Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae

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World Horse Welfare

Improving the lives of horses in the UK and worldwide for 85 years

• Previously known as the ILPH
• Full spectrum of the horse world
• Practical, realistic approach
• Working for lasting change through education, campaigning and hands-on care of horses
Is this horse fit for transport?
Overview

1. The problem
   a) the regulation
   b) enforcement
   c) interpretation

2. The solution – Guidelines:
   a) goals
   b) scope
   c) format – content

3. The plan
   a) approach – progress
   b) next steps
   c) how you can help
“No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering”

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, Annex I, Chapter 1
FEEVA

The reality

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“Enforcement of the Regulation [1/2005] remains a major challenge, partly because of differences in interpretation of the requirements...”

“Animals that are *injured* or that *present* physiological weaknesses or pathologica...
“However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are:...”

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, Annex I, Chapter 1, para 3
“slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering; in cases of doubt, veterinary advice shall be sought”

Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, Annex I, Chapter 1, para 3(a)
“animals that are submitted to veterinary procedures in relation to farming practices...provided the wounds have completely healed”

Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005, Annex I, Chapter 1, para 3(d)
The solution?

A practical and user-friendly tool, to help anyone involved in the transportation of Equidae to assess whether an animal is fit for transport or not.
The goals

• Better understanding of fitness for transport
• Consistent and uniform approach
• Improved health and welfare of all Equidae transported in Europe
The Guidelines

• Current political focus on enforcement, guidance, training and education
• Based on 2012 Bovine guidelines
• Supported by the European Commission
Scope of the Guidelines

- **All** Equidae
- **All** parties involved in equine transport
- **All** main forms of equine transport
- **All** stages of the journey
What the Guidelines aren’t

• Not legally binding
• Not used to make a diagnosis
• Not just for those transporting for economic purposes
Format

- Simple, easy to use booklet
- Images to clarify specific points
- Colour-coding and symbols for quick reference
What do the Guidelines cover?

- Overview of legislation
- Unfit for transport
- Further assessment needed
- Course of action
- Supportive information
Approach

- Stakeholder platform (SHP)
- Secretariat (co-financed by World Horse Welfare and FEEVA)
- Decision making by consensus and unanimity
Stakeholder platform

- Veterinarians
- Transporters
- Meat industry
- Sports industry
- Researchers
- NGOs
Progress

- Three SHP meetings
- Key interested parties kept informed
- Initial draft produced
Next steps

- March 2014: Fourth SHP meeting
- Autumn 2014: Guidelines finalised
- By end of 2014: Printing, translation and dissemination
How you can help

- Request your copy of the guidelines
- Encourage use of the guidelines
- Ensure best practice when transporting Equidae
Thank you for listening

For further information email:
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The Stakeholder Platform

- Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (FEEVA)
- World Horse Welfare
- Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)
- Eurogroup for Animals
- European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV)
- Austrian Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons
- Italian Equestrian Federation (FISE)
- Animal Welfare Indicators Network (AWIN)
- Animals’ Angels
- Animal Transport Association (ATA)
- Belgium Confederation of the Horse
- COPA-COGECA – TBC
The Stakeholder Platform

Advisory role:
• European Federation of Thoroughbred Breeders Associations (EFTBAs)

Guests/observers:
• Trio of Presidency’s representative – Irish Permanent Representation
• European Commission

Engaged and updated:
• EHN
• FEI
• UVAC Piedmont, Ministry of Health (Italy)