

Report of the Meeting of the WOAH *ad hoc* Group on the revision of Chapters 7.2. and 7.3. Transport of animals by sea and land

Original: English (EN)

18-20 JUNE 2024

WOAH Headquarters
Paris

Table of Contents

1. Background	1
2. Welcome	1
3. Update on the February 2024 Code Commission meeting.....	1
4. Other relevant work	1
5. Development of a new draft Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea and land.....	1
6. Guidance documents for a model emergency plan and animal transport checklist.....	3
7. Next steps.....	3

List of Annexes

<u>Annex 1. Agenda</u>	4
<u>Annex 2. List of Participants</u>	5
<u>Annex 3. Terms of Reference</u>	6



1. Background

The *ad hoc* Group was convened by the Director General, following the request of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter ‘the Code Commission’), to consider the revision of Chapters 7.2 and 7.3 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereafter the ‘*Terrestrial Code*’) on Transport on animals by sea and land, respectively.

2. Welcome

Dr Stuardo, WOAHS Scientific Coordinator on Animal Welfare in the Standards Department, welcomed the Group and thanked them and their organisations for their availability and contribution to this work.

The agenda, the list of participants and the Terms of Reference are presented in [Annex 1](#), [Annex 2](#) and [Annex 3](#), respectively.

3. Update on the February 2024 Code Commission meeting

Dr Stuardo reported that the Code Commission, at its February 2024 meeting, had considered the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group to merge Chapters 7.2. and 7.3. and agreed that due to the significant duplication of the content in both chapters, merging the two chapters with the new title of “Transport of animals by land and water” would be beneficial for the end user. The Code Commission also agreed with the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group to follow a similar structure of the recently revised Chapter 7.5. ‘Animal welfare during slaughter’, including ‘animal-based measures’ to assess the welfare of animals during the whole transport operation. Dr Stuardo also highlighted that the Commission had requested that the *ad hoc* Group also discuss whether the new revised chapter should include recommendations on transport of animals by air and thus become a general chapter on transport of animals.

4. Other relevant work

Dr Caroline Paquier, WOAHS Observatory senior programme manager, presented an overview of the Observatory Thematic study on animal transport by sea and land. This study aims to assess the level of implementation by Veterinary Authorities of Chapters 7.2 and 7.3 (Transport of animals by sea and land, respectively). Dr Paquier presented the preliminary results of phase one, a global survey conducted during 2023 which is available on the WOAHS website and noted that the final results will be published during the second semester 2024. Phase two will aim to identify good practices and challenges of implementation, likely through targeted interviews.

As requested by the Code Commission, the *ad hoc* Group discussed the pros and cons of including recommendations on the transport of animals by air (Chapter 7.4 on the *Terrestrial Code*), in the current revision process of Chapters 7.2 and 7.3. The *ad hoc* Group considered it unnecessary to duplicate the International Air Transport Association (IATA) recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code*, given that more than 50 countries have included the IATA Live Animal Regulation in their national regulatory frameworks and therefore proposed to reference them in the revised chapter.

5. Development of a new draft Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea and land.

The Group agreed to amend the title to ‘Animal welfare during transport’, given the decision to include recommendations on travel by sea, land and air in this one chapter.

The *ad hoc* Group agreed that recommendations would be developed in chronological order, aligned with what could be considered during animal transport (operations). The recommendations would cover the complete journey of an animal and be easy for readers to follow.

The Group continued developing the proposed draft structure, including specific recommendations until Article 7.2.12. Nature of the journey. They ran out of time to go any further. The *ad hoc* Group agreed that the recommendations should consider all WOAHS Member contexts.

Below is a summary of what the *ad hoc* Group agreed should be addressed in Articles 7.2.1 through to 7.2.12. The draft first Articles of the revised chapter will be provided to the Code Commission for its consideration .

- **Article 7.2.1. Introduction**

The *ad hoc* Group developed text to provide a general introduction to the chapter and agreed to include a reference to the IATA Live Animal Regulations to be used together with the WOAHS recommendations for transport by air.

- **Article 7.2.2. Scope**

The *ad hoc* Group decided not to propose species-specific recommendations but to note that these recommendations are primarily intended for species that are transported in a commercial context. The Group discussed the importance of the specific recommendations for wild animals such as those included in the CITES guidelines and agreed to include a reference to the CITES guidelines.

- **Article 7.2.3. Definitions**

The *ad hoc* Group proposed a number of new definitions given their specific meaning and use throughout the new revised chapter, including definitions for actors involved in the operations that are carried out during animal transport.

The *ad hoc* Group also considered some definitions currently included in the Glossary, such as 'Journey', 'Animal handler', 'Vehicle/vessel', 'Loading/unloading' and 'Resting point'. The *ad hoc* group recommended that they should be updated to fit the purposes of the revised chapter and align with the current scientific and practical information regarding welfare considerations in the transport of animals, in particular regarding the consideration of the entire transport process.

The proposals of the revised Glossary definitions of the *Terrestrial Code* that are relevant for this revised chapter will be provided to the Code Commission for its consideration.

- **Article 7.2.4. Hazards to animal welfare and Article 7.2.5. Animal-based and other measures**

The *ad hoc* Group considered the structure of the recently adopted Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter and agreed to use a similar structure, where relevant, for example identifying hazards to animal welfare during transport and 'animal-based measures' for assessing these.

- **Article 7.2.6. Training and competence of personnel and Article 7.2.7. Responsibilities for all involved in transport**

The *ad hoc* Group detailed the type of 'training and competences' of the personnel responsible for the animals during the transport and noted that this was a key aspect of good animal welfare during transport. The Group also detailed the 'responsibilities of all persons involved in the journey', independently of the means of transport.

- **Article 7.2.8. Contingency plans and Article 7.2.9. Emergency response plan**

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to develop an article to detail which recommendations should be considered in a 'contingency plan' as well as an article with recommendations for actions to mitigate potential harm to animals in the event of an emergency.

- **Article 7.2.10. Planning the journey**

The Group developed recommendations for journey planning for successful transport.

- **Article 7.2.11. Documentation**

The Group developed recommendations for documentation and proposed to include references to the emergency plan model, model of a journey plan and a checklist model once these documents are finalised.

- **Article 7.2.12. Nature of the journey**

The Group developed an article on the 'nature of the journey' to provide an explanation of what would be included in the subsequent articles regarding animal welfare hazards during transport operations.

- **Articles 7.2.13 to 7.2.X.**

The Group proposed that the remaining articles include recommendations for the following:

- Duration of the journey
- Fitness for transport

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- Handling
 - Loading and unloading
 - Travel
 - Weather/environmental conditions.
 - Space allowance
 - Ventilation
 - Rest, water and feed
 - Condition of the means of transport
 - Other facilities
 - Actions in the event of a refusal to allow the completion of the journey on an international transport.

The new draft Articles 7.2.1. to Article 7.2.12., of the proposed new 'Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport will be presented to the code Commission at its September 2024 meeting.

6. Guidance documents for a model emergency plan and animal transport checklist.

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to continue to work via electronic exchange on the emergency plan model, the journey plan model, and the model checklist.

7. Next steps

The Secretariat informed the Group that the final *ad hoc* Group report together with the draft chapter and revised glossary definitions will be submitted to the Code Commission for consideration at its September 2024 meeting.

.../Annexes

Annex 1. Agenda

MEETING OF THE WOAAH *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.2. AND 7.3. TRANSPORT OF ANIMAL BY SEA AND LAND

SECOND MEETING, 18-20 JUNE 2024, PARIS

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1. Welcome and introduction
 2. Confirmation of the Draft Agenda and the Terms of Reference of the *ad hoc* Group.
 3. Update on the February 2024 Code Commission meeting
 4. Discussion of working documents and other relevant documents
 5. Review and discussion of the proposed revised Chapter 7.X. Animal welfare during transport of animals by land and water
 6. Discussion of the possibility to include Chapter 7.4. Transport of animals by air in the revision and rename the proposed Chapter 7.X. e.g. Animal welfare during transport
 7. Review and discussion of the proposed guiding documents for a model Emergency plan and Animal transport checklist
 8. Review and finalisation of the report after the meeting
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Annex 2. List of Participants

MEETING OF THE WOA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.2. AND 7.3. TRANSPORT OF ANIMAL BY SEA AND LAND

SECOND MEETING, 18-20 JUNE 2024, PARIS

MEMBERS OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP

Maria Jorge CORREIA (chair)
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Annex 3. Terms of Reference

MEETING OF THE WOAHA AD HOC GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.2. AND 7.3. TRANSPORT OF ANIMAL BY SEA AND LAND

SECOND MEETING, 18-20N JUNE 2024, PARIS

Taking into account:

- the background history of the WOAHA regarding animal welfare standards;
- the result of the second WOAHA Animal Welfare Global Forum was held in April 2019 with the theme of 'Animal transport: a shared responsibility'.
- the recommendation of the Code Commission from its September 2020 meeting, to conduct a general revision on Chapter 7.2 Transport of animal by sea and 7.3. – Transport of animals by land;
- the inconsistencies and the new areas of research that are inadequately covered in current version of these chapters; and
- the possibility to combine the two chapters into a single chapter without causing confusion or losing key elements.

The *ad hoc* Group is requested to review the proposed chapters and in doing so experts are requested to address the following points regarding the transport of animals by sea and land:

1. To revise the structure of both chapters and discuss the possibility to merge them in one chapter.
2. To select criteria (animal -based measures) for the welfare of the animals during all the transport of animals by sea and land operations.
3. To develop recommendations for the following transport of animals by sea and land operations:
 - sourcing and preparation of animals for export
 - moving and handling animals;
 - truck or vessel preparation and general management;
 - loading and management requirements;
 - lairage design and construction;
 - care of animals during the journey;
 - management of special situations, such as, management of pregnant animals or disease outbreaks;
 - monitoring and reporting recommendations.
4. To revise and develop recommendations on the responsibilities and competencies of the personnel, business operators and the Competent Authorities during the whole transport chain of transport of animals by sea and land (exporting and importing countries).
5. To revise and develop recommendations on the preparation regarding the transport of animals by sea and land, including the responsibilities of exporting and exporting operators and the responsibilities of the exporting and importing Competent Authority of Members.

These standards must:

- be based on science (scientific references must be provided and included in the draft text);

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- be harmonised in their structure with the rest of the *Terrestrial Code*, including the other animal welfare and production systems chapters; and
 - use criteria that address the outcomes at the animal level (animal-based measures). However, when necessary, include design or management-based measures.

Outputs of the *ad hoc* Group:

- a report of the group together with an outline for the revised draft chapters will be provided to the Code Commission for their consideration at its September 2024 meeting (To be confirmed).
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