

Comparison of US, EU and Swiss regulations protecting animals during transport

Regulations:

USA: Federal Register / Vol.66, December 2001, Part 88 - Commercial Transportation of Equines to Slaughter; Final Rule / Amendments 2011

EU: Regulation (EG) Nr. 1/2005 - Dezember 22, 2004 Protection of Animals during transport

CH: Tierschutzverordnung (TSchV) SR 455. 1 - April 23, 2008
Tierschutzgesetz (TSchG) SR 455 - April 23, 2008

	US Legislation	EU-Regulation 1/2005	Swiss Animal Protection Regulation
Transport Conditions	<p>§ 88.4 Requirements for transport (b) During commercial transportation of equines for slaughter, the owner/shipper must:</p> <p>(2) Observe the equines as frequently as circumstances allow, but not less than once every 6 hours, to check the physical condition of the equines and ensure that all requirements of this part are being followed.</p>	<p>Art. 3 f) The transport is carried out without delay to the place of destination and the welfare conditions of the animals are regularly checked and appropriately maintained;</p>	<p>Tierschutzgesetz (TSchG) SR 455 Art.4 (1) Who handles animals has to take into account their needs in the best possible way. Art. 15 (1) Animals transports have to be carried out carefully and without necessary delay.</p> <p>Animal Protection Regulation (TSchV) SR 455.1 Art. 157 (2) The personell has to check on the animals regulary and has to provide necessary transport breaks.</p>
Fitness to travel	<p>§ 88.4 Requirements for transport (a)(3)(vii) A statement of fitness to travel at the time of loading, which will indicate that the equine is able to bear weight on all four limbs, able to walk unassisted, not blind in both eyes, older than 6</p>	<p>Art. 3 No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them. In addition, the following conditions shall be complied with: b) The animals are fit for the journey</p>	<p>Art. 155 (1) Animals may only be transported if it is to be expectedt that they will endure the transport without damages. (2) Animals in the last month of their</p>

	<p>months of age, and not likely to give birth during the trip.</p>	<p>Annex I, Chapter I, Fitness to travel 2. Injured animals or animals with physiological weaknesses or pathological conditions are deemed not fit for transport.</p> <p>This applies especially to the following cases:</p> <p>a) Animals cannot move without pain or without assistance b) Animals have large, open wounds or severe prolaps. c) Animals are in the final stage of their pregnancy (90 % or more).</p>	<p>pregnancy and animals that have give birth immediately prior to loading and young animals still dependent on their mother may only be transported with additional precautionary measures.</p> <p>Injured or sick animals may only be transported for treatment or immediate slaughter and only with additional precautionary measures.</p> <p><i>Explanation:</i> Fitness to travel has to be checked prior to loading. (healthy, able to walk without assistance, no severe injuries, no severe diseases such as prolaps) (Association of Swiss Canton Veterinarians)</p>
<p>Loading Ramps</p>	<p>§ 88.3 Standards for conveyances (a) (4) Be equipped with doors and ramps of sufficient size and location to provide for safe loading and unloading.</p>	<p>Annex I, Chapter III, Transport 1.3. a) Surfaces have to be non slippery and ramps have to have a railing in order to avoid that the animals can fall off the sides</p> <p>1.4. a) Loading Ramps may only have a 20° angle or 36,4 % for pigs, calves or horses (...)</p>	<p>Tierschutzverordnung (TSchV) SR 455.1 Art. 159 (1) Animals, not transported in crates, have to be loaded and unloaded on non slippery ramps. The loading ramps must have railings adjusted to the size and the weight of the loaded animal, with the exceptions of animals led into the trailer by hand or loading ramps with a height less than 50 cm. Art. 159 (1) Loading ramps may not be too steep and the existing gaps may not be wide enough for the animals to obtain injuries.</p>

			Explanation: Loading ramps may only have a 30° angle (Association of Swiss Canton Veterinarians)
Protection from the elements	<p>§ 88.3 Standards for conveyances (a) The animal cargo space of conveyances used for the commercial transportation of equines for slaughter must: (1) Be designed, constructed, and maintained in a manner that at all times protects the health and well-being of the equines being transported.</p>	<p>Appendix I, Chapter II, 1. Regulations for Transportation Means 1.1 Transport vehicles, transport containers and their equipment must be designed and constructed and must be maintained and used so that b) the animals are protected from adverse weather conditions, extreme temperatures and climate conditions, i.e., they must always be covered.</p> <p>Appendix I, Chapter VI, Additional Requirements for Long Journeys (>8h) 3.1. Ventilation systems in road transport vehicles must be designed, constructed and maintained so that (...) temperatures in the range of 5 °C to 30 °C, with a tolerance of ± 5 °C, may be maintained.</p>	<p>Tierschutzverordnung (TSchV) SR 455.1 Art. 165 (1) g. Protection from harmful weather conditions and the exhaust from the transport vehicle must be ensured.</p>
Trailer space and height	<p>§ 88.4 Requirements for transport (a)(4)(i) Each equine has enough floor space to ensure that no equine is crowded in a way likely to cause injury or discomfort.</p> <p>§ 88.3 Standards for conveyances (a) (3) Have sufficient interior height to allow each equine on the conveyance to stand with its head extended to the</p>	<p>Art. 3 g) sufficient floor area and height is provided for the animals, appropriate to their size and the intended journey; Annex I, Chapter VII, A. Equines The available space has to be at least: Adult horses : 1.75 square meters Young horses (6 – 24 Months) (Transports up to 48 hours): 1.2 square meters Young horses(6 – 24 Months) (Transports of more than 48 hours): 2.4 square meters</p>	<p>(TSchV) SR 455.1 Art. 165 (1) f) The animals have to have sufficient space. For farm animals, the following minimum space requirements have to be applied: Annex 4: Minimum space requirements of equine transport Light weight horses: 1.40 square meters Medium weight horses: 1.60 square meters</p>

	fullest normal postural height .	Annex I, Chapter III, Transport 2.3. Equines may not be transported in double deck trailers. Exemption: The animals are loaded onto the lowest level and the upper deck is not in use. The minimum height in each level must be 75cm higher than the withers of the largest horse in the shipment.	Heavy weight horses: 1.90 square meters Minimum trailer height: Height of withers + 40cm
Dividers	---	Appendix I, Chapter VI, Additional Requirements for Long Journeys (>8h) 1.6. Equidae must be transported in individual stalls, with the exception of mares traveling with their foals.	---
Flooring and bedding	§ 88.3 Standards for conveyances (a) The animal cargo space of conveyances used for the commercial transportation of equines for slaughter must: (1) Be designed, constructed, and maintained in a manner that at all times protects the health and well-being of the equines being transported.	Appendix I, Chapter II, Transportation Means 1.1. Transport vehicles, transport containers and their equipment must be designed and constructed and must be maintained and used so that g) the floor surface is slip-resistant; Appendix I, Chapter VI, Additional Requirements for Long Journeys (>8h) 1.2. The transportation area must be covered with appropriate bedding or similar material to ensure the comfort of the animals, depending on the type and number, the transport time and the weather conditions. Excrements must be adequately absorbed.	(TSchV) SR 455.1 Art. 165 (1) c) Skidproof floors and walls, gates and supports must prevent the animals from slipping (...) Explanation: A corrugated steel, wood or rubber floor guarantees no slippage. The appropriate bedding prevents slipping. (Association of Swiss Canton Veterinarians) Art. 164: The floor of the transport vehicle must be covered with bedding or similar material which absorbs urine and feces and is suitable for resting.
Maximum transport time, food, water and rest	§ 88.4 Requirements for transport (b) During commercial transportation of equines for slaughter, the owner/shipper must:	Art. 3 h) The animals must be supplied with water and food at appropriate intervals, of the quality and quantity suitable for their type and size, and must be able to rest.	(TSchG) SR 455 Art. 15 (1) The maximum transport time is six hours.

	<p>(3) Offload from the conveyance any equine that has been on the conveyance for 28 consecutive hours (whether the conveyance was in motion or not) and provide the equine appropriate food, potable water, and the opportunity to rest for at least 6 consecutive hours.</p>	<p>Appendix I, Chapter V, Intervals for Feeding and Watering and Transport Time and Rest Periods</p> <p>1.4. c) Domestic equidae may be transported for a maximum time of 24 hours. The animals must be given water every 8 hours and fed if necessary.</p> <p>1.5. After the appointed transport time, the animals must be unloaded, fed and watered and must receive a rest period of at least 24 hours.</p>	<p>Explanation:</p> <p>Transport time is only the time period when the trailer is moving. As soon as the animals are unloaded at a rest area, the transit time starts over.</p> <p>(Association of Swiss Canton Veterinarians)</p>
<p>Inspections of authorities in charge</p>	<p>§ 88.4 Requirements for transport</p> <p>(d) At any point during the commercial transportation of equines for slaughter, a USDA representative may examine the equines, inspect the conveyance, or review the owner-shipper certificates required by paragraph (a)(3) of this section.</p>	<p>Art. 14 (1) In the case of long journeys between Member States and with third countries for domestic Equidae the competent authority of the place of departure shall:</p> <p>(a) carry out appropriate checks to verify that: The journey log submitted by the organiser is realistic and indicates compliance with this regulation;</p> <p>2. In the case of long journeys between Member States and with third countries, the checks at the place of departure for fitness for transport, as referred to in Chapter I of Annex I, shall be performed before the loading as part of the animal health checks as set out in the corresponding veterinary</p>	<p>(TSchV) SR 455.1</p> <p>Art. 217: The competent agency will initiate that animal transports are inspected without notice.</p>

		Community legislation, within the time limits provided by such legislation.	
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