Practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of horses

A stakeholder initiative
• Guidelines for fitness for transport of adult bovines
• Initiative by UECBV and Eurogroup for Animals,
• First condition for good transport: good preparation and FIT ANIMALS
• General Aim: getting rid of “black sheep”, win-win result
  ▪ improving animal welfare
  ▪ avoiding distortion of competition
• Means: producing practical guidelines, easy to use, easy to understand by all stakeholders
• Prepared by a small group of representative stakeholders
Other stakeholders

- ANIMALS ANGELS
- ELT (European Livestock Transporters)
- FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe)
- INSTITUT DE l’ELEVAGE
- IRU (International Road Transport Union)
• Establishment of TORs (June 2009)
• Choice of a template (French “Guide de Non transportabilité des bovins à l’abattoir”)
• Designation of a secretariat
• Working groups (6 meetings) → drafts
• Drafts open to comments
• Final draft endorsed officially by stakeholders
• COPA-COGECA, eventually decided in December 2010 not to endorse it due to lack of consensus within their members
• IDE gave its technical support but decided there was no need to approve it, just to have its input acknowledged
• For all operators and inspection/control staff
• To help everyone to decide if an adult bovine is fit for transport
• To better understand requirements of 1/2005
• Practical and user friendly: photographs, coding system

• NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT
• Not to be used to make a diagnosis
• Does not replace legal obligations
• Tool at European level, national legislation to consider
Introduction: definitions, warnings, coding signs

Part I: Summary of European legislation

Part II: Animal conditions prohibiting transport

Part III: Animal conditions where further assessment is needed before transport

Annexes: Regulatory references, measures to take when animal unfit, example of generic contingency plan, example of specific contingency plan
Guidelines for fitness of transport of horses

• Builds on the bovine guidelines for fitness
• Equine guidelines identified as key need by FVE/BEVA Equine Transport Conference 2010
• Stakeholder initiative: veterinary profession, racing & sport horse, leisure horse, transport industry, meat industry, welfare groups
• Funded by FEEVA and World Horse Welfare
• Secretariat support provided by WHW
• Working group to be convened in Q1 2013
• Work stream duration 18 months
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