

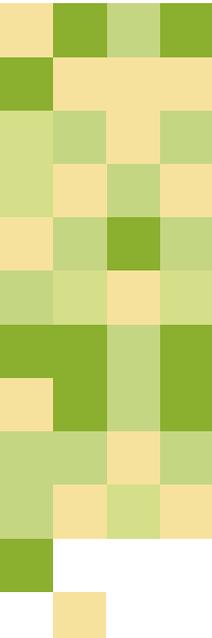
Welfare of Animals During Transport



Advice for transporters of poultry



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Detailed guidance, forms and further advice can be found on the website at:

www.wales.gov.uk/animalwelfare

or by contacting the:

Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
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A new EU Regulation for transporting animals applies from the 5 January 2007.

If you transport animals you should make sure you know about the new rules and procedures that affect you. These new rules are intended to improve the welfare of animals during transport.

The rules came into force on 5 January 2007 and apply to anyone transporting live vertebrate animals in connection with an economic activity.

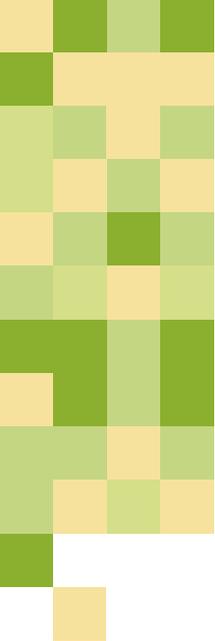
There are a number of specific points that anyone transporting poultry* needs to take account of. These are summarised in this leaflet. More detailed guidance can be found on the website at: www.wales.gov.uk/animalwelfare

Are you affected by the new rules?

The Regulation sets out new rules for those who transport animals in connection with an economic activity. In the UK this is considered to be any transport of animals undertaken as part of a business or commercial activity, which aims at achieving financial gain, whether direct or indirect, for any person or company involved with the transport. The Regulation does not apply to:

- Transport of animals not in connection with an economic activity.
- Transport to or from veterinary practices or clinics under veterinary advice.

* Taken in this context to include domestic fowl, ducks, geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, quails, pheasants and partridges.



The Regulation requires everyone transporting animals on any journey to ensure that:

- No one shall transport animals, or cause them to be transported, in a way likely to cause them injury or undue suffering.
- Journey times are kept to a minimum.
- The animals are fit to travel.
- Those handling animals are trained and competent.
- The vehicle and its loading and unloading facilities are designed constructed and maintained to avoid injury and suffering and to ensure the safety of the animals.
- Water, feed and rest are made available to the animals as appropriate and sufficient floor space and height is available in the transport.
- Documentation is provided which shows the following: origin and ownership of animals; place of departure and destination; date and time of departure and expected duration of journey (usually referred to as an Animal Transport Certificate).

The Regulation sets out additional requirements if you transport poultry on 'short' journeys over 65km (approximately 40 miles) and up to 8 hours.

Transporters must:

- Hold a Type 1 transporter authorisation.
- Ensure (from 5 January 2008) that driver, and attendants, are in possession of a certificate of competence.
- Demonstrate that they have appropriate staff and equipment to transport animals in a proper way and to have no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the preceding 3 years.

There are in addition to the above, a number of other requirements for 'long' journeys over 8 hours. Transporters of poultry must:

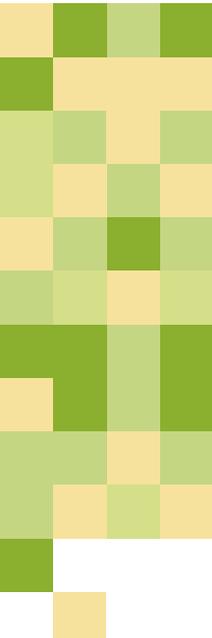
- Hold a Type 2 transport authorisation.
- Have contingency plans in place in case of emergencies.

Specific requirements

Journey times and provision of water and food

The Regulation does not specify a maximum journey time for poultry. However, it does set a maximum time after which provision of water and food is required:

- 12 hours for adult birds.
- 24 hours for chicks - provided the journey is completed within 72 hours after hatching.



In effect, because adequate provision of water and food to poultry is difficult in most commercial transport situations, these times are a practical limit to the length of journey.

- Journey time does not include time spent loading and unloading of poultry.

General points

- There is no requirement for inspection and approval of poultry containers or the vehicles on which they are carried, even for journeys of more than 8 hours.
- Poultry should be assessed for fitness to travel before being crated and loaded for transport.
- If the transporter does not make the 'fitness assessment' then there should be clear and documented procedure for who takes responsibility for this task.
- Once loading starts the transporter is wholly responsible for the welfare of poultry until they are unloaded.
- Poultry are particularly prone to thermal stress during transport and remedial action may need to be taken quickly if unsuitable conditions develop during the journeys (see Defra publication PB 11260*).

* Livestock transport vehicles - A guide to best practice for vehicle ventilation.

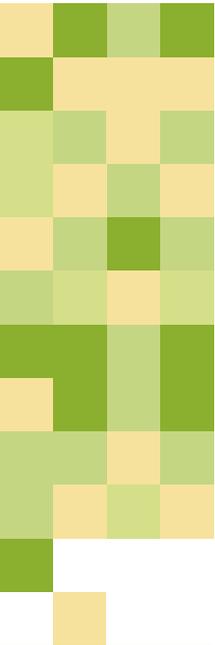
Space allowances

Space allowances for road transport remain unchanged from the previous rules.

Category	Area
Day old chicks	21 - 25 cm ² per chick
Other poultry: weight in kg	
< 1.6	180 - 200 cm ² /kg
1.6 - 3.0	160 cm ² /kg
3.0 - 5.0	115 cm ² /kg
> 5.0	105 cm ² /kg

Further advice

This leaflet provides a brief overview of the requirements of the EU Regulation with regards to poultry. Other leaflets are available covering requirements for sheep, goats, pigs, horses and cattle.



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