



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate G - Veterinary and International Affairs  
**Animal Welfare**

Brussels,  
SANCO G3 AN/ap D(2013) 40879

**Subject: Access to animals during transport**

Dear Ms Moffat, *Lesley*

Thank you for your letter of 12 December 2012, sent to Mr Cassidy, on the interpretation of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. I am replying as the head of unit responsible for animal welfare issues in the Directorate General for Health and Consumers.

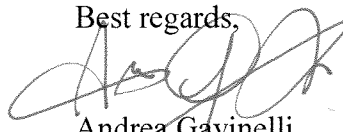
As you point out, there are numerous provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport<sup>1</sup> according to which it might be necessary to access the animals while they are on the truck. In addition, one specific provision, namely, point 1.1(f) of Chapter II, in Annex I to the Regulation, which is applicable to all means of transport regardless of the length of the journey, states that trucks should be designed so as to *"provide access to the animals to allow them to be inspected and cared for"*. You therefore ask whether these provisions would make it necessary to ensure that all trucks have an access door on the side of the truck.

Member States are primarily responsible for the daily enforcement of EU legislation on animal transport. Hence it is for the competent authorities of the Member States to decide, on a case-by-case basis, for instance, during vehicle approval or road side inspections, if the inspected truck fulfils the requirements of the Regulation.

There are no details in the Regulation on how a truck should be designed to allow access to the animals. Depending on the design of the loading ramp, inspection windows and other elements, the competent authority may decide that the rules on access to animals are fulfilled, even when a truck does not have a specific door for this purpose.

Please note that the above is purely to assist you. It remains the exclusive competence of the Court of Justice of the European Union to interpret EU law authoritatively.

Best regards,

  
Andrea Gavinelli  
Head of Unit

Lesley Moffat,  
Eyes on Animals  
E-mail: [lesley@eyesonanimals.com](mailto:lesley@eyesonanimals.com)

<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations; OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1.