergency response plan;	sanitary measures to minimise the risk of transmissible disease.

Comprehensive planning is key to minimising the risk of injury or undue suffering during or after a *journey* [FAWAC, 2007].

Documentation

- Documentation plays an important role
- Allows the adequate planning and control of animal transport, especially in complex journeys
- The documentation required should be proportionate to the *animal welfare* risk.
- **Animals should not be loaded until the required documentation is complete.**



International transport-
veterinary health certificate

critical aspect that can
impact animal welfare if it
does not comply with the
requirements of the country
of destination.

Documentation

- **journey plan**, including date, time and place of loading, unloading or resting points;
- documentation of the location of the period of rest, and access to feed and water, prior to the journey number and type of animals;
- **veterinary certification and sanitary requirements**, when required;
- animal welfare competencies of the personnel involved in the transport of animals;
- animal identification to allow animal traceability to the premises of departure and, where possible, to the premises of origin;
- details of any animals considered at particular risk of suffering poor welfare during transport;
- **the journey log** - daily record of inspection and important events, including records of morbidity and mortality and actions taken, climatic conditions, rest stops, travel time and distance, feed and water offered and estimates of consumption, medication provided, and mechanical defects. The content of the journey log may vary depending on the length and complexity of the journey;



Hazards for animal welfare during transport

Similar structure of the recently adopted Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter

Identify the hazards, how to assess them and the actions to minimise the impact of the hazards on the AW on transport



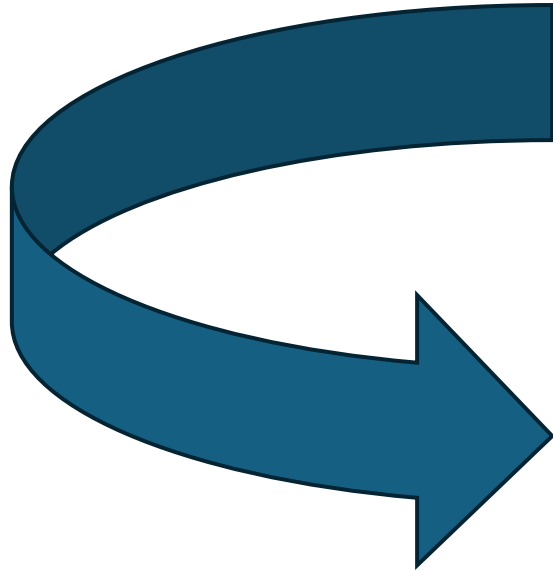
How to access the AW-measures

- To access the welfare of animals during transport- animal, resource and management-based measures.
- Preferred the Animal based measures
- Define the measures and the thresholds (science based)- adapted to the different conditions in which animals are transported.
- *Where to collect this data by the Competent Authority (Members)*
- Actions to be adopted



Nature of the journey

Multiple factors have a cumulative effect that may impair the welfare of the animals throughout the journey.



- Describe the main factors which present animal welfare hazards during the transport operations
- Identify the relevant animal-based measures and other measures to assess the welfare of the animals
- Provide recommendations to avoid animal welfare problems
- Identify species-specific recommendations
- identify recommendations specific to the different means of transport.

- Duration of the journey
- Fitness for transport
- Handling
- Loading and unloading
- Travel
- Weather/environmental conditions.
- Space allowance
- Ventilation
- Rest, water and feed
- Condition of the means of transport
- Other facilities
- Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey on an international transport.



Example- Fitness for transport

- ✓ Animal welfare concern
- ✓ Animal based and other measures
- ✓ Recommendations
- ✓ Species specific or means of transport recommendations

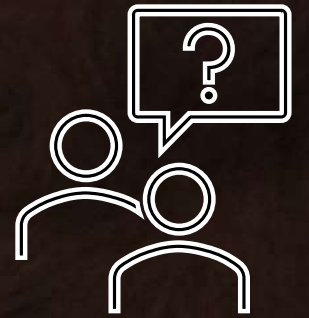
Other items

Include references to other documents once they are finalised:

- The emergency plan model,
- Model of a journey plan
- checklist model

A close-up photograph of a cow's nose, showing the texture of the skin and the nostrils. The cow is looking slightly to the left. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a stall or a piece of fabric.

Thank you for
your
attention!!



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