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Handling and transportation of slaughter animals — Requirements



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Foreword

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is a parastatal under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives established under Cap 327, of the Laws of Uganda, as amended. UNBS is mandated to co-ordinate the elaboration of standards and is

- (a) a member of International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and
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- (c) the National Enquiry Point on TBT Agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The work of preparing Uganda Standards is carried out through Technical Committees. A Technical Committee is established to deliberate on standards in a given field or area and consists of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties.

Draft Uganda Standards adopted by the Technical Committee are widely circulated to stakeholders and the general public for comments. The committee reviews the comments before recommending the draft standards for approval and declaration as Uganda Standards by the National Standards Council.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee UNBS/TC 2, Food and Agriculture, Subcommittee SC 12, Meat, poultry and processed product.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (US 733:2007), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

Care for slaughter animals through primary production and transportation up to the abattoir is crucial in achieving good quality and safety of meat. Design and sanitation of the transport vehicles or vessels is very important in preventing cross contamination of meat. Transportation and handling regimes are subject to change as research and technology develops with evolving market practices.

This standard recognizes the basic principle of humaneness towards animals as the prime consideration in animal transportation. If animals which are treated well and protected from stress arrive at their destination in far better physical and mental condition, an improvement in meat quality is observed. This standard is intended to achieve a workable balance between the best interests of the animals and the transportation industry.

This standard in general, is intended for use in promoting sound animal transportation and welfare practices. The recommendations contained herein do not claim to be comprehensive for all circumstances but attempt to define standards for livestock transportation on a species by species basis.

For the purpose of this standard, animals of interest include; domestic ungulates, domestic solipeds, domestic birds i.e. poultry, farmed game, farmed game birds, including ratites, wild game, that is, wild land mammals and birds which are hunted (including those living in enclosed territory under conditions of freedom similar to those of wild game) or animals as otherwise specified by the competent authority intended for slaughter or hunted for meat.

Handling and transportation of slaughter animals — Requirements

1 Scope

This Draft Uganda Standard specifies the requirements for handling and transportation of live animals for slaughter.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

US CAC/RCP 58, *Code of hygienic practice for meat*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

Abattoir

any establishment where specified animals are slaughtered and dressed for human consumption and that is approved, registered and/or listed by the competent authority

3.2

competent authority

official authority charged by the government with the control of meat hygiene, including setting and enforcing regulatory meat hygiene and quality requirement

3.3

competent person

person who has the training, knowledge, skills and ability to perform an assigned task, and who is subject to requirements specified by the competent authority

3.4

contamination

intrusion process of undesirable compounds in the food that may be harmful for human consumption or compromise with safety, may be physical, chemical or biological.

3.5

disease or defect

any abnormality affecting safety and/or suitability of meat

3.6

establishment

building or area used for performing meat safety and quality management activities that is approved, registered and/or listed by the competent authority for such purposes

3.7

food chain

sequence of all stages and operations involved in the production, processing, distribution, storage and handling of food/meat and its ingredients, from primary production to consumption (farm to fork)

3.8

game depot

building in which killed wild game is temporarily held prior to transfer to an establishment, and which is approved, registered and/or listed by the competent authority for this purpose

3.9

Inspector

competent person who is appointed, accredited or otherwise recognised by the competent authority to perform official meat hygiene activities on behalf of, or under the supervision of the competent authority

3.10

Meat

all parts of an animal that are intended for, or have been judged as safe and suitable for human consumption

3.11

meat hygiene

all conditions and measures necessary to ensure the safety and suitability of meat at all stages of the food chain

3.12

primary production

all those steps in the food chain constituting animal production and transport of animals to the abattoir, or hunting and transporting wild game to a game depot

3.13

domestic ungulates

are any members of a diverse group of primarily large mammals that includes odd-toed ungulates such as horses and rhinoceroses, and even-toed ungulates such as cattle, pigs, giraffes, camels, deer, and hippopotamuses

3.14

ratite

diverse group of large, flightless birds of the infraclass Palaeognathae. The systematics involved have been in flux. Some sources state that ratites include all the flightless birds of the Palaeognathae

3.15

domestic solipeds

mammal having a single hoof on each foot, as the horses; a solid ungulate

3.16

Authentic document

Documents that authorise animal movement issued by a competent Government Authority such as movement permit, cattle traders permit.

4 Transportation of slaughter animals

4.1 General requirements

Transportation of animal for slaughter from one point to another shall be done as in accordance with FDUS CAC/RCP 58.

4.1.1 Slaughter animals shall not move without authentic veterinary documents, such as movement permit, cattle traders permit that authorise their movement issued by a competent Government Authority.

4.1.2 When transporting animals, only stock routes designated in accordance with US 778 shall be followed.

4.1.3 Transportation of animals shall follow the most direct stock route and be undertaken in a timely manner to avoid unnecessary stress to the animals.

4.1.4 Loaded lorries and pick-ups shall have enough space for the comfort of slaughter animals during transit, cattle placed crosswise on a lorry shall allow 50 cm - 60 cm of the truck length for each animal.

4.1.5 Animals shall not be transported with any other animal species other than of their own, however sheep and goats may be transported together.

4.1.6 Animals shall be transported in upright positions.

4.1.7 Temperature extremes shall be avoided when animals are transported and special precautions or postponements shall be adopted when temperatures are below 7 °C or above 29 °C since they threaten the welfare of the animals.

4.1.8 Small animals such as poultry, rabbits, goats, sheep and pigs shall be carried in appropriate containers if carried on bicycles or motorcycles.

4.1.9 Animals shall not be transported in vehicles intended for human transportation.

4.1.10 Animals shall be untethered if possible fed and watered prior to the time of departure

4.1.11 Any transport that is necessary shall be carried out in a way that minimizes stress, pain and suffering of the animal

4.1.12 The driver shall be accompanied with certified document

4.1.13 Slaughter animals shall be transported in accordance with the space requirements as in Table 1.

Table 1 — Space requirements for transportation of slaughter animals

Type of animal	Approximate weight Kgs	Area (M ²) per animal, Minimum	No. of animals on truck of size, example
			5.3 m x 2.2 m 4.5 m x 2.2 m
Cattle (big)	>300	1.4	7-10 5-8
Cattle medium	<300	0.9	10-11 9-10
Pigs	<100	0.4	14-15 11-13
Boars and sows	>100	0.8	3-34 28-30
Sheep/goats medium	<35	0.3	40-35 10-12
Sheep/ goats large	>35	0.4	14-16 30-35

4.2 Vehicles, containers and equipment

4.2.1 All vehicles and containers used for transporting animals shall have sides, and where appropriate, partitions that are secure, strong, and high enough to prevent animals from jumping, falling or being pushed out.

4.2.2 Vehicles and containers shall have a quick release mechanism for partitions used to separate large animals to enable release of animals in the event of straddling.

4.2.3 Vehicles and containers shall have secure, smooth fittings, and shall be free of protruding bolt heads and any other sharp protrusions or loose bolts or latches fasten securely.

4.2.4 Vehicle doors and internal gates shall be large enough to permit animals to pass through easily without bruising or injury.

4.2.5 Vehicles and containers shall be constructed so that no part of an animal can protrude from the vehicle or container in order to avoid injuries.

4.2.6 Vehicle and container design shall readily enable inspection of the animals in the transit.

4.2.7 Vehicles used to pull trailers shall have sufficient power to smoothly accelerate the unit and sufficient braking ability to stop safely.

4.2.8 Vehicles and containers used to transport animals shall be cleaned, sanitized, and equipped with enough suitable fresh bedding at all times.

4.2.9 Vehicles used to carry animals shall be safe and effective for movement of the animals.

4.2.10 Commercial unloading facilities shall provide an appropriate area, suitably equipped, where cleaning of vehicles used in the transportation of animals can be done.

4.2.11 Portable ramps shall be stable and its sides high enough to provide good traction for the animals.

4.2.12 Sufficient ventilation shall be available at all times while the animals are on a vehicle.

4.2.13 Ventilation shall be adjustable from the outside of the vehicle in response to temperature changes during a trip and use of adjustable weather panels is an effective way to achieve this.

4.2.14 When animals are transported in crates or bins, the design, construction, available space and state of repair shall allow the animals to be loaded, conveyed, and removed without injury.

4.2.15 Chutes shall take advantage of natural behaviour of animals. Most species prefer to follow a leader and to have no harsh changes in lighting. Animal handling is more easily accomplished if the alleyways and ramps have no sharp turns that could impede movement or could cause injury.

4.2.16 Unless animals can be seen easily from outside the containers, every container used to transport animals shall have a sign or symbol to indicate that it contains live animals and to show its upright position.

4.2.17 Containers used for transporting animals shall be securely placed on vehicles to prevent them from moving during the journey.

4.2.18 When transporting animals in containers, attention shall be given to temperature, ventilation, facilities, and available space during the entire journey.

4.2.19 Containers that hold animals shall be tilted as little as possible during all stages of loading and unloading.

4.2.20 Suitable bedding such as straw or wood shavings or appropriate mats shall be added to vehicles to assist in absorbing urine and faeces, provide better footing for the animals and protect them from the hard floor.

4.2.21 Vehicles shall be in full compliance with all highway traffic standards

4.2.22 Containers containing animals shall always be moved smoothly and never thrown or dropped

4.3 Loading and unloading

4.3.1 General

4.3.1.1 Prior to loading a vehicle, an interior inspection by competent person shall be performed and bedding added or other corrective measures taken to assure safe transportation.

4.3.1.2 Animals shall be loaded slowly and carefully to avoid discomfort due to noise, breezes, movement of objects, and flashes of light.

4.3.1.3 Animals shall be loaded or unloaded using ramps in order to prevent injuries or suffering.

4.3.1.4 If a handler leads an animal into a vehicle, there shall be an avenue of escape for the handler should the animal initiate any unexpected behaviour.

4.3.1.5 A system of early identification of injured animals prior to loading/unloading and an action plan shall be in place and known to all employees.

4.3.1.6 To avoid excitement of the animals, abrupt movements by drivers and loaders shall be avoided. Negotiating sharp bends/corners or abrupt braking/stopping shall be avoided.

4.3.1.7 Electric prods shall not be applied to the head or genital regions of any animal.

4.3.1.8 Tipping of animals off vehicles during offloading shall not be practiced.

4.3.1.9 Beating and twisting/breaking tails, eye and nose poking and pouring hot water on the animal shall be avoided.

4.3.1.10 If possible mixing unfamiliar animals shall be avoided since it can result in an increase in aggression, which in turn leads to additional stress.

4.3.2 Loading and unloading facilities

Loading and unloading facilities shall have the following characteristics:

- a) ramps shall accommodate the different sizes of vehicles in common use, for example, by providing docks of different heights, or adjustable ramps. No gap shall exist between the ramp, its sides and the vehicle;
- b) ramps and chutes shall be of solid construction and free from sharp projections;
- c) the dock surface shall be levelled with the vehicle floor; and
- d) prior to loading, watering points for animals shall be provided depending on the time and distance the animals shall take on the truck.

5 Care and protection during transport

5.1 General

5.1.1 Competent drivers shall start, drive, and stop trucks smoothly to prevent animals from being thrown off their feet.

5.1.2 Competent drivers shall check each load immediately before departure to ensure that the animals have been properly loaded and each load shall be checked again early in the trip and adjustments made as appropriate.

5.1.3 Competent drivers shall check for signs of general discomfort of the animals, such as overheating using periodic checks throughout the trip.

5.1.4 All places where animals are temporarily assembled for sale, show, feed, water and rest, or for any other reason, shall have adequate facilities for safe loading, unloading and holding.

5.1.5 Competent drivers shall practice defensive driving by ensuring that adequate space is available, should an emergency require an unexpected stop. In addition, they shall negotiate turns in the smoothest possible manner

5.1.6 Competent drivers shall be protected from any injury caused by animals during the transportation process

6 Precautions in hot/humid weather

During hot and humid weather, the following precautions shall be taken to avoid stress, suffering and possibly death caused by the combination of high temperature and high humidity:

- a) animals shall be handled carefully because transportation in hot, humid weather is particularly stressful, and increases the chances of heat stroke;
- b) weather conditions shall be observed carefully and ventilation adjusted accordingly;
- c) during hot and humid periods, animal transportation shall be rescheduled;
- d) periods of intense traffic congestion shall be avoided;
- e) vehicles containing animals shall not be parked in direct sunlight.
- f) when it is necessary to stop, the duration of the stop shall be minimized to prevent the build-up of heat inside the vehicle; and,
- g) loading density shall be reduced accordingly in hot weather
- h) whenever possible, journeys during hot, humid periods shall be avoided;

7 Rekking

7.1 Only cattle, sheep and goats can be successively moved on hoof, however the journey should be planned paying attention to the distance to be travelled, and opportunities for grazing, watering and overnight rest accompanied by authentic documents.

7.2 Animals shall be walked on cooler times of the day and allowed sufficient time to be rested and watered before loading

7.3 The maximum distance shall be as that stated in Table 2.

Table 2 — Maximum distances for trekking

Species	One day journey (km)	More than one day (km)	
		First day	Subsequent days
Cattle	30	24	22
Sheep and goat	24	24	16

Bibliography

- [1] Guidelines for Humane Handling, Transport and Slaughter of Livestock, FOA
- [2] US ISO 22000:2005, Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain
- [3] US 733:2007, Requirements for Transportation of slaughter animals

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