

Appendix 12: MHS Clean Livestock Policy Guidance

“Transporters can take measures to ensure that animals which are in a Satisfactory condition leaving their point of origin are delivered to the abattoir in the same satisfactory state. The following steps should be considered by the transporter when transferring animals from the point of origin to the abattoir/market:

- i) Ensure as far as possible that animals are protected from adverse weather conditions during **loading**. A wet coat serves to exacerbate contamination due to defaecation during transport.
- ii) Provide a **transport vehicle** which is maintained and cleaned to a suitable standard. It is unacceptable that a dirty lorry should cause contamination of a clean-coated animal. Special consideration should be given to multi-tiered lorries. Such vehicles should be suitably designed, maintained and managed so that animals are protected from the elements and animals on the upper tiers do not cause contamination of animals on the lower tiers.
- iii) Provide **adequate bedding** in the transport vehicle. This will prevent the build up of urine and faeces which could contaminate an otherwise clean coat. In providing adequate amounts of bedding for the journey certain factors need to be taken into account ie. the length of the journey the time of year etc.
- iv) Consideration should be given to the **type of bedding** used, ie. sawdust and woodshavings have more capacity than straw to adhere to the coat, even when the coat is dry. Also, compared to straw, not only do these types of bedding have a greater ability to cause contamination of the carcass during dressing, but their ability to adhere to the carcass is greater than straw and therefore contamination by such is far more difficult to remove.
- v) Attention should be given to **unloading** animals to ensure they are not exposed to adverse weather conditions.

It is advisable that transporters should be aware of the relevant regulations which relate to the transport of animals. Whilst it is not envisaged that the transporter should be obliged to rectify the condition of any animals with unsatisfactory coats, it is **totally unacceptable** that a transporter would bring about the contamination of animals which were loaded in a satisfactory condition, and subsequent to transporting them, they arrive at the abattoir in an unsatisfactory state ie. it is the responsibility of the transporter to ensure that adequate and suitable transport is provided for the animals.

Transporters should be prepared to offer assurances that they are capable and committed to fulfilling their role within the supply chain. If the producer and the transporter are not one and the same, the producer may wish to obtain a guarantee from the transporter to ensure he/she is prepared to fulfil their responsibility.”

(Source: MHS Clean Livestock Policy pp. 9-10)