



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office  
Unit – F6

Grange, 21 March 2013  
TC/ams Ares(2013) 387771

Dear Lesley,

**Subject: Your e-mail of 28/2/2013 our ref.: Ares (2013) 385988**

Thank you for the above e-mail, regarding access to animals on means of transport.

Regarding the 2010 audit in the Netherlands, ref: DG(SANCO) 2010/8400, the FVO did not see one of these "converted meat truck" vehicles during the audit. The audit team did have a discussion with the Competent Authority (CA) regarding their investigations which focused more on suitability of the floor, ventilation and provision of water. Access to animals was not something which was raised in the CA investigations and it wasn't raised directly by the audit team either.

I would like to clarify that the FVO is not responsible for directly assessing establishments or vehicles and it is therefore not correct to interpret findings, or in this case the absence of findings, to mean that the FVO, and the Commission, somehow approves, or for that matter disapproves, of these vehicles.

Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 sets out how we carry out an audit such as the one in the Netherlands, which is to verify the implementation of animal welfare legislation, verify the functioning and organisation of competent authorities and investigate important or recurring problems.

We take note of your remarks regarding access in order to care for and inspect to animals during transport and will include this issue in the next discussion with the national contact points in Grange in June 2013. Hopefully this will allow us to have a better overview of what is considered sufficient by the Member States in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

*(signed)*

Terence Cassidy

Ms. Lesley Moffat  
Eyes on Animals  
([lesley@eyesonanimals.com](mailto:lesley@eyesonanimals.com))