

LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT CHANGES AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Ensuring excellent animal welfare outcomes is extremely important to our industry. Canada's Health of Animals legislation, including updates made to the transport of animal provisions in [Part XII of the Health of Animals Regulations](#), came into force in February, 2020.

NOTABLE CHANGES TO THE TRANSPORT REGULATIONS

Records and Transfer of Care

Under the new regulations, every commercial carrier or any person who transports animals in the course of business and/or for financial benefit, regardless of the quantity, frequency or duration of animal transports, are required to keep records related to the movement of those animals. These records must contain:

- the name and address of the producer or shipper, consignee or receiver, the transport company (if applicable) and the driver's name
- an identification number (license/registration number) of the conveyance in which the animals are moved
- the measurement in square meters and/or square feet of floor area available to animals in the conveyance
- the date and place that the conveyance or container were last cleaned and disinfected
- the date, time and place that the animals came into the carrier's (driver's) custody
- the description of the animals in the load and actions taken to address concerns should be documented (e.g. species, class and any other relevant information)
- the last time the animals had access to feed, water and rest

To assist beef farmers and our industry's service providers in complying with the revised regulations, BFO has developed a [Animal Transport Record](#), which includes the required transfer of care documentation as outlined in the regulation. Hard copy booklets, in triplicate form, can be accessed through the BFO office and are available to auction markets, producers and transporters, free of charge. If you would like a hard copy booklet mailed to you, please contact Bethany Storey at bethany@ontariobeef.com, or call the BFO office at 1.866.370.2333.

A [fillable online version of the form](#) can also be accessed on BFO's website under the Services tab.

Compromised and Unfit Animals

Under the new regulations, the definitions for unfit and compromised animals, for transportation purposes, have been updated. Unfit cattle must not be transported unless being taken directly to a place (outside of a slaughter establishment or assembly center) to receive veterinary care and meets the following conditions:

- it is individually loaded and unloaded without having to negotiate any ramps inside the conveyance;
- it is isolated during confinement and transport;
- measures are taken to prevent the animal's unnecessary suffering, injury or death during loading, confinement, transport and unloading; and
- a veterinarian recommends that the animal be transported to receive veterinary care.

Compromised cattle may only be transported under the following conditions:

- it is isolated (or transported with one other animal with which it is familiar if to do so is unlikely to cause either animal suffering, injury or death and if they are segregated from other animals)
- it is individually loaded and unloaded without having to negotiate any ramps inside the conveyance;
- measures are taken that are necessary to prevent the animal's suffering, injury or death during loading, confinement, transport and unloading; and
- it is transported directly to the nearest place, other than an assembly center, where it can receive care or be humanely killed.



Contingency Plans

Every commercial carrier and those persons who transport animals in the course of business or for financial benefit must have a contingency plan. The plan will establish measures to be taken to reduce or mitigate avoidable suffering if:

- there are any unforeseen delays or circumstances that could cause avoidable suffering, injury or death
- an animal becomes compromised or unfit during loading, confinement, transport or unloading

Contingency Plan Content:

- the regulation does not specify what situations a contingency plan has to cover
- there is no prescribed format for a contingency plan (can be written or verbal)
- regulated parties must be able to demonstrate that they know what to do in a variety of predictable, possible, transport situations
- if a contingency plan includes contact information, it must be up to date
- an example template of a contingency plan has been provided in [Appendix 2](#) of CFIA's interpretive guidance document

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1 When do you need to use a transfer of care document?

A transfer of care document needs to be used anytime the responsibility of care is transferred from one party to the next i.e. shipper to transporter and transporter to receiver.

Q2 Where can I find an example of the transfer of care document?

An [Animal Transport Record](#), which includes the required transfer of care documentation as outlined in the regulation has been developed by BFO. Hard copy booklets, in triplicate form, can be accessed through the BFO office and are available to auction markets, producers and transporters, free of charge. If you would like a hard copy booklet mailed to you, please contact Bethany Storey at bethany@ontariobeef.com, or call the BFO office at 1.866.370.2333.

A fillable online version of the form can also be accessed on BFO's website under the Services tab.

Q3 When do the regulations come into effect?

The updated regulations have been in place since February, 2020, but the CFIA has focused its enforcement efforts on compliance through promotion, education, and awareness measures. Beginning in February, 2022 CFIA will start to issue fines at their discretion.

Q4 When cattle go through an auction market, when is a transfer of care document needed?

A transfer of care document is needed for each individual (owner/shipper) to the auction market and then a separate transfer of care document is needed from the auction market to each individual receiver.

Q5 What are the requirements for transporting my own cattle to an auction market or abattoir?

A transfer of care document is required because you are transferring the responsibility of the care of your animals at the end of their journey. You would be considered both an owner/shipper and transporter in that scenario.

Q6 What is the process of shipping my cattle to another one of my facilities through a commercial transporter?

A transfer of care document would still need to be utilized as you release your animals' care to the commercial transporter. This would mean that you also have to sign off that you received the cattle at the destination as care is being transferred back to you.

Q7 What are the requirements for a contingency plan?

A contingency plan is to establish measures to reduce or mitigate avoidable suffering if:

- there are any unforeseen delays or circumstances that could cause avoidable suffering, injury, or death
- an animal becomes compromised or unfit during loading, confinement, transport or unloading

There is no prescribed format for a contingency plan (can be written or verbal). However, regulated parties must be able to demonstrate that they know what to do in a variety of predictable, possible, transport situations and any contact information must be up to date.

TRANSPORTING UNFIT OR COMPROMISED ANIMALS



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulates the humane treatment of all animals being transported into, within, and out of Canada by enforcing the *Health of Animals Regulations (Part XII) Transport of Animals*.

All persons involved in the transport of animals must ensure that every animal being transported is assessed as being fit for the trip and that all provisions of the regulations are met.

If an animal **becomes unfit or compromised before, during or after being transported**, reasonable measures must be taken to prevent unnecessary suffering. As soon as possible, the animal must be transported to receive care or be humanely killed or have the animal humanely killed while on the conveyance.

Unfit animals (as described in the Regulations) are not to be transported unless it is to receive care recommended by a veterinarian. If transported, they must be loaded, confined, transported and unloaded in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations (refer to section 139(2)) to prevent suffering, injury or death. **Compromised animals** (as described in the Regulations) are not to be transported to assembly centres, including auction markets. They may be transported if they are isolated from other animals, are loaded and unloaded individually without having to negotiate any ramps within the conveyance, and transported to the nearest place where they can receive care or be humanely killed. They must also be provided with feed, water and rest at a maximum, every 12 hours (fewer if needed to meet required outcomes). They must be loaded, confined, transported and unloaded in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations (refer to section 140(1)) to prevent suffering, injury and death.



Signs of an unfit animal

- is non-ambulatory;
- has a fracture that impedes mobility or causes signs of pain;
- is lame and exhibits pain in one or more limbs or cannot walk on all of its legs;
- is in shock or is dying;
- has a prolapsed uterus;
- has a severe rectal or severe vaginal prolapse;
- has nervous system disorder;
- is a porcine that is trembling, discolored and has difficulty breathing;
- has laboured breathing;
- has severe open wound or severe laceration;
- is hobbled to aid in treatment;
- is extremely thin;
- exhibits signs of dehydration;
- is hypothermic or hyperthermic;
- exhibits signs of a fever;
- has a significant hernia that impedes movement, causes signs of pain, touches the ground when standing, or that has an open wound or infection;
- is in the last 10% of its gestation period or has given birth during the preceding 48 hours;
- has an unhealed infected navel;
- has a gangrenous udder;
- has severe cancer eye;
- is bloated with signs of discomfort or weakness;
- is exhausted;
- exhibits any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or a condition that indicates that it cannot be transported without suffering.



Signs of a compromised animal

- is bloated but does not demonstrate signs of discomfort or weakness;
- has acute frostbite;
- is blind in both eyes;
- has not healed after any procedure, including dehorning, castration, and detusking;
- lameness other than what is described in the regulation as unfit;
- has a deformity or a fully healed amputation that does not cause pain;
- is in a period of peak lactation and will not be milked to prevent mammary engorgement;
- has an unhealed or acutely injured penis;
- has a minor rectal or minor vaginal prolapse;
- has its mobility limited by a device applied for treatment (for example, hobbles);
- is a wet bird; or
- exhibits any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates that it has a reduced capacity to withstand transport.

NOTE:

- Calves 8 days and under are prohibited from being transported to assembly centres, including auction markets.
- Lactating animals that cannot be milked to prevent engorgement must reach a destination where they can be milked or slaughtered before becoming engorged.
- Animals with mammary engorgement will be considered compromised or unfit.

All regulated parties are required to be aware of all applicable provisions in Part XII of the regulations. For more information about humane transport and animal welfare, visit inspection.gc.ca/humane.