



Commission proposal for a Regulation on the protection of animals during transport with a focus on aquatic animals



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Scope of the proposal

- **Covers the protection of animals during transport in connection with an economic activity.**
- **It does not cover:**
 - *the transport of ornamental fish;*
 - *direct deliveries of aquatic animals to food businesses supplying the final consumer.*
- **For the purpose of the Regulation:**
 - *'aquatic animals' means fish, cephalopods and decapods.*

General provisions

- **Article 4:**

- *(1) No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way that causes or is likely to cause undue suffering to it.*
- *(2) Any person transporting animals or causing animals to be transported shall ensure compliance with the following requirements:*
 - (j) aquatic animals are provided with water in sufficient volume and quality.*

Administrative provisions

- *Organiser autorisation for long journeys – application under Art. 5*
- *Transporter autorisation for short journeys (Art.7) and long journeys (Art.8)*
- *Training of drivers and attendants (Art. 10)*
- *Certificate of approval for the means of transport by road (Art. 12)*
- *General obligations for transporters (Art. 18) in accordance with Annex II*
- *Certificate for transport to third countries (Art.33(1)(i)) compliance with Annex II*
- *Serious infringement – transport without monitoring of water parameters (Art. 44(f))*

Specific conditions for aquatic animals under Annex II ⁽¹⁾

(based on WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Code Guidelines)

1. Design and maintenance of means of transport

- appropriate to the species, size, weight and number of animals to be transported;
- maintained in good mechanical and structural condition to prevent damages;
- ensure adequate circulation of water and equipment for oxygenation...;
- accessible to inspect animals during the journey;
- allow for inspection and monitoring of the relevant parameters and take corrective measures when necessary.

Specific conditions for aquatic animals under Annex II ⁽²⁾

2. Handling

- Aquatic animals shall not be lifted by their gills.
- equipment shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to minimize physical injuries.

3. Water

- Operators shall ensure water quality.
- Operators shall ensure the monitoring and maintenance of :
 - (a) *Oxygen*;
 - (b) *Carbon dioxide*;
 - (c) *Ammonia level*;
 - (d) *Temperature*.

Specific conditions for aquatic animals under Annex II ⁽³⁾

4. Fitness for transport

- The ability to cope with the stress of transport shall be assessed based on health status, previous handling, and recent transport history.
- The main reasons for considering aquatic animals as not fit for transport are:
 - *(a) displaying clinical signs of disease;*
 - *(b) significant physical injuries or abnormal behavior;*
 - *(c) recent exposure to stressors that adversely affect behavior or physiological state (for example extreme temperatures, chemical agents);*
 - *(d) insufficient or excessive length of fasting.*

Specific conditions for aquatic animals under Annex II ⁽⁴⁾

5. Loading practices

- Operator shall avoid any injury and unnecessary stress during loading.
- At loading, the following shall be assessed:
 - (a) crowding procedure prior to loading;
 - (b) inappropriately constructed or operated equipment;
 - (c) significant changes in the water quality such as different temperature or other water parameters.
- Operators shall ensure that the density is maintained (i.e. species-specific needs and the scientific data available).
- Loading shall be carried out by operators with knowledge and experience.

Specific conditions for aquatic animals under Annex II ⁽⁵⁾

6. During transport

- Periodic inspections to verify that acceptable welfare is being maintained.
- Drivers or attendants shall monitor the water quality and make the necessary adjustments.
- Drivers shall travel in a manner that minimizes uncontrolled movements of the aquatic animals that may lead to stress and cause injury.
- In the event of health emergency during transport, the driver or an attendant shall initiate the contingency plan.
- If the killing of aquatic animals is necessary during the transport, the driver or the attendant shall be trained.

Specific conditions for aquatic animals under Annex II ⁽⁶⁾

7. Unloading practices

- The principles of good handling during loading apply equally during unloading;
- Operators shall unload the aquatic animals as soon as possible after arrival at the destination;
- Operators shall consider enough time for acclimatization;
- Operators shall remove moribund or seriously injured aquatic animals and kill them using an appropriate method suitable

8. Post transport practices

- The operator receiving the aquatic animals shall closely observe them during the post-transport period and keep appropriate records.
- Aquatic animals showing abnormal clinical signs shall either be isolated and examined by a veterinarian
- Operators shall evaluate significant problems associated with transport and take mitigation measures to prevent recurrence.

Last and not the least

- Under Art. 47 the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 48 to update the technical rules in Annex II in order to take into account technical progress and scientific developments when available, including scientific opinions of the EFSA, and of social, economic and environmental impacts.

**Thank you for
your attention!**

