



This leaflet has been produced for guidance only if you wish further advice contact **Trading Standards** at:

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ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDE FOR HAULIERS AND FARMERS

A guide for Hauliers and Farmers on the records required for the transport of animals (cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, and horses) during the course of a trade or business. The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 requires an Animal Transport Route Plan to be drawn up for certain journeys and an Animal Transport Certificate for others.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. No person may transport any animal in a way which causes or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering to the animal.
2. No animals shall be transported unless they are fit for the intended journey and the intended journey is not likely to cause them suffering. 'Unfitness' includes being:
 - ill;
 - injured;
 - infirm; or
 - fatigued.
3. Animals may not be transported if:
 - they are likely to give birth during transport;
 - have given birth during the preceding 48 hours; or
 - are new-born animals where the navel has not completely healed.
4. Before transport begins the animals must have been rested, fed and watered for the preceding 24 hour period.
5. Transportation of animals over 50 kms requires at least one competent person to be responsible for the welfare of the animals during the journey.
6. All hauliers must be authorised by MAFF to transport animals.

7. Maximum journey times, from first animal loaded to last animal unloaded, must not exceed 8 hours on standard livestock vehicles.

Do you need an animal transport certificate?

1. An Animal Transport Certificate is required:
on all movements over 50 kms; when transporting other peoples livestock;
or if the internal measurement of the livestock compartment exceeds 3.7 metres.
2. These documents must state:
 - the name and address of the transporter;
 - the name and address of the owner of the animals;
 - the place the animals were loaded and their final destination;
 - the date and time the first animal was loaded;
 - the date and time of departure; and
 - the time and place of the requirements for resting periods, under the Order, were met.
3. The animals must be accompanied by the Certificate throughout the whole period of the journey.
4. The transporter must keep a copy of the Certificate for six months (from the end of the journey), produce it when requested by an inspector and allow copies to be made. (a sample certificate may be obtained from Trading Standards).

Exemptions to using an animal transport certificate

An Animal Transport Certificate is NOT required to accompany cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and horses which are:

- being transported less than 50 kms to, from or within agricultural land;
- in a vehicle owned by the owner or occupier of that land; and
- in a vehicle which has an internal length of 3.7m or less to carry animals

NB. All of the above have to be satisfied to obtain the exception.

Do you need a route plan?

Yes, if the journey is over 8 hours and the animals are being exported.

What is a route plan?

1. A Route Plan is a record of the plans required for transporting animals. It is required where:
 - cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and horses are to be transported to another country; and
 - the journey will be longer than 8 hours.
2. It covers the whole period of the journey and must be made in advance of the journey.
3. Route Plans must be approved by MAFF prior to use and should be submitted to: Your Divisional Veterinary Manager at MAFF.

Further information on Route Plans may be obtained from MAFF.

What are the consequences of non-compliance?

Failure to comply with these requirements or making false certifications are criminal offences. The maximum penalty on conviction is a fine of £5,000 and/or one months imprisonment and a haulage company may lose their authorisation to operate on conviction.