

Who is affected by the new transport legislation?

The new legislation, which came into force in January 2007, brings in new rules covering the movement of animals. If you move horses as part of your business activities then you will be affected

Under the new rules, everyone transporting animals commercially must comply with:

Journey times (there are no changes to existing journey times):

- Journey times must be kept to a minimum
- Journey time is from first animal loaded to last animal unloaded
- Journey time spent on RO-RO vessels counts towards journey time
- Time spent in stalls on vessels or on aircraft do not count towards journey times

	Vehicles used on short journeys (>65km and up to 8 hours)	Vehicles used on long journeys (>8 hours)*		
Horses and ponies	8	24 (given liquid, and fed if necessary, every eight hours)		
		Travel	Rest	Travel
Unweaned foals	8	9	1	9

*For long journeys during rest stops animals must be offered liquid, and feed if necessary

Fitness to travel:

All animals must be fit for the intended journey. Animals are considered unfit if they:

- cannot move or walk unassisted
- have a severe open wound or prolapse
- are a mare in the last 10% of pregnancy (approx 34 days)
- are mares that have given birth in the last week
- new born foals in which the naval has not completely healed.

In addition:

- Horses and ponies older than 8 months must wear halters during transport – except unbroken horses
- Horses and ponies must not be transported on multi-deck vehicles except on the lower deck without the upper deck being used
- Minimum compartment height must be at least 75cm higher than the height of the withers of the highest animal
- Horses and ponies, except mares and foals, must be transported in individual stalls when the vehicle is on a RO-RO vehicle
- Unbroken horses and ponies must not be transported in groups of more than four animals

You must be able to recognise signs of good and ill health, as well as signs of stress in horses and foals for which you have responsibility.

Registered horses and ponies

Registered horses and ponies are those registered, for the purposes of EU zootechnics legislation, with a recognised breed society or companies like the British Horse Society:

- are exempt from bans on (i) transporting pregnant females beyond 90% of their gestation period, and (ii) travelling with their registered mares, newly born foals where the naval has not completely healed if:
 - the journey is to improve the health and welfare conditions of birth, and
 - if accompanied throughout the journey by a dedicated attendant
- (those not going to markets or slaughterhouses) are exempt from the need for journey logs and the requirements relating to watering and feeding interval, journey time and rest periods.

Vehicle and loading facility

Vehicles and loading facilities must be well designed, constructed and maintained. They must be roadworthy and have no sharp protrusions or be defective in any other way which could cause injury and suffering. The vehicle should have:

- sufficient ventilation for all of the animals
- floor, roof and sides that are weatherproof and prevent escape
- access to inspect the animals and fixed or portable lighting
- sufficient floor area and height appropriate to their size and the intended journey
- partitions strong enough to withstand the weight of animals
- non-slip ramp or lift platform
- horses must be transported in individual stalls, except mares travelling with their foals when the vehicle is loaded onto a RO-RO vessel.

Separation

Horses and ponies that must be handled and transported separately are:

- Animals of significantly different sizes or ages*
- Sexually mature males and females
- Adult breeding stallions*
- Animals of different species*
- Animals hostile with each other

*does not apply where animals have been raised in compatible groups or if separation will cause distress, or where females are accompanied by dependent young.

Prohibited methods of handling

The following methods of handling are not allowed:

- striking or kicking animals
- applying pressure to sensitive parts of the body that causes pain or suffering
- suspending by mechanical means
- lift or dragging by head, ears, legs or tail

- use prods or implements with pointed ends
- obstructing animals, which are being led or driven, on purpose.

Additionally, for short journeys (over 65km, approx 40 miles, and up to 8 hours):

Animal Transporter Authorisation

Individual transporters (or the business) must hold a 'Type 1' transporter authorisation. This is issued by Animal Health (previously the State Veterinary Service) and lasts for 5 years. To apply for an authorisation call Animal Health on 0845 603 8395 or visit the Defra website. To successfully obtain one you must be able to demonstrate that you have no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the last 3 years.

Certification of Competence

From 5 January 2008, transporters or attendants using road vehicles to transport horses, in connection with an economic activity, on short journeys (over 65km and up to 8 hours) will need to hold Certificate of Competence for short journeys. For further details, contact NPTC on 024 7685 7300 or information@nptc.org.uk.

Animal Transport Certificate (ATC)

As is the case now, an ATC must be completed for every journey (except export journeys for unregistered horses over 8 hours which require a Journey Log instead). It must detail:

- Details of animal ownership and transporter
- Date and time first animal loaded and last animal unloaded
- Date and time of departure
- Estimated duration of journey
- Health status of animals

There is no prescribed format for the information required to be presented. Any other document containing the required information may be used, if preferred.

The ATC must be retained by the transporter for 6 months following the journey.

In addition to the general requirements and those for short journeys, long journeys (over 8 hours) require:

General long journeys (over 8 hours):

- Except if accompanied by their mother, unregistered horses must be over 4 months old
- Unbroken horses and ponies must not be transported on long journeys

Animal transporter authorisation

Individual transporters (or the business) must hold a 'Type 2' transporter authorisation which is valid for all journeys (including those of under 8 hours). This is issued by Animal Health (previously the State Veterinary Service) and lasts for 5 years. Call Animal Health on 0845 603 8395 or visit the Defra website. To successfully obtain this you must be able to demonstrate that you have

no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the last 3 years.

Certification of Competence

From 5 January 2008, transporters or attendants using road vehicles to transport horses, in connection with an economic activity, on long journeys (over 8 hours) will need to hold Certificate of Competence for long journeys. For further details, contact NPTC on 024 7685 7300 or information@nptc.org.uk.

Vehicle inspection and approval

The vehicle must be inspected and approved and comply with additional standards, on top of the general requirements.

These include:

- Provision of sufficient bedding, feed and feeding equipment
- Capacity to carry a water supply of 1.5% of the maximum payload
- Partitions strong enough to keep animals separate and be adjustable
- Ventilation to maintain the temperature at between 0°C and 35°C

See the Defra website to find out who can provide an inspection and approval service

Contingency planning

Contingency plans in case animals fall ill or are injured, or in case of unforeseen delays, breakdowns or accidents must be written down. Drivers or attendants must:

- Know where to take animals in case of a journey being delayed or cut short
- Carry sufficient water, and food if needed, in case of delay
- Know where to seek veterinary advice if animals fall ill or are injured
- Make these contingency plans available for inspection
- Carry with them a working mobile phone.

Journey Log

If unregistered horses are being exported or moved between EU Member States, a Journey Log is required (this replaces the need for an ATC on long journeys). These must be kept for 3 years and information on these is available on the Defra website.

For further information and advice, please contact:

Defra (www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare)

NFU (www.nfuonline.com)

NPTC (www.nptc.org.uk)