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## BRIEFING NOTE: New Humane Transport Regulations

Changes to the *Health of Animals Regulations (Part XII - Humane Transport)* came into effect on February 20, 2020. This was followed by a two-year transition period that provided certain exemptions. This transition period has ended and enforcement of the new rules is now in effect. This includes new limits for maximum transport times and new requirements for record-keeping.

This Briefing Note is intended to communicate information that National Cattle Feeders' Association (NCFA) has received from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on certain aspects of the new Humane Transport regulation. The Briefing does not, however, constitute legal advice or official guidance. Cattle feeders are strongly urged to familiarize themselves with the new regulations by accessing the resources found at the end of the Briefing Note.

### 1. Maximum Transport Times

The new regulations reduce the number of hours that cattle can spend in transit without feed, water, and rest (FWR). The duration of the mandatory rest stop was also increased. Calves 8 days old or less, and unweaned calves over 9 days old, have a maximum travel time of **12 hours** without FWR (previously 12 hours). All other cattle have a maximum travel time of **36 hours** (previously 48 hours). All stops for FWR must be a minimum of **8 hours** duration (previously 5 hours).

NCFA actively engaged with CFIA as the new regulations were being developed. NCFA was successful in moving the maximum time from an initial proposal of 28 hours to the current 36 hours. We also urged CFIA to keep the “4 hour flex” provision that was in the old regulation. This provision allowed transporters to exceed the established travel time if the final destination could be reached within 4 hours and there were no negative impacts on the welfare of the animals.

While the new regulations do not include such a flex provision, NCFA has been advised by CFIA that their planned enforcement approach will allow for certain flexibilities. The following statement was issued by CFIA and can be found on the agency's website:

*“The CFIA is aware that research is continuing to look at transport times and FWR stops for both unweaned dairy calves and older beef calves. Therefore, at this time, the CFIA does not plan to prioritize enforcement efforts where the maximum intervals without FWR for ruminants of 9 days of age and older are exceeded by less than 4 hours and all animal welfare outcomes are being met.” (See [Transportation Times: Compliance and Enforcement](#) link below.)*

In further communications with CFIA for purposes of clarification, NCFA was advised that travel intervals can therefore be up to **16 hours** for calves (12+4) and up to **40 hours** for other cattle (36+4). Again, this flexibility is conditional on all animal welfare outcomes being met.

### 2. Transfer of Care (TOC) Notice

When animals arrive at a processing facility, assembly station, or auction mart, the transporter must provide notice to the receiving party that animals have arrived. This is called a Transfer of Care (TOC) Notice. It must include three pieces of information—date and time of arrival, condition of the animals at arrival, and when they were last fed, watered, and rested. There is no prescribed format for a TOC Notice. It can be a simple paper document, an email, or even a text message. Cattle feeders should note that a TOC Notice is **not** required when cattle arrive at a feedlot. Feedlots are exempt from this requirement. NCFA is aware that some receivers, such as processing plants, have developed a form that transporters can use. (See [TOC Factsheet](#) and [Guidance](#) links below).

## **TRANSFER OF CARE (TOC) Document Checklist**

### **Who Prepares the TOC:**

Anyone transporting animals to an abattoir, assembly yard, auction mart, or sales barn. The transporter is responsible for writing this document and providing or sending it to the receiver.

### **Who Receives the TOC:**

Someone designated at the abattoir, assembly yard, or auction market who can acknowledge receipt of the animals and the TOC document.

### **What is the TOC:**

Written proof (paper or electronic) that animals have arrived at destination and responsibility for their care has passed from the transporter to the receiver.

### **What Information is Required:**

Three pieces of information are in a TOC notice:

- Date and time animals arrived
- Condition of the animals on arrival (any comments you have on the load)
- When the animals were last fed, watered, and rested

### **When is the TOC Prepared:**

A TOC is prepared and sent to the receiver when the animals arrive.

### **Where:**

A TOC document is required whenever anyone leaves animals at an abattoir, assembly yard, or auction market.

A TOC is not required when animals are received at a beef feedlot.

### **Why:**

The TOC ensure there is no gap in the responsibility for animals. The TOC protects both animals and those transporting and receiving animals.

### **How:**

Transporter writes the TOC and gives it to the abattoir, assembly yard, or auction market. No specific format is required. The document can be electronic (e.g., a text message or email). Both parties should keep a copy of the TOC in their files for two years.

***The TOC is not the same as the Animal Transport Record (ATR) requirement in the new Humane Transport Regulation. They are two different documents and requirements. Requirements for the ATR are provided below.***

## **3. Animal Transport Record (ATR)**

All transportation of animals for commercial purposes require an Animal Transport Record (ATR). This record must include nine pieces of information, and must accompany the load of animals as they are transported. This requirement **does** apply to feedlots when shipping out cattle.

An ATR requires nine specific pieces of information (see ATR Factsheet and Guidance links below). Again, there is no prescribed format for this record. Cattle feeders should note that much of this information is already required on provincial livestock shipping manifests. There is no need to repeat information that has already been recorded on a manifest. In this case, the ATR would include only the additional information required. (See ATR Factsheet and Guidance links below.)

## **ANIMAL TRANSPORT RECORD (ATR) Document Checklist**

### **Who Must Prepare an ATR:**

Commercial transporters, or anyone transporting animals for business or financial purposes, needs an Animal Transport Record (ATR). The Transporter writes this record.

### **Who Receives the ATR:**

No one receives an ATR. It does not need to be accepted or acknowledged by the receiver of animals. It is a record that stays with the transporter for a period of two years.

### **What Information is Required:**

The following information is required on an ATR:

- Name and address of shipper, consignee, and the driver
- Date, time, and location where the animals were loaded
- Number, description, and actual or estimated weight of animals
- Date, time, and location of animals upon arrival
- Date, time, and when animals were last fed, watered, and rested prior to loading
- Vehicle identification (such as license plate)
- Floor area available to the animals
- Date, time, and place vehicle was last cleaned or disinfected

### **When is the TOC Prepared:**

An ATR is prepared prior to transport when the animals are being loaded. Additional information is added to the ATR when the animals are provided with feed, water, and rest enroute and when the animals arrive at their final destination.

### **Where:**

The ATR (or a copy) moves with the load of animals as they are being transported. This record must be kept by the transporter for a period of two years.

### **Why:**

ATR ensures that information about the animals' journey is available and can be shared when needed with everyone involved in transport.

### **How:**

No specific format is required. Transporters can write the information in any way that works them. Much of the information is already required on provincial livestock manifests. There is no need to repeat information that is recorded on these manifests.

## RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

### CFIA Factsheets

[Transfer of Care \(TOC\)](#)

[Animal Transport Records \(ATR\)](#)

### Interpretive Guidance

[Transportation Times: Compliance and Enforcement Approach](#)

[Record-Keeping: Transfer of Care \(TOC\)](#)

[Record-Keeping: Animal Transport Record \(ATR\)](#)

### Online Brochures for Download

[Livestock Transport Then \(1977\) Versus Now \(2020\)](#)

[Transfer of Care \(TOC\) and Animal Transport Records \(ATR\)](#)

[Livestock Transport in Canada](#)

### Regulatory Text

[Humane Transport Regulations Part XII: Sections 137-155](#)

[Transfer of Care \(TOC\) in Section 153 and Animal Transport Records \(ATR\) in Section 154](#)