

Guidelines for the Transport of Laboratory Animals

Produced by the Transport Working Group established by the
Laboratory Animal Science Association (LASA)

Supplementary information for those transporting animals within or through the UK

This information resource is intended to complement the full LASA Guidelines for laboratory animal transport publishes in *Laboratory Animals* (2005) **39**, 1-39. The LASA Guidelines set out good practice for planning and executing journeys so as to minimise stress, improve welfare and ensure that animals arrive in good health. It is essential to read the Guidelines in full to obtain maximum benefit from this resource, which sets out relevant UK legislation and uses the same headings as the Guidelines for ease of reference.

Since the publication of the previous Laboratory Animal Breeders' Association (LABA)/LASA guidance on laboratory animal transport (*Laboratory Animals* (1993), **27**, 93-107), several national and European items of legislation have affected the transport of all animals, including laboratory animals. There have been major changes to the specific requirements for animal transport under European Union (EU) Directives 91/628 and 95/29 and the UK WATO97 [Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997], while in 2003 the European Commission produced a proposal for a Council Regulation to repeal Directive 91/628. In addition, the Council of Europe has revised Convention ETS 65 (now ETS 193). Agreements between countries with respect to access and quarantine requirements have also changed; for example, the EU (Balai) Directive 92/118 has been implemented.

The legislative requirements set out below are up to date as of April 2004; but the Dutch Presidency of the EU has just revived discussion in the transport directives. This will result in a Regulation, omitting journey times, but imposing responsibilities on all involved on the transport chain. Some believe that the full effects will not be felt until 2011, and will largely affect transporters of farm animals. However, much stress is laid on requirements for training and competence, which will be pertinent here. It is likely that WATO97 Welfare of Animals (Transit) Order 1997 will have an amendment in due course that will reflect any additional conditions. References to the current WATO97 articles that apply under each heading are set out in boxes and other notes, recommendations and web links are included as appropriate.

2 Legislation

Relevant legislation for journeys involving travel in the UK includes:

- The Welfare of Animals (Transit) Order 1997
<http://www.hmsso.gov.uk/si/si1997/97148001.htm>
- Home Office Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Animals Used in Scientific Procedures
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs/cop_hcasp.html

- Home Office Code of Practice for Housing and Care of Animals in Designated Breeding and Supplying Establishments
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs/cop_hcadb.html

One or more of the following will govern all laboratory animal movements:

- UK Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974, as amended; available from The Stationery Office: <http://www.tso.co.uk/>
- UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs/animallegislation.html>
- UK Health and Safety Executive, Guidance on the Control of Laboratory Animal Allergy, guidance note: EH 76. www.hse.gov.uk
- EU Directive on the Protection of Animals During Transport (91/628 & 95/29); to be replaced by a Council Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1991/en_1991L0628_do_001.pdf
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/consleg/pdf/1995/en_1995L0029_do_001.pdf
- Council of Europe Convention ETS 193 on the Protection of Animals During International Transport (Revised)
<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/193.htm>
- International Air Transportation Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations, revised annually
<http://www.iata.org/ps/publications/index>

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) should be consulted about the transport of wild animals where sections of the following may apply:

- Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976; available from The Stationery Office <http://www.tso.co.uk>
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; available from The Stationery Office <http://www.tso.co.uk/> A guide to wildlife law enforcement in the UK is available on the DEFRA website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/paw/publications/law/contents.htm>
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Regulations (CITES), and implementing Regulations; note that the IATA Live Animals Regulations have been accepted by CITES and should be used for shipment of live animals travelling by air.
<http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.shtml>

3 Route plans

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATO97 Article 2: specifies application to all vertebrates • WATO97 Article 3: defines “journey” as being transport from place of departure to place of destination • WATO97 Article 13 and Schedule 11: information to be provided on the route plan for horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats only • WATO97 Article 14: Animal Transport Certificate for all vertebrates travelling over 50 km |
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Note that the layout of a route plan may change slightly for different EU Member States. The route plan layout favoured by DEFRA may be downloaded from <http://sanco.cec.eu.int/traces> or www.defra.gov.uk. The latest EU proposals increase the travelling distance from 50km road distance to a 65km radius 'as the crow flies'.

3.3 Documents

The United Nations (UN) Layout Key for Trade Documents consists of internationally agreed standards that are easily translated because common information appears in standard positions on all forms. SITPRO is the UK trade facilitation organisation that can supply details of UN aligned documents relating to animal transport, e.g. the Certificate of Veterinary Entry Document (CVED). See <http://www.sitpro.org.uk>, or contact SITPRO Ltd, Oxford House, 8th Floor, 76 Oxford Street, London, W1D 1BS; tel: 020 7467 7280; fax: 020 7467 7295; email: info@sitpro.org.uk

3.7 Containers and provisions

- WATO97 Article 4 and Schedule 1: environmental and space requirements, facilities for inspection, general provisions

3.8 Final checks

- WATO97 Article 6: cases where mammals would not be fit for transport
- WATO97 Article 9: requirement for person with appropriate training or experience

4 Habituation and fitness to travel

- WATO97 Article 6: cases where mammals would not be fit for transport

6 Driver training and competence

WATO97 makes specific recommendations for the competencies of persons accompanying the animals or otherwise involved in the journey. For journeys of over 50 km an attendant who has appropriate knowledge and ability to look after the animals must accompany them, *unless* they are transported in secure containers containing enough suitable food and supply of liquid for twice the anticipated journey duration. However, a person must always be appointed in advance who is responsible for looking after the animals at transfer points (see Guidance on WATO97: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/farmed/transport/wato-guidance.pdf>).

In the UK there are currently no formal training requirements for those involved in the transport of laboratory species. However, schemes are being developed for those involved in the transport of racehorses and livestock that include a certificate of competence. Similar courses are likely to be established for laboratory animal transport that will be independent of those involved in the journey and will have the authority to judge and assure competency. Such training should cover the typical licensee Module 1 training on animal health and welfare as stipulated by the Home

Office, which should include emergency euthanasia and an understanding of appropriate transport legislation relating to the species. This is an area that could also be covered under the Institute of Animal Technology's Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer (NACWO) training and should include at least:

- the basic biology and husbandry of relevant species;
- animal handling and restraint;
- recognition of well-being, discomfort, pain, distress and suffering; appropriate measures to alleviate adverse effects; recognition of when veterinary attention is necessary;
- emergency euthanasia techniques;
- legislation relating to animal transport and to health and safety;
- DEFRA rabies quarantine rules.
- cleaning and disinfection, and use of DEFRA approved disinfectants.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WATO97 Article 9 and Schedule 8: accompaniment by competent persons, framework of competencies |
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7.3 Grouping and stocking density

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WATO97 Article 5: space allowance• WATO97 Schedule 1, Part I: container size |
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Sources of additional advice

This list is not exhaustive, but sets out some further guidance to help ensure compliance with UK legislation.

- Within the UK, when animals that have been bred or used under a Project Licence under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (A(SP)A) are to be transferred between designated establishments, the Home Office Inspectors for both establishments must be informed. The Inspectors' permission is required before animals are moved.
- The Home Office Inspector must also be consulted before importing animals listed under Schedule 2 of the A(SP)A into designated premises or before exporting animals that have undergone regulated procedures.
- When animals are to be imported or exported to or from the UK, advice must also be sought from the local DEFRA Divisional Veterinary Manager. An Import Permit may be required for animals from non-EU countries.
- The IATA Live Animals Regulations provide general requirements for animal shipments by air and specific details relevant to each species.
- Where non-human primates are subject to the UK A(SP)A, each international shipment must be specifically authorised by the Home Office and animals may only be obtained from Home Office approved sources.

Feedback

Did you find this resource useful? Any comments on new developments, omissions or the usefulness of this document would be most welcome and should be sent to the

Secretary, Laboratory Animal Science Association, PO Box 3993, Tamworth,
Staffordshire, B78 3QU, UK.