



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Animal health and welfare
Animal Welfare

SANCO

04. 09. 2009

Brussels,
SANCO D5 DS/fr D(2009)450334

Dear Ms Greger,

Thank you for your email of 14 August concerning the space above the animals during transport.

You asked me in which way the provision of point 1.2 of Chapter II of Annex I to Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 should be interpreted.

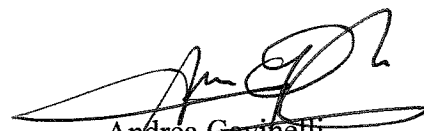
I can confirm you that the extracts of the report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare *The welfare of animals during transport (details for horses, pigs, sheep and cattle)* adopted on 11 March 2002 can be taken as a guidance for interpreting the above mentioned provision.

For sheep and pigs the space above the highest point of the animals should be of at least 15 cm with forced ventilation and 30 cm without forced ventilation. For cattle same principle applies but the space recommended is 20 cm for all vehicles.

In the case of sheep and cattle the highest point of the animals is undoubtedly the head being held up as stated by the scientists. In the case of pigs, depending on the age, the highest point of the animals may be the head or the back. Therefore the space above the animals may be measured from their back in certain cases (old pigs).

To conclude, based on the scientists findings, none of these animals should be able to touch the ceiling with its head being held up and having its four legs on the ground.

Please note that final interpretation of the Community legislation is only provided by the European Court of Justice.


Andrea Gavinelli
Head of Unit

Ms Sophie Greger
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