



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 13.12.1996  
COM(96) 708 final

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION

concerning minimum requirements for certain staging points

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Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION

amending the Annex of Directive 91/628/EEC,  
concerning the routeplan

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(presented by the Commission)



## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Community rules on the protection of animals during transport are contained in Council Directive 91/628/EEC<sup>1</sup>, on the protection of animals during transport.

Article 13 (2) requires that the Council shall establish, before 30 June 1996, Community criteria to be met by staging points with regard to the reception structure, feeding, watering, loading, unloading and where necessary housing of certain types of animals as well as the health requirements applicable to such staging points, which have been taken into account. Subsequently it is necessary to amend the routeplan as laid down in Chapter VIII of the Annex of Directive 91/628/EEC. The amendment provides for the effective enforcement of the rules concerning staging points.

The transport of animals (inclusive the requirements for staging points used for accommodating livestock) is an exclusive Community competence. The proposed Council Decisions, which are applicatory rules of the basic Directive on the protection of animals during transport, are the simplest means of achieving the desired objective.

The Scientific Veterinary Committee has recommended certain minimum standards for these staging points which have been taken into account.

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<sup>1</sup> O.J. No. L 340, 11.12.1991, p. 17. Directive last amended by Directive 95/29/EC (O.J. No. L 148, 30.06.1995, p. 52)

Proposal for a Council Decision  
of  
concerning minimum requirements for certain staging points

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to Council Directive 91/628/EEC of 19 November 1991 on the protection of animals during transport<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 13(2) and Article 14 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission<sup>2</sup>,

Whereas Council Directive 91/628/EEC lays down for the further protection of the welfare of certain categories of transported animals requirements concerning maximum journey times after which the animals shall be unloaded fed and watered and rested for at least 24 hours before travelling further;

Whereas such obligatory breaks in the long distance transport of animals will take place at staging points;

Whereas it is necessary to lay down criteria applicable throughout the European Union to be met by staging points so as to ensure the optimum welfare conditions for the animals passing through them and also to provide for certain incidental animal health matters;

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<sup>1</sup> O.J. No. L 340 11.12.1991, p. 17 Directive last amended by Directive 95/29/EC (OJ No. L 148, 30.06.1996, p. 52)

<sup>2</sup> O.J. No. C

Whereas in order to facilitate the control of the operation of staging points and the vehicles and animals passing through them, it is necessary to provide for the keeping of records and certain other administrative matters;

Whereas it is important to establish as a first step the rules for staging points accommodating domestic solipeds and domestic animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species;

Whereas the Scientific Veterinary Committee has recommended certain minimum requirements for staging points, which have been taken into account;

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### Article 1

1. This Decision shall apply only to staging points accommodating domestic solipeds, and domestic animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species in the European Community.
2. The staging points referred to in Paragraph 1 shall comply with the minimum requirements laid down in the Annex to this Decision.

#### Article 2

1. Staging points shall be approved by the competent authority of the Member State in whose territory they are situated.
2. Member States shall submit to the Commission and to other Member States by 1 January each year commencing on 1 January 1998 the list of approved staging points in their territories the approval number attributed to each point and adequate information on the species or categories of animals each post is authorised to accommodate. Member States shall communicate without delay details of any additions, or modifications to, or suspensions or deletions from such lists.

3. Where a staging point fails to comply with the requirements of this Decision, the Member State in which it is situated shall take the measures necessary to remedy any shortcomings noted, and which may include, in particular, suspension or withdrawal of the approval of the staging point in question.

### Article 3

1. The person in charge of the staging point shall ensure that part II of the routeplan referred to in Chapter VIII of Directive 91/628/EEC is completed, signed and stamped in respect of each consignment of animals passing through a staging point.
2. The person in charge of the staging point shall record the particulars of all consignments of animals passing through the staging point, in accordance with the Annex.
3. For the purposes of control by the competent authority, the person in charge of each staging point shall ensure that the records referred to in paragraph 2 are kept on the premises for a period fixed by the competent authority, which shall be not less than two years. The person in charge of the staging point shall ensure the records are made available to the competent authority on request.
4. The routeplan shall be returned to the driver or other representatives of the transporter who is accompanying the consignment, immediately after a veterinarian authorised by the competent authority has indicated on the routeplan that the animals are fit to continue the proposed journey.
5. As soon as possible after arrival of the animals at their destination, the driver or other representative of the transporter shall complete the destination column of part II and part III of the routeplan. The transporter shall return the completed routeplan to the competent authority of the place where the transport originated within 15 days. Member States shall take all necessary action to ensure that transporters systematically comply with this requirement.

6. In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17, of Directive 91/628/EEC the rules for the exchange of messages in the framework of the ANIMO system are established, taking into account the presence of staging points.

Article 4

This Decision shall apply from 1 April 1997.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

## ANNEX

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR STAGING POINTS

Staging points shall comply with the following requirements:

A. Disease Control

1. Staging points shall operate in full compliance with all Community legislation relating to the keeping and movement of animals.
2. Every staging point must have suitable equipment for cleaning and disinfecting of all buildings, equipment, facilities and vehicles.

All materials used in the construction and operation of staging points must be capable of being properly cleansed and disinfected.

3. The person in charge of the staging point shall provide clean boots/footwear and protective clothes which shall be kept exclusively for use of any persons entering the staging point.
4. Only animals of the same certified health status shall be present at any time unless the staging point is so constructed as to allow complete separation of animals not similarly certified.
5. Bedding material shall be removed when a consignment of animals is moved from an enclosure and after suitable cleaning and disinfection replaced by fresh bedding when the enclosure is to be occupied by a new consignment of animals.
6. After removal of each consignment of animals and before arrival of a new consignment, the parts of the staging points to be occupied by that consignment or through which the animals have, or are to pass, shall be cleansed and disinfected.



7. Staging points must be completely depopulated of animals for a period of 24 hours at least once every seven days, and disinfected before the arrival of any new consignment. A record of this process must be maintained on the premises and retained for a period not less than two years.

B. Construction and facilities

1. Every staging point must have suitable equipment and facilities available for the purpose of loading and unloading animals from the means of transport. In particular, such equipment and facilities must have non-slip flooring and, if necessary, be provided with lateral protection. Bridges, ramps and gangways must be fitted with sides, railings or some other means of protection to prevent animals falling off them. Loading and unloading ramps should have the minimum possible incline. Passageways must be so constructed as to minimise the risk of injury to animals. Particular care must be taken to ensure that no appreciable gap or step is allowed between the vehicle floor and the ramp or the ramp and the floor of the unloading area requiring animals to jump or likely to cause them to slip or stumble.

As from 1 July 1999 all staging points shall be equipped with a sufficient number of permanent ramps which shall be constructed and used in such a way that animals shall not be required to walk up or down an incline exceeding 20° during loading and unloading. After that date, ramps on lorries shall not in any case be used at that staging point with an incline exceeding 20°.

2. Lairages, including all stables, pens and enclosures used for accommodating animals at staging points shall:
  - have floors which minimize the risk of slipping and do not cause injury to animals in contact with them,

- have a roof and adequate side protection to protect the animals from adverse weather conditions,
  - have suitable facilities, maintained in good working order and easy to clean and disinfect for holding, inspecting, examining where necessary, feeding and watering the animals and storage of feeding stuffs, with adequate holding capacity, ventilation and drainage for the type and number of animals accommodated,
  - have natural or artificial lighting at a level sufficient to permit inspection of all animals at any time. If necessary adequate backup lighting must be available,
  - have equipment for tethering animals which need to be tethered. Such tethering shall be carried out in a way which does not cause pain or unnecessary suffering to the animals and permits them to feed, drink or lie down without difficulty,
  - have adequate supplies of bedding material. Such material shall be placed in each enclosure according to the needs of each species or category of animal accommodated.
  - be constructed and maintained in such a way as to avoid the animals coming into contact with any sharp or dangerous object or damaged surface which could cause them injury.
3. Staging points shall have suitable facilities for the separate accommodation of animals which are diseased, injured or in need of individual attention.
4. At staging points there shall be adequate facilities for all persons having business on the premises, including changing rooms, toilets, washbasins, showers and equipment for cleaning and disinfecting boots and other protective

clothing.

5. Staging points shall have appropriate arrangements for the disposal of waste material and dead animals.

C. Operations

1. Staging points shall only be used for the purpose of receiving, feeding, watering, resting, caring for and dispatching animals in transit.
2. The person in charge of the staging point shall take the necessary action to ensure that all those handling animals at the staging point are properly supervised at all times.
3. Every staging point shall be under the supervision of an official veterinarian, and shall have sufficient suitably trained staff to handle and care for the animals which are to be accommodated.

The official veterinarian shall make supervisory visits to the staging point at frequent intervals, and in any case at least once a week, so as to ensure that the animal handling procedures and other requirements of the present Decision are fully respected.

Member States shall ensure that the staff of the staging point shall receive specific training, either within the undertaking or from a training body, or have equivalent practical experience qualifying them to handle and administer appropriate care to animals.

4. Animals shall be unloaded without delay after arrival. If delay is unavoidable they shall be protected from extremes of weather and provided with adequate ventilation.

5. During loading and unloading, care must be taken not to frighten, excite or mistreat the animals, and to ensure that they are not overturned. Animals must not be lifted or dragged by the head, horns, ears, feet, tail or fleece or handled in such a way as to cause them unnecessary pain or suffering. When necessary, they must be led individually.
6. Animals must be moved with care. Mobile passageways must be arranged so as to exploit the gregarious tendencies of animals. Instruments intended for guiding animals must be used solely for that purpose. Use of instruments which administer electric shocks should be avoided as far as possible and in any case may be used only for adult bovine animals and pigs which refuse to move, and provided that the shocks last no more than two seconds, are adequately spaced out and that the animals have room ahead of them in which to move. Such shocks may be applied only to the muscles of the hindquarters.
7. Animals must not be struck on, nor shall pressure be applied to, any particularly sensitive part of the body. In particular, animals' tails must not be crushed, twisted or broken and their eyes must not be grasped. Blows and kicks must not be inflicted.
8. Persons handling animals of the staging point must not use or have possession of prods or batons or other implements with pointed ends or of such dimensions or weight or made of such material which could when applied to the body of an animal cause it injury or unnecessary suffering.
9. If animals arrive which have been subjected to high temperatures in humid weather they must be cooled by appropriate means as soon as possible.
10. Subject to the other requirements of these rules, animals at staging points should be kept in the same groups in which they arrived, if mixing is likely to cause fighting and aggression.

11. The feeding and watering of animals shall be undertaken in such a way that it is ensured that every animal accommodated at the staging point receives sufficient clean water and sufficient and appropriate feedingstuffs to satisfy its bodily needs during its stay and for the expected duration of its journey to the next feeding point. Staging points may only receive animals with special feedingstuff needs such as young calves needing a liquid feedingstuff if it is properly equipped and staffed to satisfy the special needs of these animals.
12. All necessary emergency veterinary treatment for the animals at staging points shall be provided at the cost of the transporter.
13. Persons in charge of staging points shall make provision when necessary for emergency slaughter of injured or diseased animals whose condition cannot be ameliorated by veterinary treatment, in accordance with the provisions of Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing<sup>3</sup>.
14. A written record of injuries, disease or other welfare problem revealed by inspections or veterinary examinations shall be made and shall be kept at the staging point, for inspection, by the competent authority for at least 2 years.
15. The condition and state of the animals shall be inspected by a competent staff member of the staging point on their arrival at the staging point, at least once every 12 hours during their stay at the staging point and immediately before their departure. That person shall without delay take appropriate action where an animal is suspected or found to be ill injured or diseased, or is considered to be unfit for onward transport.
16. For the purposes of control by the competent authority, the operators of a staging point shall keep for at least two years written or computer based

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<sup>3</sup> O.J. No. L 340, 31.12.1993, p. 21

records of the following:

- i) date and time and particulars of animals arriving at the staging point including the references of the route plans and animal health certificate number(s) relating to each consignment;
- ii) date and time of completion of unloading and commencement of reloading of animals;
- iii) date and time animals are offered water and particularly whether in restricted or unrestricted quantities;
- iv) date and time animals are offered feedingstuffs, particulars of such feeding stuffs and total quantity allowed for each lot of animals;
- v) particulars of animals discovered dead at point of unloading at the staging point or which die during their stay;
- vi) particulars of animals which are discovered to be seriously injured at the point of unloading or are considered to be unfit for further travel;
- vii) any necessary remarks concerning the health or welfare state of the animals;
- viii) names and addresses of transport operators and drivers and registration number of vehicles transporting particular consignments to and from staging points;
- ix) invoices issued to transporters using the services of the staging point.

Proposal for a Council Decision  
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concerning the routeplan

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Having regard to Council Directive 91/628/EEC of 19 November 1991 on the protection of animals during transport<sup>4</sup>, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission<sup>5</sup>,

Whereas the Council has adopted Decision 96/...../EC, concerning minimum requirements for certain staging points<sup>6</sup>;

Whereas to facilitate the effective enforcement of the rules concerning staging points, it is necessary to amend the routeplan laid down in the Annex to Directive 90/628/EEC.

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<sup>4</sup> O.J. No. L 340 11.12.1991, p. 17 Directive last amended by Directive 95/29/EC (OJ No. L 148, 30.06.1996, p. 52).

<sup>5</sup> O.J. No. C

<sup>6</sup> O.J. No. L

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION

Article 1

In the Annex of Directive 91/628/EEC, Chapter VIII is replaced by the Annex of the present Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall apply from 1 April 1997.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council



ANNEX  
Chapter VIII  
Routeplan  
Part I

TRANSPORTER (NAME, ADDRESS, BUSINESS NAME)  SIGNATURE OF TRANSPORTER  (1)		MEANS OF TRANSPORT  NO. OF REGISTRATION OR IDENTIFICATION  (1)	
ANIMAL SPECIES NUMBER PLACE OF DEPARTURE PLACE AND COUNTRY OF DESTINATION  (1)		ITININARY:  ESTIMATED JOURNEY TIME:  (1)	
NO(S) OF HEALTH CERTIFICATES OR ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT (2)		STAMP	
		OF VETERINARIAN OF THE PLACE OF DEPARTURE  (2)	OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY OF THE POINT OF EXIT OR AUTHORIZED CROSSING POINT  (4)
DATE AND TIME OF DEPARTURE  STOPPING OR TRANSFER POINT:		NAME OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE TRANSPORT DURING THE JOURNEY  (3)	
PLACE AND ADDRESS	DATE AND TIME	LENGTH OF THE STOP	REASON
(a)			
(b)			
(c)			
(d)			
(e)			
(f)			
(1) To be completed by the transporter before departure (2) To be completed by the appropriate veterinarian (3) To be completed by the transporter during the journey (4) To be completed by the competent authority at the point o exit or authorized crossing point		Date and time of arrival  Signature of the person in charge during the journey.	

**Part II**  
**Information to be provided during the journey concerning use of staging points and arrival at destination**

1 Particulars of Staging points used during the journey and destination	2. Unloading completed	3. Reloading Started	4. Remarks concerning veterinary welfare or other matters (see note 1 )	5. Stamp and signature of person authorised by competent authority (see note2)
<b>Staging Point 1</b>  Name Address Approval number Tel. No. Fax No.	Date    Time	Date    Time		
<b>Staging Point 2</b>  Name Address Approval number Tel. No. Fax No.	Date    Time			
<b>Staging Point 3</b>  Name Address Approval number Tel. No. Fax No.	Date    Time			
<b>Place of destination</b> Name: Address of destination Tel No. Fax No. EC approval No. where applicable	Date    Time			Signature/stamp of representative of transporter

Note (1) Column 4 Any relevant information as to veterinary or welfare condition of the animals and explanation for any discrepancies between description of animals or vehicle arriving at or leaving staging point and description in the route plan should be referred to here (To be completed by the person authorised by the competent authority, a veterinary surgeon or the responsible person of the staging points);

Note (2) Column 5 The competent authority or person authorised by it will only complete this column if the animals have been rested, fed and watered in accordance with the applicable European Union legislation and are fit to continue the proposed journey.

**Part III**

To be completed and signed after the journey by the transporter or its representative and returned to ..... (competent authority of place where journey originated).

The journey took place as indicated in Part I

or

the following differences between the part I plan and the journey which actually took place occurred for the reasons indicated below.

Dated .....  
Name of transporter .....  
Signed(1) .....

Full name and position of person signing and registration number of vehicle concerned

- .....  
.....
- 
1. The transporter or the person signing this document must ensure the accuracy of the information supplied. Failure to do so may have serious legal consequences.

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# DOCUMENTS

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