

Overview

This standard covers loading and unloading animals for transportation. It includes loading and establishing them in the transport and unloading them at their destination. You will require the relevant skills in handling animals and a knowledge and understanding of animal health and welfare for the animals being transported.

When loading and unloading animals for transportation you need to be trained and hold current certification, where required.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

This standard is suitable for those who load and unload animals for transportation.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify any potential hazards before loading and unloading animals for transportation
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. check and confirm that the transport and loading area is suitable for the animal(s) and has been prepared
4. identify the animal(s) to be transported and confirm that they are fit for transportation
5. prepare the animal(s) for transportation in an appropriate manner
6. identify suitable methods of handling and loading the animal(s) that minimise stress and risk of injury and maintain health and welfare
7. load the animal(s) for transportation, maintaining the safety of yourself and other people or animals in the vicinity
8. establish the animal(s) within the transport and make them safe and secure for the journey
9. contain the animal(s) in a manner that optimises their health and welfare and is consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice
10. confirm that the destination is prepared for the receipt of the animal(s)
11. unload the animal(s) using suitable methods and in a manner that minimises stress and risk of injury
12. monitor and maintain the health and welfare of the animals during loading and unloading
13. take appropriate action without delay where there are any concerns over the animals' health and welfare
14. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
15. maintain hygiene and bio-security in accordance with business practices
16. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental, health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
17. complete all necessary documentation as required by relevant legislation and the business

Load and unload animals for transportation

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the hazards likely to be encountered when loading and unloading animals for transportation and how these can be minimised
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. how the transport and loading area needs to be prepared for the animal(s) to maintain their safety and security and the likely risks involved
4. who is to receive the animal(s) at the destination and the information that they require
5. how to identify the animal(s) for transportation
6. how to assess the fitness of the animal(s) to be transported, the conditions that exclude them from transportation and the consequences of transporting unfit animals
7. how the animal(s) concerned need to be prepared for transportation and how to optimise their health and welfare
8. the requirements for the provision of feed and water during transportation
9. the protective measures for animal(s) being transported
10. the factors that affect animal stress and how these can be minimised
11. suitable methods of handling and loading the animal(s) which minimise their stress and risk of injury
12. how to establish and secure animal(s) in the transport
13. the legal requirements in relation to stocking density and number of animals in the transport
14. the legal requirements in relation to maximum journey times/distances
15. suitable methods to be used when unloading animals which minimise their stress and risk of injury
16. the indicators of potential problems with health and welfare in animals and how this is manifested in their behaviour
17. how to assess critical causes for concern and determine the appropriate action to take in each case
18. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
19. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this

20. your responsibilities for the welfare of animals under relevant animal health and welfare legislation, animal transport legislation, codes of practice and business policies
21. **the legal requirements for training and certification** when transporting animals
22. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
23. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

Glossary

Legal requirements for training and certification:

Transporting animals over 65km and up to eight hours:

- Drivers and attendants responsible for the transport of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, domestic Equidae or poultry must hold a valid certificate of competence.

Transporting animals over eight hours:

- Anyone transporting cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, domestic Equidae or poultry over 65km must be competent to do so. Drivers and attendants must hold a valid certificate of competence.

Drivers must also hold the relevant licence to drive the vehicle, including a trailer, where used.

Load and unload animals for transportation

Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	2019
Date Approved	January 2019
Indicative Review Date	January 2024
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANCS65
Relevant Occupations	Animal Care; Farmer; General Farm Worker; Poultry Farm Worker; Pig Farm Worker; Equine Assistant
Suite	Livestock Production; Crofters and Smallholders; Equine; Animal Care and Welfare
Keywords	livestock; equine; horses; animals; transportation; journey
