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HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate A - General Affairs  
A2 - Legal affairs

SANCO

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Ms Christine Hafner  
Animals' Angels

christine@animals-angels.de

**Subject: Your request for interpretation on the water supply for horses transported by road**

Dear Ms Hafner,

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2008 in which you request an interpretation of certain provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. I apologise for the delay in replying which was a result of the need to consult internally on this issue.

In particular, you refer to point 2.3 of Chapter VI to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 which provides that water tanks *"must be connected to drinking devices within the compartments"*. You also refer to point 2.1 of the same Chapter which provides that *"the means of transport shall be equipped with a water supply that makes it possible for the attendant to provide water instantly whenever it is necessary during the journey so that each animal has access to water"*.

With regards to the transport of horses you ask whether it is the correct interpretation of the Regulation that there must be a drinking device, which is connected to the water tank, installed in each of the compartments. You also point out that you observe long distance transports of horses which are only equipped with mobile buckets. You claim that this does not comply with the Regulation as it does not allow for water to be provided *"instantly"*.

In SANCO's opinion each compartment must be fitted with a drinking device which is connected to the water tank. It should also be noted that the Regulation does not require the use of automatic drinking devices exclusively. In addition, the requirement that water needs to be supplied *"instantly"* does not mean that all animals have to have access to water simultaneously through an automatic device but rather that the devices used must allow the driver to offer water to the animals in sufficient quantity during a sufficiently short period of time to ensure that the animals have access to water when this is necessary.

In practice automatic drinkers do not seem to be used in the transport of horses, including highly valuable animals, and a device could be considered appropriate if it allows the animals to be given sufficient water at sufficient intervals.