BTSF Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

Animal welfare during transport (basic level)
Virtual Classroom 17 – 19 May, 2022

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The role of NGOs to enhance animal welfare during long distance transportation

Animals´ Angels - Silvia Meriggi

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Official controls on animal welfare during transport

- Checks on animal welfare during transport shall be carried out at any stage of the long journey
  - Before authorizing the journey log
  - Before the loading for departure
  - Road-side
  - At destination
  - Retrospective

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BTSF Official controls on animal welfare during transport

- Competent authorities should perform official controls regularly, on a risk basis and with appropriate frequency (whereas 12 + article 9(1) of the OCR)
- The frequency of official controls should be established by the competent authorities having regard to the need to adjust the control effort to the risk and to the level of compliance expected in the different situations (whereas 12 of the OCR).
- Official controls shall be performed without prior notice (except when the notice is necessary) (article 9(4) of the OCR)

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Risk-based official controls
What risk means

‘Risk’ means a function of the probability of an adverse effect on human, animal or plant health, animal welfare or the environment and of the severity of that effect, consequential to a hazard (article 3(24) of the OCR)

Risks can be associated to:

- animals (whom: e.g. species, categories, conditions)
- activities (what: e.g. handling, loading, unloading, feeding, watering, exporting, transporting via sea/air/road)
- location of activities (where: e.g. in which countries, with which climatic characteristic)
- processes that may influence animal welfare (how: e.g. how long, in which type of vehicle, with multiple departure or destination places)

Risk-based official controls
What risk means

Risks affecting animal welfare can be indicated by:

- Outcome of official controls (e.g. in Traces system or notifications received)
- Own controls/3rd party quality controls
- Any information indicating non compliance (e.g. complaints of citizens and NGOs)

This is not in order of importance

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The role of NGOs to enhance animal welfare during transport

- NGOs complaints = any information indicating non compliance

Two approaches:

- Investigate the information indicated in complaints
- Consider information indicated in complaints, during risk analysis, to plan checks

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- Case 1 - Complaints of Animals´ Angels indicate:

- The route from Romania and Hungary to Italy and from Romania to Greece and Bulgaria
- Transports of lambs and sheep
- Peaks during Easter, Chtistmas and summer
- Transport companies, license plates
- Departure and destination places with veterinarians or keepers present and authorizing/receiving transports
- Roadchecks and sanctions of authorities in certain cases
- Controversial legal aspects/enforcement challenges
- General animal welfare problems observed: insufficient ventilation space above animals, overcrowding, unfamiliar and inadequate drinkers, extreme temperatures, dangerous vehicles, exceeded journey time when departure/destination places are multiplelack of bedding.

All these details are connected to the risk of an adverse effect on the welfare of the transported animals that should be examined, taken into consideration and verified.

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Video photo

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BTSF Examples of risks in NGOs complaints

- Case 2 - Complaints of Animals´ Angels indicate:

- The route from Denmark and Germany to Central Asia countries
- Transports of heifers
- During winter and summer
- Transport companies, license plates
- Controversial legal aspects/enforcement challenges
- Departure places with veterinarians or keepers present and authorizing transports
- General animal welfare problems observed: insufficient ventilation space above animals, overcrowding, extreme temperatures, exceeded journey times and lack of mandatory rest, feeding and watering, absence of staging points.

All these details are connected to the risk of an adverse effect on the welfare of the transported animals that should be examined, taken into consideration and verified

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- Video and photos

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BTSF Examples of risks

- Case 3

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Risk-based controls

How to use NGOs complaints´ information/risks?

Investigating into the indicated facts and + Planning risk based controls, for example:

- Checking transport documents related to the indicated transports and routes with retrospective checks (knowing that not all aspects can be checked retrospectively)
- Monitoring indicated departure/destination places and transport companies with targeted/intensified checks
- Scheduling road-side checks on indicated routes and on transported species at indicated periods of the year
- Auditing the controls of the authorities at indicated departure and destination places
- Inspecting indicated vehicles

But also:

- Addressing targeted instructions to inspectors and transporters
- Taking a stand on controversial legal aspects

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Thank you

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