



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate D - Animal Health and Welfare
Director

SANCO

16. 01. 2008

Brussels,
SANCO D2 LPA/dj D(2007)420779

Dear Ms. Parente,

Thank you for your letter of 12 November 2007 on the protection of horses during transport.

The Commission believes that Council Regulation (EC) N° 1/2005¹ introduces many provisions that aim at improving even further the animal welfare during transport. In addition the Commission is convinced that the implementation of EU rules increase the protection of the animals during transport. That is the reason why the experts from the Food and Veterinary Office of the Commission regularly make on-the-spot checks to ensure the uniform application of the Community legislation on animal health and welfare.

One of the main changes introduced by Regulation (EC) N° 1/2005 is the requirement established in point 1.6 of Chapter VI of Annex I to transport horses in individual stalls when the journey exceeded 8 hours. Furthermore, Chapter II and VI of Annex I of the Regulation establish that partitions that separate compartments must be strong enough to withstand the weight of animals and must be constructed in such a way that they can be placed in different positions according to the type, size and number of horses.

Accordingly, partitions must be strong enough to contain horses in separate stalls. Therefore, they must be of rigid construction since they have to support the weight of the animals. Furthermore, partitions must be designed to protect horses from the motion during the journey or the movements or kicks of the horses themselves and to avoid injury or suffering of the animals. Consequently, as you stated in your letter partitions created with rubber mats, chains or ropes do not appear to be able to ensure that the aims of the Regulation are achieved.

Ms Sofia Parente
Programme Manager - Farm Animal Welfare
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¹ OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1

The Member States will be again informed of the Commission approach on this issue in a future meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCFCAH)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and strokes, positioned above the printed name.

Bernard Van Goethem