



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Ottawa ON K1A 0Y9
Canada

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January 19, 2023

Mr. Brian Thomas
President
British Columbia Cattlemen's Association
4 – 10145 Dallas Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 6T4
By email to: bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thank you for your letter to Dr. Siddika Mithani, President of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in which you share your concerns on behalf of British Columbia industry stakeholders regarding the requirements for transfer of care (ToC) documentation under the *Health of Animals Regulations*. Dr. Mithani has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The CFIA recognizes that animal care and welfare is paramount to the beef industry in Canada. We also understand the concerns regarding the challenges posed by the administrative requirement to collect and provide ToC information as per the updated *Health of Animals Regulations*. This is why the decision was made to let each industry sector determine what format best fits their operational needs to provide the information required for the ToC.

An [example animal transport record template](#) (which includes both transporter record requirements as well as the ToC information) is provided in Appendix 4 of the Interpretive Guidance for Regulated Parties. Some industry associations have created their own template, such as the one shown on the Verified Beef Production Plus [website](#). If the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association is interested in creating a template that meets the needs of its stakeholders, the CFIA would be happy to review it with you.

This ToC requirement seeks to ensure that there is no gap in the responsibility for the care of the animals, to inform the assembly centres or slaughter establishments about when the animals need to be provided with feed, water, and rest (FWR) and if there are animals in the load requiring immediate attention or special care. The transporter can capture the information

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by any means, including handwritten or electronic (e.g. email, text). The format that works best for your industry is acceptable to the CFIA provided the document is legible, contains the required details and can be easily found if requested by a CFIA inspector. Provinces with livestock manifests are providing spaces to capture the required federal humane transport information in order to minimize paperwork for producers.

The CFIA has engaged with national and provincial industry groups on the implementation of the *Humane Transport Regulations*. It has also provided support and made presentations to livestock organizations across the country using multiple platforms. Additional information is available through the links below:

- The CFIA webpage [Regulatory guidance and resources for the humane transport of animals](#) contains further transport information and visuals, such as the infographic [Transfer of care requirements for transporting animals](#).
- The [Interpretive Guidance for Regulated Parties](#) document (specifically [Section 20](#)) may address further questions.

In fall 2022, the CFIA, the Canadian Cattle Association, and the Livestock Markets Association of Canada collaborated in the preparation of a brochure explaining transfer of care requirements in the *Humane Transport Regulations*. Copies of the brochure were subsequently distributed to the auction markets in Canada with the intent that they be mailed out to primary producers to help raise awareness of the transport regulations, specifically regarding the ToC and Records requirements. The English brochure is attached for your information.

Short-haul cattle may have welfare issues that occur during transport, loading and unloading; the ToC ensures that this information is passed along to the assembly centre or slaughter establishment. In addition, the fact that an animal has been transported a short distance does not necessarily mean it has been a short time since it was last fed, watered and rested. For example, an animal could arrive at an assembly yard that is only one hour away from a previous point of assembly but have had feed and water withdrawn over 24 hours ago.

The ToC ensures that there is no gap in responsibility upon arrival at assembly centres or slaughter establishments. The document records the transporter's side of the story, shows that the correct actions were taken and that the transporter took steps to protect the welfare of the transported animals. It also shows when the responsibility for the animals was passed on to a slaughter establishment or assembly centre. For the receiver, the ToC allows for the transfer of important

information such as the need for special or urgent attention, and when the animals are required to be provided with FWR. The ToC also provides key information to the CFIA, enabling enforcement when there is an animal welfare issue.

If you have further questions or would like to suggest ways that the CFIA could further support your organization in your efforts to raise awareness about the amended *Humane Transport Regulations*, please contact Dr. Heather Brown at heather.brown@inspection.gc.ca or at CFIA's generic humane transport account at animaltransportanimaux@inspection.gc.ca.

I trust that this information will be of assistance. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Martin Appelt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Martin APPELT, MRCVS
Senior Director
Animal Health Programs

for Mary Jane Ireland, DVM, MSc, MBA
Executive Director, Animal Health Directorate
Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada
Canadian Delegate to the World Organisation for Animal Health

Attachment

c.c. Dr. Heather Brown, National Manager, Humane Transport Program, CFIA