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THE CONDITIONS OF LIVE ANIMAL TRANSPORT IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

There are more than 17,5 million items of live animals transported across the European Union per year. In spite of that conservationists were not able to enforce restriction of maximal transport time. From this reason the Commission of European Union strive to improve the conditions of live animal transportation.

European Union makes the rules of live animal transportation stricter. The aim of new, stricter regulations is to reduce the stress of animals and to prevent animals from ill-treatment during the transportation process.

PODMIENKY PREPRASY ŽIVÝCH ZVIERAT V SR

Po celej EÚ je totiž ročne prepravených viac ako 17,5 milióna kusov živých zvierat. Napriek tomu sa až však doteraz ochrancom zvierat nepodarilo presadiť obmedzenie maximálnej doby prepravy. Z tohto dôvodu sa o zlepšenie podmienok prepravy zvierat pokúša európska komisia.

Európska únia sprísňuje pravidlá pre prepravu živých zvierat. Cieľom nových sprísnených predpisov je zredukovať stres zvierat a zabrániť krutému správaniu voči nim počas prepravy.

According to new rules, new means of transport (lorries) appointed to transportation of live animals for more that 8 hours **must have relevant equipment** including: **navigation** (GPS) because of observance of maximal transport time, system which will able to **feed animals with water**, electronically controlled ventilation and **warning system** which will warn the driver of possible problems. Such means of transport must be moreover beforehand officially authorized. Since 2009 also older means of transport must have installed the navigation system. In case of infringement of this regulation the carrier will be

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punished by the force of penalty, revocation of transportation licence or ban of traffic into the members states where the rules were broken.

Special attention is devoted to young animals and newborn young ones. Young ones less than week old, females less than one week before and one week after lying-in must not be transported at all. Young animals (piglet younger than three weeks, lamb younger than one week, calf younger than ten days and foal younger than four months) can not be transported for distance longer than one hundred kilometres in case of kittens and puppies younger than eight weeks is commercial transportation possible only with escort of mother.

Horsed can be transported on long distances only in separate boxes and horses not used for ride can be transported only for short distances. Drivers of means of transport appointed for animal transportation must attend **compulsory training** and since 2008 must have the certificate for solicitude of animals.

Slovak carriers of live animals who want to transport animals in the frames of member states of European Union must in transition period, since the new law about veterinary care will come into force ask State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic issue the registration of animal carrier.

In present the European Union take advantage of existing web system TRACES. The TRACES system (which means Trade Control and Expert System) is unified veterinary information system of European Union.

The TRACES system was initiated on the bases of Commission Regulation No. 24/2003 and No. 292/2004 is in operation since 1st April 2004. The aim of this system is to monitor and regulate the trade with animals and products with animal origin in the frames of European Union and simultaneously control all consignments with veterinary goods from countries which are not members of the European Union in the place of destination.

Legal framework of live animal transportation in the Slovak Republic:

1. Regulation of Council of European Union /ES No. 1/2005 about the animal protection during the transportation process and related activities,
2. Supplemented Directive 64/432/ES.
3. Regulation /ES/ No. 1255/97, which is valid since 5th January 2007 also in the Slovak Republic.
4. Regulation of the Slovak Republic Government No. 302/2003 Z. z., which fix details of animal protection during transportation.
5. Decree of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic No. 28/2001/3-100, which fix details of animal protection during transportation.

Requirements on transportation of live animals in conditions of valid legislative:

1. registration of carriers performing live animals transportation,
2. obligation to carry out the means of transport with the certificate on qualification of the means of transport on live animals transportation on the road,
3. obligation to escort animals during the transportation by person with certificate on qualification of live animals transportation.

1. REGISTRATION OF CARRIERS

Each carrier that reside or carry on in Slovak Republic, must be registered in the carrier register governed by State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic and must obtain a qualifying certificate related to transportation of live animals in the Slovak Republic and in the EU territory, which is numbered.

The carrier must by the registration present:

- request for registration of the carrier,
- copy of the trade licence or statement from the business register,
- statutory declaration that he is:
 - o acquainted with valid legal regulation in the veterinary area, veterinary legislation related to live animals transportation and he has to it, persons that carry out the transportation fulfill demand on qualification or has practical experience,
 - o he will regularly train persons that carry out the transportation of live animals and inform them about legislative changes in this area.

It is possible to send the request with enclosed certified true copy related to approval of means of transport to State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic even by the force of Regional Veterinary and Food Administration to the date of declaration of intention of live animal transportation to another member state at the latest. The request must include the trade name of the carrier, identification number of the carrier, and number of the approval of the carrier on State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic and must be announced 24 hours before the transportation at the latest. Certificate (or the copy of the certificate) about registration of the long distances carrier is delivered to the carrier by the force of Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in date of certification live animals consignment before transportation to another member state in the frame of live animals trade at the latest.

State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic on the basis of request of registered carrier will issue the certificate about registration of carrier of live animals in case of following conditions accomplishment:

1. transportation of animals to 8 hours, but more than 65 kilometres,
2. transportation of animals over 8 hours.

2. CARRY DOCUMENTATION

During the transportation process the documentation with following written records must be in the means of transport:

- about the origin and ownership of animals,
- about place of dispatch,
- about date and time of loading and start of the transportation,
- about supposed place of destination,
- about supposed time of transportation,
- transportation plan,
- in case of transportation of wild animals they must be escorted.

3. SUITABILITY OF MEANS OF TRANSPORT

Certificate related to approval of road means of transport appointed to transport on long keeping with article 18 of Regulation No. 1/2005 published by relevant Regional Veterinary and Food Administration. It is possible to send the request with enclosed certified true copy related to approval of means of transport to State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic even by the force of Regional Veterinary and Food Administration to the date of declaration of intention of live animal transportation to another member state at the latest. The request must include the trade name of the carrier, identification number of the carrier, and number of the approval of the carrier on State Veterinary and Food Administration of Slovak Republic and must be announced 24 hours before the transportation at the latest. Certificate (or the copy of the certificate) about registration of the long distances carrier is delivered to the carrier by the force of Regional Veterinary and Food Administration in date of certification live animals consignment before transportation to another member state in the frame of live animals trade at the latest.

Requirements on means of transport refer above all to ventilation of means of transport and usage of navigation systems. The ventilation system of the road means of transport must be in accordance with the Regulation of Council of European Union designed, constructed and kept thus the temperature inside the means of transport was in temperature limit 5 to 30 degrees centigrade (with divergence 5 degrees centigrade) without reference to the means of transport is of is not in motion. The ventilation system must be able to secure steady distribution of air in the whole means of transport with minimal airflow with capacity 60 m³/hKN of payload. The means of transport must be functional during 4 hours at least, independently on the motor of the means of transport.

The means of transport must be equipped with temperature monitoring system and also with the system noting of these data. Sensors must be placed in those parts of the lorry where the possibility of worse climatic condition is greatest as follows the technical parameters of the lorry. Thus acquired temperature records are marked with date and on demand can be presented to authorized controlling authority.

Road means of transport must be equipped with warning system which will warn the driver of wrong temperature (in the case the temperature in the section with animals will reach the maximum or minimum temperature). Road means of transport must be in accordance with the Regulation of Council of European Union No. 1/2005 since 1st January 2007 in case of new means of transport and since 1st January 2009 in case of all other means of transport equipped by corresponding navigation system which allow recording of information and provision of these records. This system must be mentioned in the transportation plan and must be able to record information about opening and closing of the loading platform.

Carriers are obligatory to store records acquired by the force of the navigation system for three years at least and are obligatory to provide these records on demand to authorized controlling authority.

4. THE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The carrier will present the transportation plan of state veterinary administration not less than two weeks before planned transportation for to the correctness of this plan could be

verified. Officially decreed veterinary surgeon will write out certificate of health on the place of dispatch, will write down number or numbers of certificates of health in the transportation plan and will imprint it. Simultaneously the officially decreed veterinary surgeon will report the confirmation of the transportation plan by the force of ANIMO system.

The carrier which plans such transportation will imprint and sign all sides of the transportation plan which includes following sections:

- section 1 – planning,
- section 2 – place of dispatch,
- section 3 – place of destination,
- section 4- announcement of carrier,
- section 5 – pattern of incongruity report.

The carrier is obligated to secure that the transportation plan will escort the transportation of animals right to the place of destination, or in case of export to the third country, right to the output place in the frame of European Union. In case when the place of destination is in the EU, carrier will fill out section 4 of the transportation plan. In case of export of animals the carrier will hand in the transportation plan to officially decreed veterinary surgeon in the output place of European Union. Personal authorized to transportation will indicate the time and place where did they feed and water animals during the transportation to the transportation plan. The carrier is obligated to send the transportation plan to State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic which adopted the transportation plan to 15 days at the latest. The carrier is obligated to store the copy of transportation plan two years after date at the latest.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Conservationists in the whole Europe are disappointed because the transport time would not change in near future. Till the 2011 the time of animal transportation will still be 60 to 90 hours. Till the acceptance of transportation restriction conservationists will chart transportation of and collect evidence about bad conditions.

6. REFERENCES

- [1] Regulation of Council of European Union /ES/ No. 1/2005 about the animal protection during the transportation process and related activities,
- [2] Completed Directive No. 64/432/ES.