



6th September 2011

VEHICLE APPROVAL CERTIFICATES

**UNDER THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS
DURING TRANSPORT REGULATIONS, 1/2005**

Background and Implementation

The requirements for Vehicle Approval form part of the European regulations that include Transport Authorisation and were implemented on the 5th January 2007.

A Transporter Authorisation will only be valid if accompanied by an appropriate Vehicle Approval Certificate during transport. ***Both are effective for five years therefore those issued when the regulation was introduced in 2007 will be due for renewal by the same date in 2012.***

Are racehorses treated differently?

Yes, exemptions have been negotiated for “registered” horses, which include racehorses.

Racehorses are exempt from the need for Journey Logs, navigation systems and the Regulation’s requirements in relation to watering and feeding intervals, journey times and rest periods.

What vehicles have to be approved?

Any vehicle transporting animals in connection with an “economic activity” must be approved if they are used for long journeys. A long journey is one that is **over 8 hours**.

In general, it can be assumed that transport of racehorses **is** connected with an economic activity. However, the legislation does say that “*journeys consisting of a single animal accompanied by a person who has responsibility for its welfare (or two animals accompanied by two people)*” is exempt from the regulations. You may be tempted to rely on this exemption but we would advise some caution.

Definition of a single journey

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.

Where the journey includes the transport of a road vehicle on a ferry, during which time the animals are not unloaded, the time spent on board the vessel counts towards the total journey time

What are the requirements of vehicles?

In general the regulations state vehicles must be *“designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of animals.”*

A comprehensive checklist can be obtained from the NTF Office. Some significant points are:

Loading and unloading facilities must also be similarly designed.

Ramps shall not be steeper than an angle of 20 degrees (that is 36.4% to the horizontal (equivalent to a vertical rise of four over a distance of 11.)

The previous delay to implementation of this regulation to 4th January 2012 was rescinded and the requirement has been in place since January 2011 though Defra has agreed that any enforcement should be “pragmatic and proportionate.”

UK Derogations

The following exemptions have been negotiated by the UK for journeys **over 8 hours but up to 12 hours within the UK**:

- Insulated roofs are not required for existing vehicles
- Vehicles do not need to be pre-heated in cold weather when the body heat of animals will quickly raise the temperature above 0°.
- Ventilation, temperature monitoring and warning systems are not required.
- **Vehicles travelling on journeys of over 12 hours within the UK do require this equipment.**

Ventilation

The regulations say that a ventilation system must be

- capable of maintaining an internal temperature of between 5° and 30°C
- capable of supplying a minimum, evenly distributed airflow of 60m³/h/kn of payload. We are advised that this could be achieved by two 12” fans for a 4-horse box or 3 or 4 12” fans for a 9-horse box
- capable of operating for at least 4 hours with the engine off. (We are advised that most boxes for long journeys will need an additional camping-type battery for this purpose.)
- We are advised the fans cost about £100 each plus fitting.

Temperature monitoring and warning systems

We are advised that inexpensive equipment for this purpose may be purchased from many household and gardening suppliers such as Maplin at a cost of around £40 before fitting.

They generally consist of a small, cigarette box-sized display unit connected by an electrical lead to sensor, which is placed in the animal compartment. The brand Tiny Tim is an example.

How do I apply for Vehicle Approval?

DEFRA has approved only three inspectors in England and one in Scotland. They are:

- **Freight Transporters Association**, Hermes House, St Johns Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9UZ Tel: 01892 552235 Email: twells.admin@fta.co.uk
- **EFSIS Agriculture, PO Box 165**, Winterhill House, Swondon Drive, Milton Keynes MK6 1PB Tel: 0870 241 6787 Email: fabbl@efsis.com
- **CMI Certification**, Hanborough Business Park, Long Hanborough, Oxford OX29 8SG Tel: 01993 885610 Email: Jackie.cleaton@cmicertification.com
- **Scottish Food Quality Certification in Scotland**, Royal Highland Centre, 10th Avenue, Ingliston, Edinburgh EH28 8NF Tel: 0131 335 6600 Email: info@sfqc.co.uk

Scope of this Advice Sheet

*Please note that this Advice Sheet is produced only for licensed racehorse trainers in Great Britain and does not include information relevant to other animal transporters and supersedes the one issued on the 12th January 2007.