



CERTIFICATES IN EQUINE TRANSPORT

With effect from 5th January 2008

Following the introduction of EU Regulations on animal welfare in transport, those directly responsible for the welfare of horses during transport, which is conducted as part of an economic activity (i.e. a business), must hold a Certificate of Competence with effect from the 5th January 2008.

Certificates of Competence are an additional requirement to the Transport Authorisations and Vehicle Approvals under the same Regulation for which the NTF has already issued an Advice Sheet.

After further consultation with DEFRA, the NTF has amended its Advice Sheet (revisions highlighted in red), and this supersedes the one issued on the 25th June 2007.

Who needs to hold a Certificate?

- Drivers and “attendants” are required to hold certification. The “attendant” is the person who is responsible for the loading, welfare during transportation and unloading of the horse(s) from the vehicle. This could be the driver, the travelling head lad or the horse’s lad.
- Any person travelling with the horses to lead them up at the races but with no responsibility for loading or unloading or for the welfare of the horses during transport, does not require a Certificate.
- Please bear in mind that independent transport companies may require you to supply at least one member of staff who holds Attendant Certification, even if their driver holds a Driver/Attendant Certificate.
- A list of approved testing centres is available from the NTF Office or the BHEST website www.bhest.co.uk

What type of Certificate is required?

- The type of Certificate required depends on the length of the journey. There are two categories of journey time:
 - Between 65 kms and up to 8 hours
 - Over 8 hours
 - (Certification does not apply to journeys under 65kms.)

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- A single journey begins when the first animal is loaded and ends when the last animal is unloaded at the final destination. Only when a break of 48 hours is taken, does a new journey officially begin. This means that the journey time to a race meeting consists of the combined outward and return legs but excludes the time the horses are at the races.
- If unexpected traffic delays occur, you would not be expected to have complied with the requirements for longer journeys. However, if such delays happened on a regular basis, it would be advisable to hold the relevant certificate for the longer journeys.

The table below explains which type of certificate is required for different journey times depending on the function performed by the holder of the Certificate.

Function	Journey time	
	65kms to 8 hours	Over 8 hours
Driver Only	Must hold Attendant/Driver Certificate (see below)	ACET01 and ACET03
Attendant Only	CET01	ACET01 and ACET02
Attendant/Driver	CET01 and CET02	ACET01 and ACET02 and ACET03
Single animal exemption	<p>Please note that the Regulation does not apply to journeys where the animal is a single animal accompanied by its owner or other responsible person. DEFRA is treating this exemption as applicable up to a ratio of four people to four animals.</p> <p>If the single animal exception applies, then no one transporting the animals would need any kind of certification as transport under this exemption is outside the scope of the Regulations. However there is no guarantee that other EU countries have taken the same view so caution should be exercised when undertaking journeys outside the UK.</p>	

- Please note that on journeys over eight hours someone with Attendant certification must accompany someone with Driver-only certification.
- Staff will have to be certified with respect to the function they perform and will not be able to interchange functions, i.e. someone who is certified Attendant-only cannot drive the horse box and vice versa.
- A certified Attendant/Driver, who for whatever reason receives a driving ban, will be able to perform the Attendant function only.

For any further guidance, please contact the NTF office.