

EU Regulations and Animal Welfare

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History

- ❖ In the early 1990's there was concern from welfare groups and others about the long distance transport of animals from the UK. These were mainly about calves for further fattening and sheep for slaughter.
- ❖ The EU Transport Directive was agreed in 1995 for introduction in 1997.
- ❖ Very little scientific evidence was used.
- ❖ With better vehicles and better roads we can now travel further than in the early days.
- ❖ In 2005 the Directive was replaced with a Regulation.

Main points of the Regulation for pigs

- ❖ Basic transport up to 8 hours. Higher grade transport for over 8 hours.
- ❖ Maximum travel period 24 hours, then unload pigs into approved Staging Points for a 24 hour rest period.
- ❖ Time on a ro-ro ferry is classed as travelling for the pigs.
- ❖ If the 24 hour travel time is reached during the ferry journey, stop for 12 hours on arrival at the overseas port.
- ❖ Stocking density not to exceed 235kg / square metre.
- ❖ Pigs should have continuous access to water.

Our Concerns

- ❖ Under EU law, two drivers can only drive for 20 hours.
- ❖ Loading and unloading is the most stressful part of a journey.
- ❖ Why a 24 hour stop?
- ❖ The location of Staging Points could be a health risk to the pigs using it.
- ❖ Pigs sleep for 99% of the time on a ro-ro ferry.
- ❖ Continuous access to water can cause poor welfare.
- ❖ Staging Points are not always available on the routes we use.

Actions Since

- ❖ The UK Ministry of Agriculture (DEFRA) have funded trial work to show that pigs:
 - ❖ Sleep on a ro-ro ferry.
 - ❖ Can recover from a 20 hour journey with 8 hours rest.Other trial work is ongoing.
- ❖ Driver competence was introduced in 2005.
- ❖ The next review of travel times and stocking densities will be in 2011.

Industry Proposal for 2011

- ❖ Leave the stocking density at 235kg / square metre.
- ❖ Journey times should be split into three
 - ❖ 0-12 hours.
 - ❖ 12-22 hours.
 - ❖ 22+ hours.
- ❖ Pig resting time should be linked to drivers rest time.
- ❖ Travel on a ro-ro ferry should be classed as resting time.

What have we learned?

- ❖ New regulations need to be backed with scientific evidence.
- ❖ People making the regulations need to talk to the industry first.
- ❖ Regulations need to be enforceable.
- ❖ Changes take a long time to go through.