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## **CFIA Livestock Transport Regulations: What you need to know**

### **What are the new regulations and when do they come into effect?**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is rolling out updated Livestock Transportation Regulations. These regulations apply to any animal being transported within Canada. The regulations are coming into effect February 2020.

### **What are the main changes and how might this affect me?**

The CFIA reviewed the potential impacts of transporting animals that have health or mobility concerns and as a result, they updated the definitions of what makes an animal “compromised” and “unfit” for transport.

- “Compromised” animals can only be transported directly to slaughter at the nearest slaughter facility (<12 hrs farm to slaughter. They cannot be sent to an auction or an assembly yard) or to receive veterinary care. They must be isolated during transport (own compartment) or with one familiar animal.
- “Unfit” animals can only be transported to a veterinary facility for medical care with special provisions. They cannot be sent for slaughter.

See the chart for a list of conditions included in each definition:

	<b>“Compromised”</b>	<b>“Unfit”</b>
<b>Conditions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild bloat without systemic signs</li> <li>• Mild lameness</li> <li>• Minor vaginal or rectal prolapse</li> <li>• Preventative hobbles</li> <li>• Acute frostbite</li> <li>• Bilateral blindness</li> <li>• Unhealed wound following a procedure</li> <li>• Non-painful deformity or healed amputation</li> <li>• Penile injuries</li> <li>• Cow in peak lactation</li> <li>• Any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates reduced capacity to withstand transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bloat with systemic signs</li> <li>• Lameness with signs of pain, halted movement, reluctant to walk, or can't bear weight on all 4 legs</li> <li>• Severe rectal or vaginal prolapse, prolapsed uterus</li> <li>• Needs hobbles for treatment</li> <li>• Non-ambulatory/unable to walk</li> <li>• Painful, mobility impeding fracture</li> <li>• Dehydrated, moribund, or exhausted</li> <li>• Generalized nervous system disorder</li> <li>• Laboured breathing</li> <li>• Severe open wound or laceration</li> <li>• Extremely thin (BCS&lt;2)</li> <li>• Hypothermia, hyperthermia, or a fever</li> <li>• A hernia that: impedes movement (including touching a limb when walking); touches the ground when standing; has an open wound or infection; or causes pain</li> <li>• In the last 10% of pregnancy or within 48 hours of giving birth</li> <li>• Unhealed or infected navel</li> <li>• Gangrenous udder</li> <li>• Severe squamous cell carcinoma of the eye</li> <li>• Any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates it cannot be transported without suffering</li> </ul>

### **Important points to be aware of:**

- All forms of lameness are included as “compromised” or “unfit” depending on severity. This means that lame animals should no longer be sent to auctions or assembly yards - just direct to slaughter.

- All calves must be 8 days of age or older if they are being transported to an assembly yard or auction. It is still ok to send calves directly to a veal grower at less than 8 days of age.
- Transportation for calves on milk must not exceed 12 hours from the time of loading at the farm to the time of unloading at the final destination (including time spent at an auction!).
- Lactating animals must be milked at intervals sufficient to prevent mammary engorgement. This means that animals should be dried off prior to being sent to an auction or assembly yard.

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### **How is it being enforced?**

For the first 2 years, the enforcement of these regulations will focus on education of producers and transporters to help them become compliant. If a producer or transporter is identified as not following the regulations, documentation and follow-up communication will occur to attempt to prevent the non-compliance from happening again. Eventually, it is expected that fines will apply if a producer or transporter is not compliant with the regulations.

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### **Unintended consequences:**

As with many new rules, there are some unintended consequences that have been identified:

- Beef/bob calf prices will likely be impacted.
- Some have suggested that many bull calves will simply be euthanized at birth.
- Concerns about the impact on mental health of farmers due to financial impact and potentially euthanizing more animals.
- May require courses on proper euthanasia techniques and livestock disposal methods.
- Changes to farm infrastructure may be needed to accommodate keeping animals longer/managing them differently prior to shipping.
- Dairy farmers, transporters, auctions/assembly yards and veal farmers will be affected!

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### **How can I prepare?**

- Ensure you have adequate space/number of hutches to keep calves on farm until 8 days of age or older before transporting to an assembly yard or auction.
- Perform a physical exam/assessment prior to transport (check navel, take temperature, check hydration status, check body condition, assess gait, assess level of milk production).
- Dry off cows that are milking heavily before shipping (feed just hay, milk once per day etc.).
- Feed and water all animals prior to loading.
- Consider evaluating genetics/breeding to beef bulls to improve marketability of calves.
- Make culling decisions/treatment interventions early!

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### **Where can I learn more?**

You can read the regulations online at the CFIA website:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/interpretive-guidance/eng/1480700699158/1480700769747?chap=3#s9c3>

If you want more information or have specific questions, please just ask your vet!

Kelly Barratt, DVM

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