

## **Part XII of the *Health of Animals Regulations* Canada's amended regulations for the transport of animals**

The amended [Part XII of the \*Health of Animals Regulations\*](#) (HAR) are coming into force on February 20, 2020.

### **What the amended regulations for the transport of animals mean for animal transport in Canada**

There is a strong body of existing information concerning the transport of animals including industry-driven [codes of practice](#), scientific papers and animal care assessment programs. The amended Part XII of the HAR are based on this science and on the best-practice recommendations.

The transportation of live animals is a complex process. The amended Part XII of the HAR is focused on positive welfare outcomes through process control. Similar to process control for food safety, the goal is to prevent problems from happening when ever possible by identifying where things can go wrong, and by taking measures to prevent those situations from happening by:

- having trained and knowledgeable people,
- shipping only animals that are fit to make the intended journey,
- using the right equipment and conveyances,
- handling animals properly,
- adequate monitoring of animals and proactive care throughout the process,
- planning ahead,
- having clear communication among producers, dispatchers, those loading, transporters, receivers, and by
- keeping accurate records.

### **Key changes to the regulations for the transport of animals that may affect those who transport animals**

As of February 20, 2020, all persons involved in the transport of animals must:

- have knowledge about humane transport and implement it in practice. This includes:
  - animal behavior including normal and abnormal appearance,
  - animal handling best practices, and
  - conditioning animals in advance of transport.
- assess animals prior to transport to determine if they are fit for transport.
- monitor animals en-route.
- have a contingency plan in case something goes wrong.
- keep records.

The conditions that make an animal “compromised” and “unfit” for transport are now defined in the regulations. There are specific requirements for these compromised and unfit animals on:

- if and how they can be loaded,
- where they can be taken, and
- how they are to be handled.

The maximum time intervals that animals can spend without access to feed, water and rest has changed for some species.

There are now special provisions for handling specific types of vulnerable animals including:

- lactating animals: steps must be taken to prevent mammary engorgement for mammals in transport (for example: transport short distances, dry off before shipping, milking during transit or on farm euthanasia).
- very young ruminants (e.g. “bob calves” have special requirements).
- horses in Canada must be transported on single deck vehicles.

### **How the regulation will be implemented**

In some sectors, the amended provisions will require significant changes to current practices. There will be a 2-year compliance promotion period for the prescriptive maximum period of time without access to feed, water and rest for **all sectors**. However, the regulated parties who are able to meet the new requirements are encouraged to do so.

During the first two years, the CFIA will focus its enforcement efforts on compliance promotion through education and awareness measures, which are part of the CFIA’s continuum of enforcement actions. That said, the amended regulations have specific required outcomes that must be met: transporters must ensure that animals are not likely to suffer (from exhaustion, dehydration, because of adverse weather or other conditions). CFIA has the discretion to appropriately enforce these outcome-based requirements to prevent and act on situations where animal welfare is compromised. As always, the harm, intent and history of non-compliant regulated party will be considered. No egregious situations will be tolerated.

### **Check list for animal transporters**

- Knowledge about humane transport of animals
- Knowledge of the species
- Knowledge of animal handling
- Contingency plan
- Clean equipment/biosecurity
- Animals assessed prior to transport
- Special handling required
- Considered factors that impact transport:
  - condition of the animal
  - space requirements
  - ventilation
  - secure footing
  - compatibility with others
  - expected time in transport
  - foreseeable delays
  - weather conditions/changes
  - driving conditions
  - type/condition of transport equipment
  - optimal animal handling
- Animal monitoring plan for during transport
- Document when animals were last fed, watered and rested before departure
- Records
  - Animal transport record
  - Feed, water and rest information
  - Transfer of care

### **To learn more:**

- [CFIA humane transport and animal welfare web site](#)
- [Amended Part XII of the \*Health of Animals Regulations \(HAR\)\*](#)
  - [Interpretive Guidance for Regulated Parties](#) (guidance to help regulated parties understand and use the amended regulations)
- [National Farm Animal Care Council \(NFAACC\) Codes of Practice](#)
  - Transport, and species specific codes