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Subject:access to animals during transport

Date:Wed, 12 Dec 2012 16:49:10 +0100

From:lesley <lesley@eyesonanimals.com>

Organization:Eyes on Animals

To:terence.cassidy@ec.europa.eu

Hi Terence,

More and more livestock trucks being sold, particularly here in The Netherlands, are completely closed ones with air-conditioning or closed-ones with a few tiny doors where the ventilators are.

These doors are awkward to open and do not provide much space to look inside and see all animals properly, and are also too small to permit anyone to enter the truck this way. The air-conditioning trucks don't allow any inspection or access to the animals at all.

We have seen repeatedly the need for drivers to be able to easily inspect and access animals during transport. See below for photos with examples.

It is also our understanding that the EC 1/2005 in fact requires that drivers be able to access animals as they must be able to separate ones that are injured and give them first aid, among other things. In fact, most trucks we see have an access door on the side of the trucks, to fulfill this requirement. We see this as mandatory, as do most of the police and vet inspectors we speak with and even transport companies.

Nevertheless, after raising concern about there not being easy access or inspection in these new sealed trucks with either air conditioning or forced ventilation and tiny doors, a contact of ours from the Ministry here told us that for under 8 hrs, the EU and FVO will accept that the only access to the animals is via the back door (ramp) and that a side-access door is not necessary.

Is this true?

What is the EU or FVO's justification for this, as it is very clear that no driver or vet is ever going to enter via the back of a truck and walk through bulls and jump over dividers to get to one in the front that is suffering and needs first aid, water, or humane euthanasia. It is also never going to happen that all animals can be fed or watered all via the back door. Imagine 31 bulls wanting water and a driver opening the back door with a bucket! Although animals do not have to be watered during under 8hrs transport, it seems irresponsible to approve a vehicle that cannot at least allow this should something wrong happen and the animals remain blocked on board for longer than expected.

And in many areas where trucks get stuck, it is not even allowed to open the back door, for fear that the animals will jump or fall out.

Please do let me know what the official stand of things are. (photos showing side-access doors being vital are below)

Many thanks and have a good evening,

Lesley

Accessibility

[EC 1/2005 Annex 1, Ch I,](#)

4. When animals fall ill or are injured during transportation, *they shall be separated from the others and receive*

first-aid treatment as soon as possible. They shall be given appropriate veterinary treatment and if necessary undergo emergency slaughter or killing in a way which does not cause them any unnecessary suffering.

[EC 1/2005 Annex 1 Ch II](#)

1. Provisions for all means of transport

Means of transport, containers and their fittings shall be designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as

(f) Provide access to the animals to allow them to be inspected and cared for;

[EC 1/2005 Article 3](#)

General conditions for the transport of vertebrate animals including chickens

No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue

suffering to them. In addition, the following conditions shall be complied with:

(c) The means of transport are designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering

and *ensure the safety* of the animals;

The accessibility to animals during transport is one of the most important aspects of ensuring their welfare. It allows one to inspect the animals thoroughly but also provide food, water, medical care or help for animals that fall sick or become injured during the journey.

Accessibility

to animals is also vital during road accidents, enabling the animals to be released quickly.

Trucks used for larger animals have side-access door as required by EC 1/2005.

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Lesley Moffat, MSc Ethology

Eyes on Animals - Director

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