

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 1/2005 ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT AND RELATED OPERATIONS

Analysis of the major deficiencies detected in Cyprus in 2010 and an action plan to address them, in accordance with Article 27(2) of the Regulation

Major deficiencies detected in relation to transport over long distances

General information

Within Cyprus there are no long-distance journeys, therefore all long-distance transport involves consignments of animals to and from other countries. Mammalian food-producing species are transported by road and the vehicles are then loaded onto ro-ro ferries which undertake the journey from the port of Piraeus in Greece to the port of Limassol in Cyprus and vice versa (average duration 36-40 hours). Because of the small number of shipments, all consignments of mammalian food-producing species are checked, the vast majority of which are ruminants (sheep and goats). The duration of the journey from the port of Limassol to the place of destination does not exceed two hours.

On arrival in Cyprus, all consignments of ruminants, and a number of consignments of other species, are checked both at the place of transfer at the port of Limassol (mainly document check) and at the place of destination (physical check and document check).

Based on the above and with a view to the correct interpretation of the annual report, it should be noted that, as regards ruminants and some consignments of pigs and poultry, the same consignment of animals is recorded both in the fields relating to transfer points and in the fields relating to the inspections carried out at the place of destination.

It should be noted that in Cyprus there are no animal markets or control posts.

Deficiencies:

The checks carried out on consignments of animals (mainly sheep and goats) from other Member States to Cyprus identified some cases of non-compliance with the provisions of the Regulation concerning the necessary documents, e.g. the journey log, documents and certificates which transporters must carry with them, and concerning the stocking density. Deficiencies relating to the manufacturing and/or maintenance of vehicles were identified in very few cases. In 2010 one transporter was reported to the police. As to the others, either simple recommendations were made or the competent services of Member States sending the consignments of animals and/or granting authorisations to transporters were notified.

With regard to this issue, the checks carried out on all arrivals of mammalian food-producing species will continue, all the necessary administrative/criminal penalties will be imposed, and the competent authorities of the other Member States will be informed where necessary.

Major deficiencies detected in relation to transport over short distances

General information

For transport within Cyprus, which always involves short journeys because of the size of the country, checks are mainly carried out at the place of destination and, for the most part, in the slaughterhouses.

Deficiencies:

The most common shortcomings found in the course of the above checks relate to the manufacturing and/or maintenance of vehicles and the stocking density of the animals being transported.

The overall inspection of animal transport vehicles started in 2010. The inspections will continue in the context of the ongoing process of issuing authorisations to transporters who undertake journeys of more than 65 kilometres and less than eight hours. In addition, training courses will be provided for animal transporters.

In conclusion, it should be noted that 11% more checks were carried out on vehicles in 2010 for the protection of animals during transport compared to 2009.