TRANSPORT OF CALVES FROM LITHUANIA TO SPAIN

16th – 19th October 2009

Transport company: Haug

(SG.37.10.09)

Animals’ Angels team: Sophie Greger, Les Ward

Date and time of first observation of truck: 16th October 2009, 18:02 h
Outside Temperature: – 3.4°C
Place of first observation of truck: Lithuanian – Polish border
Distance from place of observation (Lithuanian – Polish border) to place of final destination (08500 Vic, Spain): 2.550km

I. FACTS FOUND and INFORMATION RECEIVED

1. Details on transport company / lorry / driver(s)

Name of transport company: Haug
Address: Untere Weinbergstr. 44
75239 Eisingen
Germany
License plates: LDS – YE – 70 (back), LDS – YE – 61 (front)
German License Plate
Description of the truck: Truck (white) and Trailer (white and red)

2. Description of loading situation and condition of the animals

Species: Calves
Identification: -
Levels: 3
Health condition of cattle: ok, bleating
Transport of calves from Lithuania to Spain, 16th – 20th October 2009

Impression of loading density: ok
Loading surface acc. to measurements: -
Partitions: ok
Height/ Headspace: ok
Drinking devices: inappropriate drinking devices for animals transported (water nipples that can’t be operated by unweaned calves)
Bedding: thick straw bedding
Ventilation system: ok
Temperature: - 3.4°C (when first observed on Lithuanian border)

3. Information on transport taken from the driver
- There are 200 calves on the truck.
- He loaded the calves at several locations and has started loading at 17:00. Animals’ Angels strongly suspects this information to be false as the fully loaded truck has already crossed the Polish border at 18:00.

4. Happenings/Events/Further observations

Fri, 16.10.2009
18:00 Animal Transport crosses Lithuanian – Polish border.
Outside Temperature: – 3.4°C
21:14 Truck stops in small village (near Pechratka) to load more calves.

Sat, 17.10.2009
01:15 - 02:07 Truck takes break at service station.
05:50 Arrival at Control Post Anipol. According to driver he wants to refill his empty water tank at the Control Post.
06:30 Animal truck departs with empty water tank.
09:05 Arrival at Assembly Centre at Straupitz for 24 hrs break.
Calves are unloaded.

Address of Assembly Centre (24 hrs break)
Sammelstelle Straupitz
No.: 120614760029
BOVIAgrar GmbH
Lübbener Straße 27a
15913 Straupitz
Germany

Afternoon/ evening There are two buildings in which the calves have been unloaded. Calves are constantly bleating in both of them.
Transport of calves from Lithuania to Spain, 16th – 20th October 2009

20:00 All lights are shut. No workers are seen on the premise and calves are still bleating constantly.
→ Animals’ Angels assumes: Animals have only been fed shortly after arrival in the morning. They do not seem to have been fed a second time in the evening.

Sun, 18.10.2009

06:15 Calves are bleating in the stables.
11:09 Animal Truck starts reloading.
12:30 Truck leaves assembly centre and drives direction France/Spain.

Mon, 19.10.2009

00:38 Truck crosses border to France.
11:05 Truck crosses border to Spain.
12:45 Arrival at destination at assembly centre in Vic.

Calves are unloaded.

Address of Assembly Centre / Fattening Station (final destination)

Vilarta S.A
Passeing PEP Ventura, 16
08500 Vic
Spain


We enter assembly centre and are shown around by owner.

5. Information on transport taken from the owner of Spanish assembly centre (= place of destination)

- The truck was loaded with 200 calves, 4-6 weeks of age, average weight of 80kg
- 7 animals from this consignment are separated and put into the sick pen – they caught the attention of the workers during unloading. After additional checks, six of the calves seem to be ok. One calf suffers from fever and exhaustion and is fed with liquid to supply him with energy. The vet has been called and will check on the calf later.
II. VIOLATIONS

Undue suffering was caused to the animals by the transporter, the owner of the German control post, the responsible veterinary services at the place of departure, and the responsible veterinary services at the German control post.

Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 states that

“no person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them”

The calves were transported in a way which caused undue suffering to them, as –

1. the drinking devices were not adequate for the species and the age of the animals,
2. the animals were not supplied with liquid after 9 hours,
3. the total journey time has been exceeded,
4. Animals’ Angels strongly suspects that the animals have not been sufficiently supplied with liquid at the German assembly centre during the 24 hours rest period,
5. one calf suffered from fever and exhaustion at the arrival in Spain.

1) Inappropriate drinking devices

Annex I, Chapter VI, sect.2, point. 2.2. of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 requires, that

“the watering devices shall be in good working order and be appropriately designed and positioned for the categories of animals to be watered on board the vehicle”

The metal drinking devices of the observed means of transport are not constructed in a way that they can be activated and used by suckling calves. Furthermore only water could have been offered on the vehicle, which is not suitable for unweaned animals and which can even compromise their health.

2) No supply with liquid after 9 hours of transport

Annex I, Chapter V, point 1.4, lit a) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 requires, that

“unweaned calves (...) must, after nine hours of travel, be given a rest period of at least one hour sufficient in particular for them to be given liquid and if necessary fed. After this rest period, they may be transported for a further nine hours”

As the drinking devices of the means of transport are unsuitable for the unweaned calves on board, the animals have not been provided with liquid after nine hours of travel on either the first part of the transportation from Lithuania to Germany (16 hours) or the second part from Germany to Spain (24 hours).

3) Exceeding of journey time

Annex, Chapter 5, Point 1.4.a of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1255/1997 requires that

“Unweaned calves, lambs (...) which are still on a milk diet and unweaned piglets must, after nine hours of travel, be given a rest period of at least one hour sufficient in particular for them to be given liquid and if necessary fed. After this rest period, they may be transported for a further nine hours.”

The second part of the journey – from Germany to Spain – took 26 hours. The allowed travel time was exceeded by 7 hours.
Transport of calves from Lithuania to Spain, 16th – 20th October 2009

4) No sufficient supply with liquid / feed at control post

Annex, Point C, 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1255/1997 requires that

“The feeding and watering of animals shall be carried out in such a way as to ensure that every animal
accommodated at the control post can have at least sufficient clean water and sufficient and
appropriate feed to satisfy its bodily needs during its stay and for the expected duration of its journey
to the next feeding point.”

As the calves have been bleating constantly in the afternoon and throughout the evening until night,
Animals’ Angels strongly suspects that the animals have only been fed shortly after their arrival
(Saturday morning) and 24 hours later shortly before being loaded (Sunday morning) and have
therefore not been supplied according to their needs.

5) Calf suffers from fever and exhaustion after being unloaded

Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 states that

“no person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or
undue suffering to them”

The lack of appropriate drinking devices caused undue suffering to all animals on board. One calf was
especially exposed to undue suffering as it was suffering from high temperature/fever and exhaustion
when unloaded at the place of destination in Spain.

1.1. Responsibility of the veterinarian at place of departure in Lithuania

The competent authority in Lithuania at the place of departure did not ensure that the means of
transport was in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

This constitutes a violation of article 14, paragraph 1 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005.

1.2. Responsibility of the transporter

The transporter Haug, did not transport the animals in accordance with the technical rules set out in
Annex I, as the drinking devices have been inappropriate for the animals on board and he did not
unload the animals after the maximum allowed journey time of 19 hours.

This constitutes a violation of article 6, paragraph 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005.

The transporter transported the animals in a way which entailed them undue suffering.

This constitutes a violation of art. 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005.

1.3. Responsibility of the owner of the control post / assembly centre

The animals have only been fed twice during their mandatory 24 hours break at the German control
post.

This constitutes a violation of article 5 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1255/97.

1.4. Responsibility of the competent authority at the German control post / assembly centre Straupitz

The competent authority in Germany at the assembly centre Straupitz did not ensure that the handling
of the animals were in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1255/97.

This constitutes a violation of article 3, point 3.b of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1255/97.
III. TRANSPORT NOT LIMITED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE

The above mentioned animals have been transported from Lithuania via Germany to Spain over a distance of 2,550 km.

Consequently it has been violated the fifth Whereas of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport, which reads as follows:

“For reasons of animal welfare the transport of animals over long journeys, including animals for slaughter, should be limited as far as possible.”

This is another example of a transport of unweaned animals who haven’t / couldn’t been supplied with liquid on board of the vehicle. In addition to that the animals haven’t been supplied with sufficient feed at the German control post.

Not only did the animals get no feed on board of the vehicle – they also suffered from feed deprivation while being unloaded at a control post.

Animals’ Angels strongly opposes long distance transports and insists on a time limitation of all animal transports to 8 hours.

Thirsty Calf on Haug truck

signed
Sophie Greger