

Report of the Meeting of the WOAH ad hoc Group on the revision of Chapter 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4 Transport of animal by sea, land and air (Proposed title Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport)

Original: English (EN)

10 – 12 December 2025

WOAH Headquarters, Paris

Contents

1. Background	2
2. Adoption of the agenda and Terms of Reference	2
3. Review of the draft Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport	2
4. Next steps	4

Annexes

Annex 1. Agenda	5
Annex 2. List of Participants	6
Annex 3. Terms of Reference	7



1. Background

The *ad hoc* Group was convened by the Director General, following the request of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter 'the Code Commission'), to consider the revision of Chapters 7.2 and 7.3 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereafter the '*Terrestrial Code*') on Transport of animals by land and sea.

In June 2024, the *ad hoc* group agreed to combine the existing three transport chapters into one single chapter covering transport by land, sea, and air. The *ad hoc* group also agreed to add transport by foot (transhumance).

In February 2025, the Code Commission reviewed the progress made by the *ad hoc* group and requested that the *ad hoc* group meet again to refine the chapter before it is reviewed by Members; the *ad hoc* group met in March 2025.

During its September 2025 meeting, the Code Commission considered the March 2025 report of the *ad hoc* Group, including the new draft of Chapter 7.2 and requested that the *ad hoc* group be reconvened to continue to finalise the draft chapter, taking into account its general comments; to streamline and rationalise the chapter, reduce redundancy and improve the structure and readability. The Code Commission requested the *ad hoc* group meet before February 2026 so that it can consider its report at its next meeting

2. Adoption of the agenda and Terms of Reference

The agenda, the list of participants and the Terms of Reference are presented in [Annex 1](#), [Annex 2](#) and [Annex 3](#), respectively.

3. Review of the draft Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport

Article 7.2.2 Purpose and scope

The *ad hoc* group discussed the importance of the inclusion of standards on both national and international transport of animals being included in this chapter and amended this section to state that this chapter applies both nationally and internationally.

The *ad hoc* group added references to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations (LAR) and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) guidelines for more specific transport guidance.

Article 7.2.3. Definitions

The *ad hoc* group discussed the proposed definitions in the draft chapter and drafted a definition for 'travel' as 'the period of time when the animal is on the means of transport whilst it is moving'.

Article 7.2.4. Hazards to animal welfare

The *ad hoc* group reviewed the draft text and agreed to delete 'motion sickness', following an agreement that some motion sickness during transport may be difficult to avoid.

Article 7.2.5. Measures to assess animal welfare during transport

The *ad hoc* group reviewed the draft text and agreed that no changes needed to be made.

Article 7.2.6. Training and competence of personnel

The *ad hoc* group agreed that those involved in the transportation of animals should be required to provide written evidence of their competencies achieved through training and that this training should only have a limited duration of validity.

The *ad hoc* group reviewed the subjects that should be covered and agreed to add 'requirements of different animal types for suitable and safe means of transport'.

Article 7.2.7. Responsibilities of persons involved in the journey

The *ad hoc* group discussed the importance of the exchange of documentation between importing, exporting and where relevant, transit countries, to avoid animals being refused entry to an importing country. Text was added to refer readers to the relevant documentation in Article 7.2.10.

The *ad hoc* group also added text to define the responsibilities of the journey organisers and drivers and a definition of an intermediary facility.

Article 7.2.8. Contingency plan

The *ad hoc* group reviewed the unexpected events included in the draft article and added the 'rejection of the consignment on arrival or at the border control post' and amended the factors to consider, including the contact details of the Competent Authorities and contact details for WOA National contact points for long distance transport.

Article 7.2.9. Planning the journey

The *ad hoc* group discussed the use of tranquillisers or other medications and included references to the regulations and manufacturer's label instructions to ensure the safety and welfare of animals.

Article 7.2.10. Documentation

The *ad hoc* group discussed the critical need to develop and have access to the relevant documentation for animals being transported, to avoid welfare emergencies related to events such as the refusal of animals being imported.

The *ad hoc* group included references to international veterinary certificates for international transport and recommendations that documentation accompanying animals should include confirmation of the acceptance of the consignment by the Competent Authorities at the destination. The *ad hoc* group also added that agreements covering sanitary and trade arrangements should include considerations in the event of the rejection of any animal consignments.

Article 7.2.11. Journey duration and requirements for water, feed and rest

The *ad hoc* group outlined the considerations when deciding the duration of journeys and the links between the duration and the need for food, water and rest. The *ad hoc* group also outlined the links between an increased journey time and animal welfare risks, particularly managing unexpected events, such as the rejection of animals at the port of destination.

The *ad hoc* group specified the animal welfare concerns, measures and recommendations for this article with species-specific recommendations for several species, including day-old chicks, lactating and unweaned animals.

Article 7.2.12. Fitness for transport

The *ad hoc* group discussed the transport of pregnant animals and how far into their gestation period is appropriate for travel. The *ad hoc* group agreed that animals should not be transported once they have reached the final 10% of their gestation period by land, whilst the final 20% is recommended for transport by water.

The *ad hoc* group added recommendations that if an animal becomes unfit to travel during transport and killing the animals needs to be considered, Members should refer to Chapter 7.6 *Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter*.

Article 7.2.13. Selection of compatible groups

The *ad hoc* group agreed to add a species-specific recommendation that animals should be grouped for transport appropriately, based on their species-specific social and behavioural needs.

Article 7.2.14. Handling

The *ad hoc* group drafted recommendations to ensure that when handling livestock, handlers utilise the animal's point of balance to encourage forward movement. The *ad hoc* group added recommendations to ensure that handlers are properly trained in non-coercive methods and tools to move animals and that under no circumstances should animal handlers resort to violent acts to move animals.

Article 7.2.15. Loading and unloading

The *ad hoc* group drafted species-specific recommendations for equidae and camels, particularly the importance of training for loading and unloading and the positioning of horses' heads during transport to avoid respiratory issues.

Article 7.2.16. Environmental conditions

The *ad hoc* group drafted animal welfare concerns associated with environmental conditions during transport, including the absence of forced ventilation or climate control in a stationary means of transport, air quality and exposure to volatile materials. The *ad hoc group* drafted animal-based measures, including those specific to pigs.

Article 7.2.17. Space allowance

The *ad hoc* group drafted an introductory sentence explaining the impact of sufficient space. The *ad hoc* group drafted other measures to be used for space allowance, including floor space allowance, overhead height and climatic conditions.

Article 7.2.18. Condition of the means of transport

The *ad hoc* group drafted other measures to be used for the conditions of the means of transport, including floor space allowance, overhead height and air temperature.

Article 7.2.19. Intermediate facilities

The *ad hoc* group drafted recommendations for intermediate facilities, particularly around the design of the facilities, noting that they should be designed for the species and category of animals that will use them. The *ad hoc* group discussed the link between biosecurity, animal welfare and animal health and included recommendations and references to biosecurity protocols.

Article 7.2.20. Transport on foot (transhumance)

The *ad hoc* group drafted recommendations for transport on foot, including the need to plan routes with access to feed, water and shelter to be protected from predators, to consider the fitness of the animals to travel and frequent monitoring for fatigue, distress and injuries.

Article 7.2.21. Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey on an international transport

The *ad hoc* group drafted recommendations for when animals have been refused import to a country for reasons other than sanitary and animal health reasons, including informing the WOAHP Delegate and National Focal Point of this refusal in a timely manner. The *ad hoc* group also drafted recommendations for when an import is refused and animals are required to remain on the means of transport including ensuring proper animal care, taking immediate action through a contingency plan and establishing a communication mechanism among the relevant authorities to coordinate an animal welfare appropriate solution to the importation rejection.

4. Next steps

The revised draft Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport will be presented to the Code Commission during its February 2026 meeting.

.../Annexes

Annex 1. Agenda

MEETING OF THE WOA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTERS 7.2, 7.3.AND 7.4 TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR (NEW CHAPTER 7.2 ANIMAL WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT)

10 – 12 DECEMBER 2025, PARIS

1. Welcome and introduction.
2. Update on the September 2025 Code Commission meeting
3. Review and discussion of the proposed revised Chapter 7.2 Animal welfare during transport, based on the September Code Commission recommendations.

Annex 2. List of Participants

MEETING OF THE WOA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.2, 7.3 AND 7.4 TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR (NEW CHAPTER 7.2.ANIMAL WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT)

10 – 12 DECEMBER 2025, PARIS

MEMBERS OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP

Maria Jorge CORREIA (chair)
Chefe de Divisão de Bem Estar Animal
Direção-Geral de Alimentação e
Veterinária
PORTUGAL

Laura LAPITZ
Departamento de Control de Comercio
Internacional
División de Sanidad Animal – Dirección
General de Servicios Ganaderos
URUGUAY

Jennifer WOODS (Virtual)
J. Woods Livestock Services
CANADA

Aidan CAHILL
Superintending Veterinary Inspector
Live Trade & Welfare during Transport
(LTW) Section
Veterinary Export, Certification and
International Trade (VECIT) Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the
Marine
IRELAND

Barbara PADALINO (Virtual)
Associate Professor
Faculty Science & Engineering
Southern Cross University
Northern Rivers, Gold Coast, Coffs Harbour
AUSTRALIA/ITALY

Stanislav RALCHEV
Policy Officer
European Commission
Directorate-General for Health
and Food Safety
Directorate G Crisis
Management in Food,
Animals and Plants
Unit G3 - Animal Welfare
BELGIUM

Nikki KELLS
Senior Lecturer in Animal Welfare
School of Veterinary Science
Massey University
NEW ZEALAND

Johannes Shoopala
Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer
Directorate of Veterinary Services
Ministry Of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
NAMIBIA

WOAH HEADQUARTERS

Leopoldo STUARDO
Scientific Coordinator – Animal Welfare
Standards Department

Laura Davis
Chargee de mission
Standards and AMR Departments

Annex 3. Terms of Reference

MEETING OF THE WOAAH *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTERS 7.2, 7.3 AND 7.4 TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY SEA, LAND AND AIR (NEW CHAPTER 7.2. ANIMAL WELFARE DURING TRANSPORT)

Taking into account:

- the background history of the WOAAH regarding animal welfare standards;
- the result of the second WOAAH Animal Welfare Global Forum was held in April 2019 with the theme of 'Animal transport: a shared responsibility'.
- the recommendation of the Code Commission from its September 2020 meeting, to conduct a general revision on Chapter 7.2 Transport of animals by sea and 7.3 – Transport of animals by land;
- the inconsistencies and the new areas of research that are inadequately covered in current version of these chapters; and
- the possibility to combine the three chapters into a single chapter without causing confusion or losing key elements.

The *ad hoc* Group is requested to review the proposed chapters and in doing so, experts are requested to address the following points regarding the transport of animals by sea and land:

1. To revise the structure of the chapters and discuss the possibility of merging them into one chapter.
2. To select criteria (animal-based measures) for the welfare of the animals during the transport of animals by sea and land operations.
3. To develop recommendations for the following transport of animals by sea and land operations:
 - sourcing and preparation of animals for export
 - moving and handling animals;
 - truck or vessel preparation and general management;
 - loading and management requirements;
 - lairage design and construction;
 - care of animals during the journey;
 - management of special situations, such as, management of pregnant animals or disease outbreaks;
 - monitoring and reporting recommendations.
4. To revise and develop recommendations on the responsibilities and competencies of the personnel, business operators and the Competent Authorities during the whole transport chain of transport of animals by sea and land (exporting and importing countries).

-
5. To revise and develop recommendations on the preparation regarding the transport of animals by sea and land, including the responsibilities of exporting and importing operators and the responsibilities of the exporting and importing Competent Authority of Members.

These standards must:

- be based on science (scientific references must be provided and included in the draft text);
- be harmonised in their structure with the rest of the *Terrestrial Code*, including the other animal welfare and production systems chapters; and
- use criteria that address the outcomes at the animal level (animal-based measures). However, when necessary, include design- or management-based measures.

Outputs of the *ad hoc* Group:

- a report of the group together with an outline for the revised draft chapters will be provided to the Code Commission for their consideration at its February 2026 meeting.
