

Animal Welfare in Transport Regulation – Implementation Update

All non commercial journeys are exempt from the Regulation. In addition, journeys directly to or from a veterinary practice or clinic under the advice of a veterinarian are exempt.

However, we expect that many equestrian businesses will fall into the second of these three categories below, for example, racehorse trainers, breeders, livery/preparation yards transporting client's horses.. This note is intended to clarify and simplify the new rules on travelling horses.

Journeys of up to 65km are exempt from the requirements for authorisation, training and certificates of competence.

Journeys over 65km and up to 8hrs will require Transporter Authorisation and certificates of competence for attendants and drivers

Journeys of over 8 hours by road in addition to the authorisation and certificates of competence will have to have their vehicles inspected and approved (including installation of specific ventilation and temperature systems)

Transporter authorisation

This is one authorisation per business (not per lorry or trailer) and will be valid for 5 years. This should be a simple form which will consist of 1 or 2 pages of simple boxes to tick.

Timeline: These should be applied for by January 2007.

Competency Certificates

Proper training and the issuing of competency certificates for drivers or attendants are a requirement of the EU legislation. Some member states are currently examining two levels of certificate to make the application and awarding as simple as possible (i.e. one level for export journeys and a 'lesser' one for under 8 hrs) At present, for shorter journeys they are examining the potential for an on-line or written assessment which could be completed easily without a practical test. The test must be awarded by an independent body and cannot just be self-assessed.

Timeline: to come into force January 2008

Long distance journeys over 8 hours

All vehicles travelling over 8 hours will have to be inspected and authorised.

Vehicle specification, inspection and authorisation

Ventilation systems are required to provide an even distribution of air and must be capable of running independently of the engine for at least 4 hours.

Temperature requirements: The Commission is considering a new range of temperatures for travelling horses over 8 hours which would have to be between 5 and 25 degrees Celsius (with an allowance of plus or minus 5 degrees for 30 mins during any period of 8 hours)