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Handling and transportation of slaughter animals – Requirements

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in the East African Community. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers that are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

The Community has established an East African Standards Committee (EASC) mandated to develop and issue East African Standards (EAS). The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the public and private sector organizations in the community.

East African Standards are developed through Technical Committees that are representative of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the Principles and procedures for development of East African Standards.

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee EASC/TC 004, *Meat, poultry, game, eggs and related products*.

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Introduction

Animal welfare is an important issue for all sectors of the livestock industry. Good animal welfare practices are critical for maintaining a positive industry image, and for meeting legal requirements for the sale and transportation of livestock thus ensuring good quality and safety of meat. The primary animal welfare needs should be met through provision to freedoms from: hunger, malnutrition and thirst; fear and distress; physical and thermal discomfort; pain, injury and disease and, freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour.

The animal handler needs competence, experience and observance of high standards in animal husbandry. Individuals' knowledge and experience of livestock and their needs, local climates and weather patterns, topography and shelter, as well as management practices remain one of the prime means of ensuring that the welfare of animals is maintained and enhanced. Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of animals is crucial. It is essential to be able to recognize early signs of distress or ill-health so that prompt remedial action is taken or advice sought.

This standard recognizes the basic principle of humaneness towards animals as the prime consideration in animal handling and transportation.

Handling and transportation of slaughter animals – Requirements

1 Scope

This draft East African Standard provide for the requirements for the handling and transportation of live terrestrial food animals for slaughter

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

CAC/RCP 58 Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat

EAS 39 Hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry.

EAS xxx Livestock Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses s-Specification

ISO/TS 34700:2016 Animal welfare management — General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following definitions shall apply:

3.1

Competent authority

official authority charged by the government for implementation of animal health, animal movement control, and welfare measures to ensure meat hygiene and quality

3.2

Animal handler

person with knowledge of the behaviour and needs of animals who has appropriate experience.

3.3

Transporter

person licensed/ permitted by the Competent Authority to transport animals.

3.4

Transport

the procedures associated with carrying of animals from one location to another.

3.5

Food animal

Animals declared edible for human consumption under the laws of competent authority of a partner state

3.6

Humane Handling

acting in a manner that causes least stress to the animal.

3.7

Point of use

refers to the final destination of the food animal being moved/transported and/or utilized. It can be a Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses, research lab, farm or abattoir.

3.8

Abattoir

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

3.9

Stunning

any mechanical, electrical, chemical or other procedure that causes immediate loss of consciousness; when used before slaughter, the loss of consciousness lasts until death from the slaughter process; in the absence of slaughter, the procedure would allow the animal to recover consciousness.

3.10

Animal production

breeding and rearing of food animal.

3.11

Container

receptacle or other rigid structure for holding animals during a journey by one or several means of transport.

3.12

Animal welfare

how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. It encompasses disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and slaughter/killing.

3.13

Ante-mortem inspection

procedure conducted by a competent authority on live animals for the purpose of judgment of safety and suitability and disposition

3.14

Droving/trekking

practice of moving livestock over long distances by walking them on the hoof.

3.15

Shallering

gather or bring animals together

3.16

Handling

deliberate interruption of an animal's normal activity by a person, including touching, distracting, manipulating, training, restraining, catching, holding, carrying, moving or transporting the animal, whether by or under supervision of a keeper.

3.17

Raceway

Confined narrow pathways for animals to pass through so that they cannot turn around or get wedged beside each other. The width is species specific.

3.18

Yard

enclosure with pens in which animals are sorted or temporarily housed

3.19

Tethering

where an animal is fastened by a chain, rope or something of the like to a central anchor point, causing it to be confined to a specific area

4 General handling

4.1 Handlers

Animals shall be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who, collectively, possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with this code.

Animal handlers shall;

- a) Have knowledge of the animal's normal (and abnormal) behaviour and needs

- b) Be able to recognize signs of good and poor animal health, disease and injury
- c) Be able to anticipate and/or recognize problems early
- d) Be calm, efficient and competent in approach
- e) Know when to intervene and when to seek assistance
- f) Be working to optimize management systems, including for the benefit of animal welfare
- g) Have knowledge of and ability to identify the appropriate animals for a particular husbandry system. More formal education-based training is a useful complement to practical experience.

4.2 Animal Handling during production

The handling of food animals shall be in accordance with ISO/TS 34700 and CAC/RCP 58 relevant legislations of the partner state”

Proper handling of animals is essential for their good husbandry. Distress and risk to both the animals and their handlers are decreased when good handling practices are followed. Some of the recommended best practices include;

- 4.2.1 Animals shall be handled at all times in such a way as to minimize the risk of pain, injury or distress to the animals.
- 4.2.2 Animals shall not be prodded in the most sensitive areas, including the udder, eyes, nose, anus, vulva or testicles.
- 4.2.3 Only the minimum force required shall be used when moving animals.
 - a) When encouraging animals to move, audible or visual measures (e.g., Whistling, rattles, plastic cans, stones in a container) shall be preferred to devices which rely on physical contact (e.g., Alkathene hoses, stock whips, stock canes, and sticks).
 - b) The flow of animals shall be monitored, and if necessary controlled, at gateways, in narrow laneways and corners, or at other pressure points so as to ensure animals, especially young animals unaccustomed to yarding, are not injured, trampled, or smothered.
 - c) Animals shall be allowed ample time to calm down after sheltering to ensure easier and safer handling and to reduce fear.
 - d) Animals in pens or yards shall not be overcrowded, but allowed to be able to move away from handlers or other animals, because crowding is likely to contribute to distress and injury.
- 4.2.4 The social behavior of animals shall be considered when separating animals.
- 4.2.5 Care shall be taken not to induce sudden fear or panic in animals in confined spaces such as in pens, corners and gateways, because flight might increase the risk of injury.
- 4.2.6 If problems of aggressive behavior occur, the animals shall be separated into compatible groups. Groups of horned and polled cattle, bulls and cows, and calves and unfamiliar older cattle shall be held in separate pens when yarded.
- 4.2.7 Animals shall not be dragged or lifted by the wool, wings, tails, ears and legs or horns.
- 4.2.8 Animals shall not be held on their side or back for unnecessarily long time subjecting it to undue stress especially if they are full or if they are heavily pregnant.
- 4.2.9 Vehicles shall not be used to push animals physically.
- 4.2.10 When dogs are used, they shall be under control at all times.

4.2.11 Shallowing and Droving of Animals shall not be forced to proceed at a pace that will cause exhaustion, heat stress or injury.

4.2.12 If ear marking is performed, as little as possible and no more than 10% of ear tissue shall be removed, using an implement that is clean and sharp.

4.2.13 Care shall be taken when applying an ear-tag to avoid hitting the cartilage ridges or major blood vessels.

4.3 Restraint and Facilities during production

4.3.1 All facilities, including fences, yards, sheds, and housing, shall be constructed, maintained and operated in a manner that minimizes the likelihood of distress or injury to animals.

4.3.2 Methods of restraining animals shall only be used:

- a) when they are suitable for those animals being handled;
- b) where the operators are fully conversant with their safe operation;
- c) if they are in good working order so as to minimize the risk of injury or unnecessary pain or distress;
- d) only for as long as necessary to perform particular husbandry practices; and
- e) where they allow the animal to be released immediately if required.

4.3.3 Animals that are physically restrained shall be kept under supervision.

4.3.4 Tethering shall be carried out in a manner so as not to cause injury or distress to the animals. The tether shall also allow animal to stand, lie down and access any food or water provided.

4.3.5 Yard, shed and raceway design shall enable free flow of animals.

4.3.6 Yard and shed flooring surfaces shall be constructed of material that minimizes animals slipping.

4.3.7 The use of dusty yards shall be avoided when livestock are predisposed to stress and ill-health (e.g., lambs susceptible to pneumonia).

4.4 Feed and Water

Feeding of animals during primary production shall be subject to good animal feeding practice.

4.4.1 Animals shall not be given feed and feed ingredients that:

- a) are recognized as likely to introduce zoonotic agents (including transmissible spongiform encephalopathies - TSEs) to the slaughter population; or
- b) Contain chemical substances, (e.g., veterinary drugs, pesticides) or contaminants that could result in residues in meat at levels that make the product unsafe for human consumption.

4.4.2 All animals shall receive sufficient quantities of feed and nutrients to enable them to:

- a) maintain good health;
- b) meet their physiological requirements; and
- c) minimize metabolic and nutritional disorders.

4.4.3 All animals shall have access to water, sufficient for their daily needs and that is not harmful to their health.

4.4.4 If animals are to be given feeds to which they are not accustomed (e.g., supplementary feeds and crops), they shall be gradually introduced to those feeds to enable them to adapt and to prevent digestive problems associated with the change of diet (e.g., lactic acidosis or grain overload). Animals shall be closely monitored during any change in feed. The feeds shall comply to the relevant EAS standards.

4.4.5 Mould-contaminated or excessively dusty supplementary feeds shall not be fed to livestock.

4.4.6 Care shall be taken to ensure animals, particularly in late pregnancy, do not overfeed. Overfeeding resulting in a full rumen can contribute to difficult births and, in sheep in full wool, a greater risk of becoming cast.

4.4.7 Automated feed delivery and water reticulation systems without any storage capacity or other backup supply systems shall be checked daily to ensure that they are in working order and any problems promptly rectified.

4.4.8 In controlled grazing systems where feed is rationed the amount of feed available on each area shall be sufficient to meet the needs of all the animals during the time that they are on that area or the break.

4.5 Shelter

4.5.1 All animals shall have access to shelter to reduce the risk to their health and welfare caused by exposure to extreme weather conditions.

4.5.2 Animals giving birth shall be provided with an environment affording the newborn protection from any reasonably expected climatic conditions likely to compromise their welfare and survival.

4.5.3 Animals shall be provided with means to minimize the effects of heat stress.

4.5.4 Where animals develop health problems associated with exposure to adverse weather conditions, priority shall be given to remedial action that will minimize the consequences of such exposure.

4.6 Housing

4.6.1 All animals shall be able to lie down and rest comfortably for sufficient periods each day to meet their behavioral needs.

4.6.2 Separate confinement shall be provided for those animals under treatment for ill health, injury, or disease for the minimum period possible or those known to be aggressive

4.6.3 All fittings and internal surfaces, including entry raceways and adjoining yards that may be used by the housed animals, shall be constructed and maintained to ensure there are no hazards likely to cause injury to the animals.

4.6.4 Building design or ventilation shall be sufficient to prevent the build-up of harmful concentrations of gases such as ammonia and carbon dioxide.

4.6.5 Adequate lighting shall be available during daylight hours

4.7 Health, Injury, and Disease

4.7.1 Signs of ill health or injury shall result in timely preventative or remedial action, as appropriate.

4.7.2 Medication shall only be used in accordance with registration conditions and manufacturer's instructions or professional advice.

4.7.3 Medical and surgical treatment shall be carried out taking into account the animal's welfare.

4.7.4 Veterinary professional advice as per legislations of the partner state shall be sought where there is:

- a) Significant injury or disease
- b) Persistent or chronic pain
- c) Persistent ill-thrift and poor performance that does not respond to treatment
- d) Need to establish an appropriate health plan concern about the welfare of the animal

5.0 TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS

5.1 General requirements

5.1.1 Animals shall be inspected by a *competent authority* or an animal handler to assess fitness to travel and *issue movement permit* it is the responsibility of a veterinarian to determine its ability to travel. Animals found unfit to travel shall not be loaded onto a vessel.

5.1.2 Animals that are unfit to travel include, but may not be limited to:

- a) those that are sick, injured, weak, disabled or fatigued;
- b) those that are unable to stand unaided or bear weight on each leg;
- c) those that are blind in both eyes;
- d) those that cannot be moved without causing them additional suffering;
- e) newborn with an unhealed navel;
- f) females traveling without young who have given birth within the previous 48 hours;
- g) pregnant animals which would be in the final 10% of their gestation period at the planned time of unloading;
- h) animals with unhealed wounds from recent surgical procedures such as dehorning.

5.1.3 Transportation of animals for slaughter from one point to another shall be done as in accordance with CAC/RCP 58 and ISO/TS 34700

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

5.1.5 Animals shall not be transported with any other animal species other than of their own, however sheep and goats may be transported together. Loaded lorries and pick-ups shall have enough space for the comfort of slaughter animals during transit,

5.1.6 *Groups of animas horned and polled cattle, bulls and cows, and calves and unfamiliar older cattle shall be transported separately”*

5.1.7 Goats, sheep, pigs and poultry, shall be carried in appropriate containers when necessary

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

5.1.9 Animals shall be transported in upright positions

5.1.10 Temperature extremes are to be avoided when animals are transported.

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

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

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

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

5.1.15 The driver shall be accompanied with certified document

5.1.16 Slaughter animals shall be transported in accordance with the space requirements given in Table 1 Each load shall be checked again early in the trip and adjustments made as appropriate. Periodic checks shall be made throughout the trip, especially at rest or refueling stops or during meal breaks when the vehicle is stationary.

5.1.17 To avoid excitement of the animals, abrupt movements by drivers and loaders shall be avoided. Careful driving will help prevent bruises and injuries, weight losses, rapid acceleration or sudden brakes shall be avoided because poor driving can cause animals to lose their balance

5.1.18 Drivers and animal handlers shall check the load immediately before departure to ensure that the animals have been properly loaded.

5.3 Loading of animals.

5.3.1 General

5.3.1.1 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

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

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

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

5.3.1.5 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.

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

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

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

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

5.3.2 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.

5.3.2.1 Loading shall be carefully planned as it has the potential to be the cause of poor welfare in transported animals.

5.3.2.2 Loading shall be supervised and/or conducted by animal handlers. The animals are to be loaded quietly and without unnecessary noise, harassment or force. Untrained assistants or spectators shall not impede the process. Animals shall not be loaded or unloaded in a way that causes avoidable injury or suffering. Ramps shall be used.

5.3.2.3 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.

5.3.2.4 Animals shall not be rushed during loading and unloading.

5.3.2.5 Tipping animals off vehicles during offloading shall not be practiced.

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

5.4 Loading Facilities

5.4.1 The facilities for loading including the collecting area, raceways and loading ramps shall be designed and constructed to take into account the needs and abilities of the animals with regard to dimensions, slopes, surfaces, absence of sharp projections and flooring.

5.4.2 Loading facilities shall be properly illuminated to allow the animals to be observed by animal handler(s), and to allow the ease of movement of the animals at all times.

5.4.3 Adequate Ventilation and spacing shall be provided during loading.

5.5 Goads and other aids

When moving animals, their species-specific behaviour shall be used. If goads and other aids are necessary, the following principles shall apply:

5.5.1 Animals that have little or no room to move shall not be subjected to physical force or goads and other aids which compel movement. Electric goads and prods shall only be used in extreme cases and not on a routine basis to move animals

5.5.2 The use of such devices shall be limited to battery-powered goads on the hindquarters of pigs and large ruminants, and never on sensitive areas such as the eyes, mouth, ears, a genital region or belly. Such instruments shall not be used on sheep and goats of any age, or on calves or piglets.

5.6 Regulating the environment within vehicles or containers

5.6.1 Loading density shall be reduced in hot and humid weather

5.6.2 Animals shall be protected against harm from hot or cold conditions during travel. The container shall have effective ventilation.

5.6.3 Where necessary, a cost-effective controlled environment shall be provided

5.6.4 non-slip flooring shall be provided to minimize slipping

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

5.6.6 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.

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

5.6.8 Vehicles and containers shall have secure, smooth fittings, and shall be free of protruding bolt heads and any other sharp protrusions. Bolts or latches shall fasten securely so that the animals will not move them.

5.6.9 Provision shall be made for the drainage or absorption of urine of animals during transportation.

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

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

5.6.12 Vehicles used to carry animals shall be safe and effective for movement of the animals. Vehicles used to pull trailers shall have sufficient power to smoothly accelerate the unit and sufficient braking ability to stop safely.

5.6.13 Sufficient ventilation shall be available at all times while the animals are on a vehicle. Aerodynamic airfoils installed on truck tractors to enhance fuel efficiency shall not restrict airflow into the trailer which is necessary for ventilation and cooling. Appropriate measures shall be taken to prevent engine exhaust from entering the area occupied by the animals.

5.6.14 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.

5.6.15 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.

5.6.16 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.

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

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

5.6.19 Containers that hold animals shall be tilted as little as possible during all stages of loading and unloading. Containers shall always be moved smoothly and never thrown or dropped.

5.6.20 space requirements for transportation of food animals shall be used to avoid overcrowding as recommended in Table 1.

Table 1—space requirements for transportation of food animals.

Type of animal	Approximate weight (Kg)	Minimum area (m ²) per animal	Number of animals in a truck	
			5.3 m x 2.2 m	4.5 m x 2.2 m
Cattle	>300	1.4	7-10	5-8
	<300	0.9	10-11	9-10
Pigs	<100	0.4	14-15	11-13
	>100	0.8	31-34	28-30
Sheep and goats	<35	0.3	14-16	10-12
	>35	0.4	35-40	30-35

Table 2: space requirements for transportation of food animals - poultry

Maximum Loading and Transportation Densities	Moderate	Extreme heat
Broiler Chickens	63 kg/m ²	54 kg/m ²
Broiler Breeders	66 kg/m ²	56 kg/m ²
Turkeys	98 kg/m ²	83 kg/m ²
End-of-Lay Hens	63 kg/m ²	54 kg/m ²

5.7 Sick, injured or dead animals

5.7.1 A driver or an animal handler finding sick, injured or dead animals shall act according to a predetermined emergency response plan.

5.7.2 Sick or injured animals shall be segregated.

5.7.3 Ferries (roll-on roll-off) shall have procedures to treat sick or injured animals during the journey.

5.7.4 In order to reduce the likelihood that animal transport will increase the spread of infectious disease, contact between transported animals, or the waste products of the transported animals, and other farm animals shall be minimized.

5.7.5 During the journey, a dead animal if any shall be disposed under the supervision of competent authority in such a way as to prevent the transmission of disease and in compliance with all relevant health and environmental legislation.

5.7.6 When killing is necessary, it shall be carried out as quickly as possible and assistance shall be sought from a veterinarian or other person(s) competent in humane killing procedures.

5.7.7 At the destination, the animal handler or the driver during transit shall ensure that responsibility for the welfare of sick, injured or disabled animals is transferred to a veterinary professional.

5.7.8 If treatment or humane killing is not possible aboard the vehicle, there shall be appropriate facilities and equipment for the humane unloading of animals that are non-ambulatory due to fatigue, injury or sickness. These animals shall be unloaded in a manner that causes the least amount of suffering. After unloading, separate pens and other appropriate facilities shall be available for sick or injured animals.

5.7.9 *“Disease risks during transportation”*

The following shall be taken into account in addressing the greater risk of disease due to animal transport and the possible need for segregation of transported animals at the destination:

- a) Increased contact among animals, including those from different sources and with different disease histories;
- b) Increased shedding of pathogens and increased susceptibility to infection related to stress and impaired defenses against disease, including immunosuppression;
- c) Exposure of animals to pathogens which may contaminate vehicles, resting points, Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses s, etc.
- d) Animals transported through disease free zones

5.8 Water and feed requirements during transportation

Suitable water and feed shall be provided to the animals, during the journey

5.8.1 Care of animals during transport: In-transit observations, Rest periods and conditions

5.8.2 Drivers shall start, drive, and stop trucks smoothly to prevent animals from being thrown off their feet.

5.8.3 Drivers shall check each load with relevant documentation as provided by competent authority immediately before departure to ensure that the animals have been properly loaded. Each load shall be

checked again during in the trip and adjustments made as appropriate. Drivers shall check for signs of general discomfort of the animals, such as overheating. Periodic checks shall be made throughout the trip

5.8.4 High environment temperatures will increase the risk of heat stress and mortality during transportation. It is important to transport animals in vehicles during the cooler mornings and evenings or even at night. This is particularly important for pigs. A combination of high humidity and high environment temperatures is especially deadly to pigs. Heat can rapidly build up to lethal levels in a stationary vehicle. Wetting pigs with water will help keep them cool

5.8.5 Animals that are being transported shall be rested at appropriate intervals during the journey and offered feed and water, either on the vehicle or, if necessary, unloaded into suitable facilities.

5.8.6 When resting requires the unloading of the animals. These facilities shall meet the needs of the particular animal species and shall allow access of all animals to feed and water.

5.8.7 Animals being transported by rail shall be observed at each scheduled stop. The responsible rail transporter shall monitor the progress of trains carrying animals and take all appropriate action to minimize delays.

5.9 Cleaning and disinfection

- a) Vehicles, crates, containers, etc. used to carry the animals shall be cleaned before re-use through the physical removal of manure and bedding by scraping, washing and flushing with water and detergent. This shall be followed by disinfection when there are concerns about disease transmission.
- b) Manure, litter, bedding and the bodies of any animals which die during the journey shall be disposed of in such a way as to prevent the transmission of disease and in compliance with all relevant health and environmental legislation.
- c) Establishments like livestock Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses s, slaughterhouses, resting sites, railway stations, etc. where animals are unloaded shall be provided with appropriate areas for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles.

5.10 Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey

- a) The welfare of the animals shall be the first consideration in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey.
- b) When the animals have been refused import, the Competent Authority of the importing country shall make available suitable isolation facilities to allow the unloading of animals from a vehicle and their secure holding, without posing a risk to the health of regional herd or flock, pending resolution of the situation. In this situation, the priorities shall be:
 - i. The Competent Authority of the importing country shall provide urgently in writing the reasons for the refusal;
 - ii. In the event of a refusal for animal health reasons, the Competent Authority of the importing country shall provide urgent access to a veterinarian, to assess the health status of the animals with regard to the concerns of the importing country, and the necessary facilities and approvals to expedite the required diagnostic testing;
 - iii. The Competent Authority of the importing country shall provide access to allow continued assessment of the health and other aspects of the welfare of the animals;
- b) In the event that a Competent Authority requires the animals to remain on the vehicle, the priorities shall be:
 - i. To allow provisioning of the vehicle with water and feed as necessary;
 - ii. To provide urgently in writing the reasons for the refusal;

- iii. To provide urgent access to an independent veterinarian(s) to assess the health status of the animals, and the necessary facilities and approvals to expedite the required diagnostic testing in the event of a refusal for animal health reasons;
 - iv. To provide access to allow continued assessment of the health and other aspects of the welfare of the animals, and the necessary actions to deal with any animal issues which arise.
- c) Animals shall not be unloaded until all relevant documentation is presented. The documentation shall include date, time and place of loading and unloading, veterinary certification when required, animal identification to allow animal traceability to the premise of departure, health status (including any tests, treatment or vaccinations carried out).

6.0 Trekking

6.1 Movement of animals is subject to existing regulations by the competent authority.

6.2 Only cattle, sheep and goats can be successfully moved on hoof, and here certain risks are involved. The journey shall be planned, paying attention to the distance to be travelled, opportunities for grazing, watering and overnight rest.

6.3 Animals shall be walked during the cooler times of the day and, if moving some distance to a railhead, they shall arrive with sufficient time to be rested and watered before loading.

6.4 The maximum distances that these animals shall be trekked depend on various factors such as weather, body condition, age etc., but the distance given in Table 2 shall not be exceeded when trekked.

Table 3: Maximum distances for trekking

Species	One day journey	More than one day	Subsequent days
Cattle	30 km	24 km	22 km
Sheep/goats	24 km	24 km	16 km

7.0 POINT OF USE

Animals should not be received until all relevant documentation is presented. The documentation should include date, time and place of loading and unloading, veterinary certification when required, animal identification to allow animal traceability to the premise of departure, health status (including any tests, treatment or vaccinations carried out).

7.1 Slaughter

7.1.1 All animals should be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse operated by a competent authority and should be in accordance with the provisions in EAS 39 and the Meat Control legislation of competent authority within a partner state

7.1.2 Persons in charge of slaughter premises must ensure that animals are cared for by a sufficient number of personnel who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competencies to maintain the health and welfare of animals.

7.1.3 During the slaughter of animals, the following methods, procedures or practices are unacceptable on animal welfare grounds:

7.1.4 The restraining methods which work through electro-immobilization or immobilization by injury such as breaking legs, leg tendon cutting, and severing the spinal cord (e.g., using a puntilla or dagger) cause severe pain and stress in animals. Those methods are not acceptable in any species.

7.1.5 The use of the electrical stunning method of with a single application leg to leg is ineffective in any species.

7.1.6 The slaughter method of brain stem severance by piercing through the eye socket or skull bone without prior stunning is not acceptable in any species.

8.0 Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses s/abattoir/slaughter houses

8.1 Animals shall not be received at the markets/abattoir/slaughter houses s/abattoir/slaughter houses until all relevant documentation is presented *as required in a partner state*

8.2 The Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses s shall have suitable premises for loading, unloading and securely holding the animals, with water and feed, and with protection from adverse weather conditions.

8.3 The Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses s shall have an adequate number of animal handlers to load, unload, drive and hold animals in a manner that causes minimum stress and injury.

8.3 The management of the Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses shall put measures in place to minimise the opportunities for disease transmission, in consultation with the Competent Authority. Provisions shall be made for isolation of sick or 'suspect'

8.4 The Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses shall be equipped with appropriate facilities for emergencies.

8.5 The space requirements shall be adequate for various classes of animals to avoid congestion and stress.

8.6 The Markets/abattoir/slaughter houses shall have provisions for separate classes of animals.

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Bibliography

DKS 2829: 2018 Food animals' welfare - code of practice

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