



## An example of inspections of compliance with the transport regulation (COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No. 1/2005)



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### The EU transport regulation

The EU transport regulation (COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No. 1/2005) sets forth provisions governing the transport of live vertebrate animals. It establishes transport conditions to be fulfilled in order to reduce negative animal welfare consequences and prevent suffering.

This factsheet provides an example of how to do an inspection of compliance with the regulation.

### Example of a cross-border transport within the EU

The target of the veterinary inspection was a flock consisting of 7300 female turkeys, age 17 weeks and with a body weight around 11 kg. The inspection took place at the farm in Denmark before departure and was carried out in November 2023. The destination for the transport was a German slaughterhouse. The journey duration was in total 8 h, including the mandatory break for the driver. The plan for emptying the house was loading two vehicles with turkeys one evening and then another three vehicles the following evening. Each vehicle consisted of a rigid truck with a trailer of equal size. Containers were stacked 6 high and 5 deep, totaling 30 containers on each the truck and the trailer, i.e., 60 in total.



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The barn containing 7300 female turkeys, age 17 weeks and with a body weight of approximately 11 kg.

### Inspection of transport – step-by-step

Loading of the turkeys was scheduled to start at 18:00. However, the starting point may be rather flexible, so the veterinary inspector arrived at 17:10. Upon arrival, the veterinary inspector introduced herself and the purpose of the control to the owner, driver and catching team.

Then the inspection started. The veterinary inspector followed a check list, which contained a list of requirements to control. For each of the requirements the following was given: a reference to the text in the regulation, a description of what to control and whether the control of the element was found to be satisfactory/not relevant or unsatisfactory.

#### 1. Checking travel documents

The truck driver was at the venue when the veterinary inspector arrived. The veterinary inspector checked his travel documents (the animal journey log (AJL), the planned journey, the authorization of the transport company, the approval of the vehicle and the certificate of competence for the driver.

*Checking the travel documents.*



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### Inspection of transport – step-by-step (continued)

#### 2. Checking the condition of the vehicle

The design and condition of the vehicle were checked to ensure the vehicle was suitable for the transport of turkeys. The containers on the vehicle were inspected regarding proper ventilation, suitability for being cleaned/disinfected and whether the floor was solid and free of sharp edges. The driver explained and showed that the outermost edge of the container had been smoothed to avoid damage to the turkeys when they are pushed into the containers. The floor was solid such that faeces were prevented from dropping to lower-placed containers. The curtains and how they were attached to the sides were inspected to ensure that the turkeys were protected against harsh weather conditions during transport. The containers were checked, ensuring that they were in place and firmly locked. The requirement of a sign on the back of the vehicle warning other road users that live animals were on board was checked.



*Left: the floor in the containers; Right: the curtains in the storage position*

#### 3. Catching the turkeys

The procedure consisted of first corralling a sub-flock of turkeys into the bucket of a wheel loader. Then the wheel loader was driven a short distance (approx. 200 m) to the vehicle and the turkeys were loaded manually from the bucket into the containers. The veterinary inspector followed this procedure for multiple sub-flocks.

Corralling of the turkeys onto the bucket of the wheel loader was accomplished by 5-6 catchers walking behind the turkeys while swaying large yellow plastic bags. When reaching the bucket, some birds were pushed further into the bucket by one catcher, standing on the side, by placing one hand around the neck to steer the bird while using the other hand to push from the rump of the bird. The bucket was designed like a pen, with the front side being removed while the turkeys were corralled onboard and replaced when the bucket was fully loaded.



*Corralling the turkeys from the barn into the bucket of the wheel loader.*

The inspector checked that the catchers did not corral too many turkeys into the bucket, i.e., each bird could stand on the floor without being squeezed, and that the process was done without imposing unnecessary stress on the turkeys. She also inspected whether the turkeys were fit for transport (see section '6. Fitness for transport').



*A full load of turkeys in the bucket of the wheel loader, ready to leave the barn and go the short distance to the vehicle.*

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### Inspection of transport – step-by-step (continued)

#### 4. Fitness for transport

Before the loading of the turkeys, the veterinary inspector asked the farm owner if he had sorted out the turkeys that were not fit for transport. The veterinary inspector observed the turkeys both during the process of corralling them into the bucket of the wheel loader and after being loaded from the bucket into the containers on the vehicle. She looked for dead birds and birds showing signs of sickness or reduced welfare, including birds with broken wings/legs or injuries.

#### 5. Loading the turkeys

At the vehicle, the bucket with the turkeys was raised so that the catchers were in line with the container to be loaded.

The veterinary inspector checked how the catchers handled the turkeys during the manual loading of the birds from the bucket to the containers on the vehicle. This included whether the catchers:

- Only lifted one bird at a time,
- Used both hands; one hand partly supporting the body by grabbing under the thigh while keeping the wing in the right place, while the other hand kept the other wing folded up against the body,
- Walked all the way up to the container before placing the turkeys inside, including ensuring that the throw used when starting to fill a container was not too rough, while at the same time checking that no turkeys fell out due to being placed too close to the opening of the containers.



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*Manual loading of the turkeys from the bucket into the containers of the vehicle.*

#### 6. Containers

Stocking density within the containers was checked. While the catchers were loading the turkeys, the veterinary inspector counted the number of turkeys loaded into each container. This was done for several of the containers. A total of 27 turkeys were loaded into each container, with 15 loaded from one side and 12 from the other side of the vehicle. The driver informed that up to 33 turkeys were permitted in each container.

The height in the containers was 36 cm. The veterinary inspector checked whether the turkeys were able to sit comfortably with their head held in a natural position when loaded into the containers.



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*Turkeys in a sitting position when loaded into the containers.*

#### Additional information

An inspection of the transport regulation should always include the loading of at least one full vehicle. In this case, loading started at 18:00 and was done at 19:45 when both the truck and the trailer were fully loaded and ready for departure.

Two days prior to the described inspection, a veterinary inspection of the flock was done, which is a legal requirement for every poultry transport across borders (COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2020/688).

The inspection checklist (Danish) used during the inspection is available upon request.