

Animal Welfare at Livestock Markets

Guide to best practice



European Association of Livestock Markets

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INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are intended for operators of animal markets and fairs and their staff.

At markets and fairs, animals are subjected to various stressors such as:

- ✓ Driving and handling;
- ✓ Unfamiliar surroundings, people, noises, smells;
- ✓ Mixing with unfamiliar animals.

The present guidelines aim to minimise stress for all animals by encouraging efficient, considerate treatment and handling: good handling also means less slips and falls, less bruises and in the case of slaughter animals better meat quality. It includes aspects of market facilities, organisation, training, information, animal handling and accommodation, fitness for transport and procedures for using and maintaining the market. It also contains recommendations for the care and treatment of sick and injured animals.

These guidelines have been developed in 2014, as an enhancement of the former AEMB guidelines of 2004.

AEMB is pleased that this document has been fully endorsed by Animals' Angels.

The recommendations contained in this guide are suggestions for action.

FOREWORD

“Taking animal welfare issues seriously is an essential condition for managing an animal market. Good animal welfare practices are critical for reducing the stress in the animals, for meeting the legal requirements and for maintaining a positive image of the market.

We trust that the present guidelines will help market operators to maintain and improve the animal welfare conditions at their markets and we would like to thank the AEMB for always being open to dialogues with animal welfare organizations and to let us partake in the development of the present paper. We hope that the guides will meet great appreciation and will be widely used.”

Julia Havenstein
ANIMALS' ANGELS
wir sind bei den Tieren

“I am pleased to introduce this new “Guide to best practice on animal welfare at livestock markets” because it represents a practical tool to highlight and solve critical points which might be found in the everyday work of livestock markets. Livestock markets have an important role in many countries in Europe and many of the solutions proposed, for example regarding “watering facilities” or “hospital pens”, could be easily achieved and can guarantee the appropriate welfare of livestock. In addition I appreciate their user-friendly format.

The European Commission welcomes initiatives like this one where the collaboration between several stakeholders contributes to the implementation of EU standards.”



Dr Andrea Gavinelli
European Commission- DG SANTE
Head of Unit G3- Animal Welfare

LEGAL REFERENCE

These guidelines are based on the European Legislation [Regulation (EC) 1/2005].

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1/2005

of 22 December 2004

**on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives
64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97**

The National legislation has to be taken into account.

DEFINITION

According to Regulation (EC)n°1/2005, article 2:

(b) 'assembly centres' means places such as holdings, collection centres and markets, at which domestic Equidae or domestic animals of bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine species originating from different holdings are grouped together to form consignments;

[...]

(r) 'place of departure' means the place at which the animal is first loaded on to a means of transport provided that it had been accommodated there for at least 48 hours prior to the time of departure.

Assembly centres, approved in accordance with Community veterinary legislation, may be considered as place of departure provided that:

(i) the distance travelled between the first place of loading and the assembly centre is less than 100 km; or

(ii) the animals have been accommodated with sufficient bedding, untied, if possible, and watered for at least six hours prior to the time of departure from the assembly centre;

CONTENT

Part 1: Market facilities	Structure: protection against weather conditions Market security Lighting and ventilation: comfort during market activities Floor quality Loading and unloading areas Passageways and organisation: movement of animals Bars and pens: to pen and to tie up the animals Watering facilities Hospital pens
Part 2: Market organisation, training and information	Market rules Market staff Training Supervision and corrective measures Information to the users Access to market
Part 3: Procedures for using and maintaining the market	Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles Cleaning and disinfection of the market Waste material disposal Regular maintenance of the market facilities
Part 4: Animal handling and accommodation	Stay at the market Handling and movement of the animals Accommodation
Part 5: Animal fitness for transport and sale	Animals' fitness for transport Animals' fitness for sale Handling and movement of the animals Veterinary supervision Sick or injured animals Cows in lactation

Part 1: Market facilities



The market shall be designed and maintained so that it can offer the optimal market conditions, achieve maximum efficiency of animal throughput with the best possible animal welfare and provide maximum health and safety for all personnel using the market.

Structure: protection against weather conditions

Objective

Moderate ambient temperature and humidity at the market

Recommendation

Covered areas, where appropriate, should have facilities to moderate extremes of temperature and humidity

Evaluation

Excessive temperature fluctuations need to be monitored

Best practice:

In the event of very young animals, such as milk calves, side closings should be available so that the market can be closed while ensuring adequate ventilation

Objective

Escape-proof environment.

Recommendation

- Fences around the market;
- Safe passages in the market entry points;
- Emergency procedures in the event that an animal escapes from the market: inform the competent authorities thereof.

Evaluation

- Visual control
- Record any incident of escaped animals from the market;
- Verification of the strength of the fence and of the functioning of electric fences.

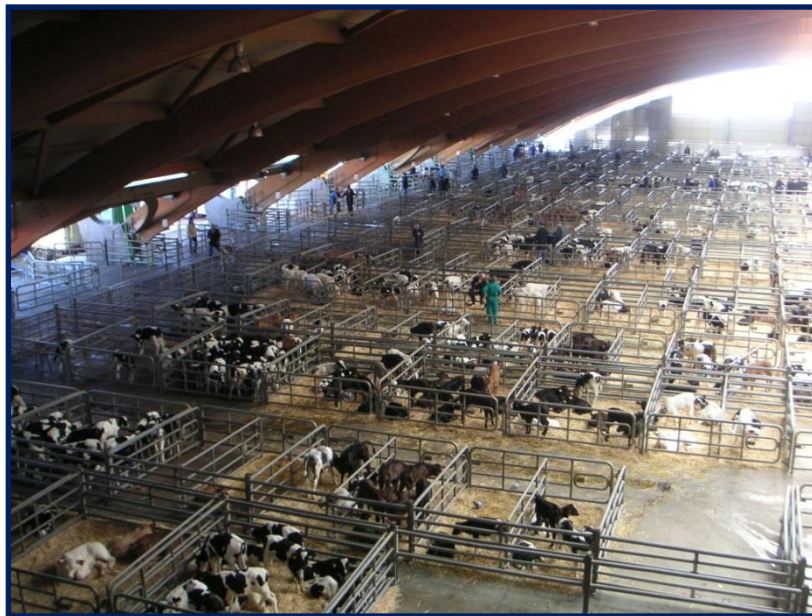
Best practice:

The animal area must be secured by a suitable stock-proof fence.

Lighting and ventilation: comfort during market activities

Objective

- No unnecessary stress for the animals;
- Personnel safety;
- Allow easy movement of the livestock;
- Ease of animals inspections.



Best practice:

Uniform and consistent lighting throughout the animal area

Objective

- Safe movements of the animals;
- Personnel safety.

Recommendation

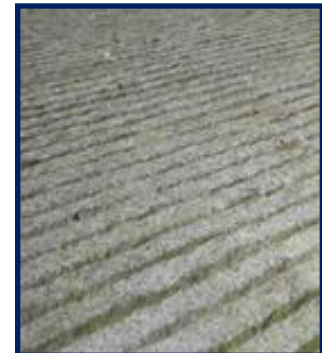
- Market floors should be level, designed and maintained in such a way as to ensure that the animals do not slip. For instance, grooves are permitted;
- In the event of very young animals such as milk calves, it is recommended to cover the floor with adequate and suitable bedding material or rubberised flooring.

Evaluation

- Visual control: inspection of premises and animals (presence of injury, observation of slipping);
- Documentary control: verification in the register the recurrence of accidents.

Best practice:

Use of non-slip floors, easily cleaned and disinfected should be used throughout the market.



Loading and unloading areas

Objective

Operations carried out safely and without unnecessary stress.

Recommendation

- Loading and unloading ramps for animals designed and maintained to facilitate ease of loading;
- adequate lighting;
- Ramps at a suitable angle and availability of different ramp heights, according to the mode of transport;
- Non-slip ramps.

Evaluation

Record of the injuries.



Do you know?

In case of occasional fairs, when a lack of a loading and unloading areas are available, auxiliary loading ramps with lateral protections should be used. Ramps and lateral protections should adapt to the height of the vehicles.

Loading and unloading areas



Best practice:

Enhanced care, attention and monitoring should be implemented at the loading and unloading areas of the market.

Passageways and organisation: movement of animals

Objective

Operations carried out safely and without unnecessary stress

Recommendation

- Passageways designed and maintained in such a way as to facilitate the marshaling of animals;
- In order to secure safe animal movement, and if the market facilities allow it, it may be advantageous to prevent the movement of animals and personnel in the same walkways;
- Non-professional personnel should have limited access to the areas where animals are penned.

Evaluation

- A record of any animal injuries that occur in the market should be maintained.
- The arrival of the different categories of animals should be planned , in order to have it in different moments.

Best practice:

A footbridge from where animals in the market could be viewed would be advantageous where practical.

Bars and pens: to pen and to tie up the animals

Objective

Animals placed comfortably and securely

Recommendation

- Enough pens and/or bars designed to tie up the animals and to create appropriate passageways;
- Appropriate pens and/or bars, depending on the age/height/species.

Evaluation

A record of any injuries or animals escaping should be maintained.



Watering facilities

Objective

Access to water

Recommendation

Market should ensure that water is available to animals when required.



Best practice:

An automatic water release device could ensure the constant access of water to animals.

Objective

Isolation of sick and injured animals

Recommendation

These pens should be bedded with a suitable bedding material such as straw or sawdust etc and located in a quiet and protected area of the market.



Special cases:

- For unweaned calves, specialised milk dispensers may be required to feed them
- For freshly calved cows in milk, it is recommended to have portable milking facilities available.



Part 2: Market organisation, training and information



Livestock markets are public places where professional buyers and sellers meet and trade animals. Those in charge of the market can take advantage of this role to advise the users of their regulatory obligations and of the good practices which are recommended for the purpose of animal welfare.

Objective

Creation of an internal regulation

Recommendation

- To state the major measures relating to animal welfare in the market;
- The internal rules must be made available to all the staff and market users.

Objective

A market which runs efficiently

Recommendation

- Enough staff to take care of the market activities.
- Provide Information to all personnel employed at the market on animal welfare and best practices related to it.
- Provide suitable training for the market staff on animal welfare.

Evaluation

To record the users' requests concerning the presence of the market staff.

Best practice:

To appoint an Animal Welfare Officer who is responsible for AW within the market. This person will be able both to take the necessary steps and to answer questions. The AWO should be easily identified and could be the manager of the market.

Objective

All animals must be handled in a welfare-friendly manner at the market, according to the markets own internal rules.

Recommendation

- Training courses shall be available for the personnell
- Transporters and operators shall entrust the handling of the animals only to personnell who have received appropriate training

Do you know?

Assembly centres play a critical role in the transport of some livestock species. Therefore, assembly centres should ensure that Community legislation on the protection of animals during transport is known and respected by their employees and visitors.

Supervision and corrective measures

Objective

All animals must be handled in a welfare-friendly manner at the market, according to the markets own internal rules.

Recommendation

Market staff are encouraged to monitor the welfare of the animals presented at the market and to alert the officials or their superior in case of infringement of the legislation 1/2005.

Evaluation

- To record the number of infringements reported;
- To follow the infringements through to resolution.

Best practice:

Additional video-surveillance at the market could assist in monitoring animal welfare

Objective

Draw the users' attention to animal welfare

Recommendation

Provide information about the main relevant point of the Regulation (EC) 1/2005 to users.

Normas europeas sobre la protección de los animales

NO PUEDEN REALIZAR VIAJES LARGOS (>8 horas)

- Los caballos sin desbravar
- Los potros < 4 meses
- Terneros < 15 días
- Cochinitos < 10 Kg

salvo compañía materna

En viajes largos los équidos deben ir en compartimentos individuales



MERCADO NACIONAL DE GANADOS DE LEON
Excmo. Ayuntamiento de León

Objective

To facilitate access by members of the public, veterinary services and any animal welfare associations

Recommendation

- All visitors are welcome to livestock markets but they should be made aware that animal welfare is important to all users of the market, but so too is personal health and safety.
- To allow government and EU authorities access to all areas of the livestock market when required.

Evaluation

Number of visitors and visitors welcome procedures.

Part 3: Procedures for using and maintaining the market



The market shall perform all the operations required under the health legislation governing livestock markets.

Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles

Objective

Vehicles leaving the market are clean and disinfected.

Recommendation

- Cleaning and disinfection areas should be made available.
- The disinfection products should be in compliance with the national legislation in force.



Cleaning and disinfection of the market

Objective

Disinfected market.

Recommendation

Completely clean and disinfect the market after every use.



Waste material disposal

Objective

Avoid any kind of contamination.

Recommendation

Appropriate disposal of all liquid and solid waste materials.

Evaluation

Efficiency of the system. Satisfactory for both the users and neighbouring premises.

Best practice:

The effluents of the livestock market are treated:

- Either for land spreading

or

- sent to an effluent treatment plant

The market manager must provide evidence of the correct disposal of any waste and effluents.

Regular maintenance of the market facilities

Objective

Functional facilities.

Recommendation

All defective or broken facilities should be repaired as soon as possible.

Evaluation

By regular inspection.

Part 4: Animal handling and accommodation



For the sake of security of people and welfare of the animals, animals must be marshalled and tied up, or penned in accordance with animal welfare recommendations.

Also, it is recommended that operators marketing the animals try to limit the number of assembly centre to assembly centre moves an animal makes, thus limiting the loading and unloading operations. In cases where an animal passes through more than one assembly centre, and to maximize the welfare conditions for the animals, the centre should be equipped with bedding, food and resting facilities needed to minimize the impact of these operations.

Objective

Time spent at the market, so that the animal can rest.

Recommendation

- To ensure that animals do not spend an unnecessary length of time at the market;
- Special procedures should be implemented in the event that animals need to stay within the market overnight (available bedding, water and food).

Evaluation

Inspection of the watering facilities.

Handling and movement of the animals

Objective

Safe handling without unnecessary pain

- It shall be prohibited to: strike/kick the animals, lift or drag the animals by their head, ears, horns, legs, tail or fleece, use prods or other implements with pointed ends, knowingly obstruct any animal that is being driven or led through any part of the animal handling area.
- The use of instruments that administer electric shocks shall be avoided as far as possible.

Recommendation

Evaluation

Visual control by the market staff.

Best practice:

When moving unweaned calves, lambs, goat kids and piglets , the greatest possible care should be taken at all times.

Objective

Operations to be carried out with minimum discomfort.

Recommendation

- Animals shall not be tied by the horns, the antlers, the nose rings nor by legs tied together. Calves shall not be muzzled.
- Ropes, tethers or other means used shall allow the animals, if necessary, to lie down and to eat and drink and designed in such a way as to eliminate any danger of strangulation or injury, and so as to allow animals to be quickly released. Moreover, they have to be strong enough not to break if pulled.

Evaluation

- Visual control by the market staff.
- The number of animals which slip and fall at different points in the market could also be monitored.

Best practice:

Do not mix different species.

Part 5: Animal fitness for transport and sale



The users of the market shall ensure that all animals presented for sale at the livestock market are fit for transport.

Do you know?

When animals are under stress it is likely that their health becomes compromised and they become prone to disease.

Objective

Only animals fit for transport and sale shall be accepted at the market

Recommendation

Strict entrance checks carried out by market staff/market veterinarian, ideally in collaboration with official veterinary services.

Animals NOT fit for transport:

- Please refer to the Regulation (EC) 1/2005;
- Please refer to your National Legislation.

Evaluation

Incidents book, regular checks

Best practice:

Livestock arriving unfit at the market should be accommodated in separate pens, waiting for the arrival of the veterinarian.

To know more on fitness for transport, please consult: "Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Adult Bovines", "Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Pigs" and the "Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae".

Objective

Only animals fit for transport and sale shall be accepted at the market

Recommendation

Strict entrance checks carried out by market staff/market veterinarian, ideally in collaboration with official veterinary services

Evaluation

Incidents book, regular checks

Best practice:

Only permit entrance of calves from the age of 15 days onward.

Objective

A veterinarian who can attend the animals at short notice should be available.

Recommendation

Make agreements with a local veterinarian who undertakes to be available when requested, on all market days.

Evaluation

Record any veterinarians' report.

Best practice:

Veterinarian present during market days: either designated by the manager of the market or by the veterinary services.

Objective

Procedures in case a sick or injured animal arrives to the market

Recommendation

- If for welfare reasons the animal cannot be sent back: isolation in the designated hospital pen and treated.
- If, according to veterinary advice, treatment is not possible: the animal must be humanly slaughtered, on site.

Evaluation

Incident book, inform the official veterinary services.

Objective

Cows in lactation must be milked in intervals of not more than 12 hours.

Recommendation

Make sure that cows in milk have been milked before arriving at the market, if market staff suspect that a cow has not been milked for more than 12 hours , separation and immediate milking.

Evaluation

Incident book, inform the official veterinary services.



A special thanks for the development of these guidelines goes to the all 2014 members of AEMB.

Thank you also to the animal welfare NGO « Animals'Angels » for their contribution and support.



