

Update on National Working Group on Animal Transport

As of January, enforcement actions are being taken on the *Regulations Amending the Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations (Electronic Logging Devices and Other Amendments)*. This can create an impossible position where livestock transporters either comply with hours-of-service regulations or do what they know is best for the humane and safe transportation of live animals. We are calling upon the federal government to create regulatory flexibility so that transporters can safeguard the welfare of the livestock being transported due to unforeseen delays during transport which cause drivers to go over duty hours.

Our request to the government is that Canada harmonize with the U.S. - which has recognized this challenge and have implemented an exemption from hours of service for live animal and insect transporters within a 150 air-mile (240 km) radius from the origin and destination of their trip. This exception helps prevent the situation of having an animal transporter run out of duty hours mere miles from the destination. While this is being implemented, we have asked for a short-term exemption on ELDs for livestock transporters or detailed guidance to enforcement officers to not take action in scenarios where animal welfare is in jeopardy.

The National Working Group has been working to address this issue for the past year, but efforts were amplified in December. ACFA/NCFA has played a key leadership role in the advocacy activity in December including:

- Letters to Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Transport ([READ HERE](#))
- Meeting with office of the Minister of Transport
- Meeting with office of the Minister of Agriculture
- Meeting with Kody Blois (Chair of House of Commons Agriculture Committee). He wrote a letter to Ministers in follow up.
- Meeting with John Barlow (Opposition Critic to Agriculture)
- Meeting with Senator Robert Black in February 2023 (Chair of Senate Agriculture Committee)
- Over 20 letters and follow up with key Members of Parliament
- Dialogue with Canadian Food Inspection Agency senior officials

The livestock veterinary sector is also rallying around the issue and writing letters to Ministers as well.