



(Insert Recipients Name and Address)

Dear Transporter

### **Advice to Transporters in Cold Weather**

**Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006**  
**Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007**  
**Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006**  
**Welfare of Animals During Transport – Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005**

#### **Newly Shorn Sheep**

1. Exposure to low temperatures is a threat to animal welfare during transport and these conditions are a very real possibility during winter months. Failure to take account of cold temperatures when planning journeys may, in particular, cause unnecessary suffering to newly shorn sheep. This applies to the pre-loading period, loading and unloading as well as any other part of the journey.

2. Newly shorn sheep should **only** be presented for any journey, including export journeys, during the period from **1 November to 31 March**:

- if they have a staple growth of at least **7.0mm** (this may be achieved either by allowing re-growth or by shearing with a suitable long comb) and
- if the sheep have **not** been shorn less than 24 hours before the start of the journey.

3. May I remind you that it is an offence under animal welfare legislation<sup>1</sup> to transport animals in a way that causes, or is likely to cause, injury or unnecessary suffering. Transporting newly shorn sheep in low temperatures might fall into this category and, upon inspection, Local Authority enforcement officers, or Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) staff, may prevent or interrupt such journeys and give consideration to the possibility of further action being taken.

#### **Contingency Planning**

4. APHA assesses and approves Journey Logs confirming that they are realistic and, if followed, in compliance with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. However we cannot provide assurances that roads will be open/ferries will be operating etc. during periods of prolonged and extreme cold weather conditions and transporters' contingency plans must outline the actions that will be taken in the event of an interruption to a journey in such eventualities. **It is the transporters responsibility to ensure that the journey is achievable and you should not commence the journey if you know of any reason to doubt this.**

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<sup>1</sup> Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007, Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Regulations 2006

5. Snow and freezing temperatures will inevitably cause disruption to the transport networks in GB and possibly also in Europe. During periods of extremely cold weather it is particularly important that transporters check conditions along the whole of the intended route prior to the journey. We strongly advise that you contact destination premises who should be able to provide local information and, if your journey relies on another means of transport, that you contact the relevant ferry, rail or airline company to obtain up to date information regarding any potential delays to services prior to commencing the journey.

The following links may also be useful:

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/warnings/?regionName=uk>

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/traffic/traffic.aspx>

6. It is also the transporters responsibility to ensure that any adverse weather conditions do not affect the effectiveness of equipment (e.g. feeders, drinkers) required by Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. The requirements are outlined in:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/193680/pb13550-wato-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/193680/pb13550-wato-guidance.pdf)

7. Enforcement officers finding any non-compliances will take appropriate action which may include interrupting the journey until the shortcomings are remedied.

8. This letter is being copied to the European Commission and to the Competent Authorities in other Member States who, like us, have powers to interrupt journeys and take enforcement action if the welfare of animals during transport is, or is thought likely to be, prejudiced.

9. Should you have any queries on this letter please contact the Welfare in Transport (WIT) helpline on Tel: 0345 603 8395 (option 4), lines are open from 08:30 to 17:00 Monday to Friday (an answer phone is available at all other times), calls will be charged at local rate. Alternatively please email: [wit@apha.gov.uk](mailto:wit@apha.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Name

Welfare in Transport Team  
Centre for International Trade – Carlisle  
Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.