Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Trader Notice TN01/2021

To: Live animal exporters and transporters organising and carrying out long journeys (over 8 hours) of cattle and sheep by road

Background

DAFM is updating its transport policy with regard to cattle and sheep in light of developments over the past year.

Scope

This Trader Notice summarises the principal policy changes made, which will affect exporters and transporters of live cattle, sheep and pigs.

Measures

Animal resource-based measures:

- Calves that weigh less than 40kg will not be permitted on journeys of over 8 hours
- Journey logs for weaned animals involving the use of Control Posts that are more than 29 hours drive from point of origin in Ireland for a 40 tonne truck will not be approved.
- No animal transport to (or via) the Russian Federation and to Africa will be approved in July and August, and no transport to (or via) the Russian Federation in December/January.
- Bedding of calves should be changed when they unload for their rest in Cherbourg, in order to improve air quality on the second stage of their journey and reduce mortality.

Administrative measures:

- Journey Log proposal to be submitted 2 working days before journey for EU / UK destinations, and 5 working days before journeys with destination outside of EU (apart from UK). The location of the destination of all drops must continue to be included on the form 2 working days before loading as laid out in TN AHW 01/2019.
- Section 4 Journey Logs and Satellite Navigation reports must be returned by email within 14 days of completion of journey.
  - For all long journeys, the Section 4 Journey Log and the Satellite Navigation report must be emailed to the VI who certified the journey, and to gpsreturns@agriculture.gov.ie. Transporters may be asked to provide real-time access to their vehicles’ satellite navigation system for verification purposes.
  - The requirement to return the hard copy of the Section 4 Journey Log, with the signature of the driver and the transporter, within 30 days to the Rosslare office remains in place. The address is DAFM Portal Veterinary Office, Rosslare Europort, Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford, Y35 K009.
Transporters will need to have a contingency plan in place for problems that could arise on journeys.

Transporters to be obliged to record tag numbers of any animals that die en route on the returned journey logs.

**Proposed Journey Log** will require not only the Organiser’s name and address, but also
- the Transporter’s name, address and approval number, and
- the approval number of the driver/attendant accompanying the animals.
- Chassis number of the vehicle must also be included. If it is planned to change the animals into another vehicle en route, the chassis number for the other vehicle must be provided; if another transporter or driver will take over the animals during the journey, full details must be supplied including their Transporter Authorisation and Driver Certificate of Competence.

**Report from Temperature Monitoring System** - All vehicles are required by the Regulation to be fitted with a temperature monitoring system, with sensors located in the parts of the lorry which are most likely to experience the worst climatic conditions. These must alert the driver if the temperature in the animal’s space exceeds 30°C (not 35°C) or falls below 5°C. If requested by DAFM, a journey’s temperature monitoring record must be returned, to the VI of origin and to gpsreturns@agriculture.gov.ie within 14 days of the completion of the journey. The printout or data from the recording must be identified with the date and vehicle details and must demonstrate temperature recordings from the point of initial loading to the final drop. **The temperature output on the journey must be provided in definitive numerical values, and not in graphical format.**

**Returned Section 4 Journey Logs** after delivery- explanation of any deviation from the approved route and timings in the Section 1 Journey Log must be provided by the driver. Tag numbers of any animals that died during the journey must be included. If the animals were transferred into another vehicle during the journey, it is the responsibility of the transporter who submitted the journey log proposal to DAFM to obtain and return the Section 4 JL and the Satellite Navigation report of the other transporter’s part of the journey.

**Covid-19 and Brexit**: DAFM wishes to thank all drivers, transporters, and exporters for their cooperation throughout 2020, particularly in light of the double challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit. Fresh information will continue to be circulated by email to operators in response to the rapidly-changing transport situation. It is advisable to contact animalwelfaretransport@agriculture.gov.ie to ensure DAFM has your most up to date email address.