

# Transport of Animals, Rules 1978

## Part 2

- **Rule 76 - Definition:**

*Note: The definition of poultry will include all the given birds, and the usage of the word "poultry" will assume the meaning here throughout the rest of these rules.*

In this Chapter unless the context otherwise requires, "Poultry" includes day old chicks and turkey poults, chickens, quails, guinea fowls, ducks, geese and turkeys.

- **Rule 77 - General requirement:**

*Note: This rule mandates the requirement of a thoroughly cleaned sterilized container for the transport of poultry. The exposure of poultry to sun, rain and direct blasts of air during transport is prohibited. Poultry is prohibited from being transported when the temperature crosses 25°C or drops below 15°C.*

In transport of poultry by rail, road or air -

- (a) the container shall be properly cleaned and sterilised before the poultry is placed in them
- (b) poultry shall not be exposed to the sunlight, rain and direct blast of air during transport.
- (c) poultry shall not be transported when the temperature exceeds 25 degree Celsius or when the temperature falls below 15 degree Celsius.

- **Rule 78 - Day-old chicks and turkey poults:**

In transport of day old chicks and poultry by rail, road and air

*(a) Chicks and poults must be packed and dusk arched immediately. The note appended states that the consignor is responsible for ensuring that the poultry arrived within the shortest time possible after they are removed from incubator. Maximum period permissible is 72 hours in winter and 48 hours in summer.*

Chicks and poults shall be packed and dispatched immediately after hatching and shall not be stored in boxes for any length of time before dispatch.

Note : In the said transport endeavour shall be made by the consignor or his agent so that consignments shall arrive at destination within the shortest possible time after being taken out of the incubator. Seventy two hours shall normally be regarded as the maximum period to be taken from incubator to brooder in winter and 48 hours in summer;

*(b) Provision of food or water to chicks/poults before and during transportation is prohibited.*

Chicks or poults shall not be fed or watered before and during transportation.

*(c) Every effort to ensure that arrival from dispatch site is as fast as possible*

Every effort shall be made to ensure that chicks and poults arrive as quickly as possible at the dispatching site

*(d) Consignor/Forwarding agent is legally obligated to ensure that poultry do not face direct sunlight, rain, heat*

Personal attention shall be given by the consignor or the forwarding agent to ensure that all consignments are kept out of direct sunlight, rain and heat;

*(e) Boxes must mandatorily be carried carefully at a level position to prevent chicks falling*

Care shall be taken to carry the boxes in a level position so that chicks are not in danger of falling over on to their backs

*(f) There is an obligation to avoid other merchandise around the chick boxes*

The putting up of other merchandise over and around chick boxes shall be avoided.

- **Rule 79 - Poultry other than day-old chicks and turkey poults:**

In transport of poultry other than day old chicks and turkey poult by rail, road or air

*(a) Only healthy, veterinary-certified poultry is permitted for transport*

the poultry to be transported shall be healthy and in good condition and shall be examined and certified by a veterinary doctor for freedom from infectious diseases and fitness to undertake the journey.

*(b) Same species, same group*

poultry transported in the same container shall be of the same species and of the same age group

*(c) Food and water to be provided to poultry before being packed into containers. Further containers must also carry adequate food and water in appropriate troughs.*

poultry shall be properly fed and watered before it is placed in containers for transportation and extra feed and water shall be provided in suitable troughs fixed in the containers.

*(d) Water and food during transportation must be arranged. Further hot weather requires water to be provided to animals every six hours*

arrangements shall be made for watering and feeding during transportation and during hot weather, watering shall be ensured every six hours;

*(e) Prohibition of mixing sexes*

male stock shall not be transported with female stock in the same container

- **Rule 80 - Road Travel:**

*Note: Placing containers on top of each other so prohibited in road transport. Adequate covering is mandated such that light and ventilation are provided, yet the poultry is shielded from rain, heat and cold.*

In transport of poultry by road the container shall not be placed one on the top of the other and shall be covered properly in order to provide light, ventilation and to protect from rain, heat and cold air.

- **Rule 81 - Rail Travel:**

*Note: Where poultry is being transported by rail for more than 12 hours, they shall be accompanied by an attendant. At no point can the poultry be exposed to rain or direct blasts of air. Further, the railway wagons carrying the poultry must have sufficient ventilation.*

*The carrying of other merchandise which may harm or kill the birds is prohibited from being loaded in the same wagon.*

In transport of poultry by rail -

- (a) in case the journey is for more than twelve hours, an attendant shall accompany the consignment;
- (b) poultry shall not be exposed to rain or direct blast of air;
- (c) as far as possible poultry shall be transported in wagons having adequate facilities for ventilation and no other merchandise which may result in mortality of birds shall be loaded in the same wagon;

- **Rule 82 - Air travel:**

*Note: Air transport of poultry must compulsorily contain poultry in pressurized compartments and unloaded as soon as the plane arrives.*

In transport of poultry by air or for international transport the containers carrying poultry shall be kept in pressurised compartments with regulated temperature and the container shall preferably be kept near the door and shall be unloaded immediately on arrival.

- **Rule 83 - Containers for transportation:**

In transport of poultry by rail, road or air -

(a) *Durable, ventilated, spacious, safe containers*

containers used to transport poultry shall be made of such material which shall not collapse or crumble and they shall be well ventilated and designed to protect the health of poultry by giving it adequate space and safety.

(b) *Containers must completely prevent birds from crowding into corners during transport. Further boxes should not be kept so close together that ventilation is affected.*

the containers shall be so designed as to render impossible for birds to crowd into the corners during transportation, and to avoid the danger of boxes being stocked so close together as to interfere with ventilation.

*(c) Clear labelling of containers*

all the containers shall be clearly labelled showing the name, address and telephone number of the consignor and the consignee.

*(d) Dimensions of containers*

the minimum floor space per bird and the dimension of the containers for transporting poultry shall be as specified in the Table below, namely :

TABLE

S.No. Kind of Poultry Minimum Dimension

Floor space

cm<sup>2</sup>

Length

cm

Width

cm

Height

cm

Number

in a

container

i. Month old chickens 75 60 30 18 24

ii. Three month old

chickens

230 55 50 35 12

iii. Adult sock (excluding

geese and turkeys)

480 115 50 45 12

iv. Geese and turkeys 900 120 75 75 10

youngs

1300 75 35 75 2

growing

1900 55 35 75 1 grown

up

v. Chicks - 60 45 12 80

vi. Poult - 60 45 12 60

- **Rule 84 - Special requirement of containers for chicks and poults -**

*Note: There are certain standards to be followed for containers carrying chicks or poult. Usage of wire mesh or net as the bottom of the container is prohibited. It must be secured properly. Further, a label must be applied with the words "Care In Transit." The consignee must be informed in advance about the time and place of arrival.*

*Poultry are prohibited from journeys which involve continuous transport for over six hours. A mandatory inspection must be carried out every six hours. Transportation is permitted to remain stationary for only 30 minutes, during which it must be parked in shade and food and water are provided.*

*All precautions must be taken to prevent fires and the vehicle should also have a fire extinguisher.*

In transport of poultry by road, rail or air:

- (a) wire mesh or a net of any material shall not be used as a bottom for the containers.
- (b) the container shall be properly secured to avoid pilferage
- (c) the following instruction shall be printed on a label and fixed to the lid or printed directly on sides, namely "Care in Transit".
- (d) the consignee shall be informed about the train, transport or flight number and its time of arrival well in advance
- (e) poultry shall not be transported continuously for more than 6 hours and whole batch shall be inspected at every 6 hours interval.
- (f) the transportation shall not remain stationary for more than 30 min and during this period, it shall be parked in shade and arrangements shall be made for feeding and watering
- (g) all precautions against fire shall be taken and provision of fire extinguishers in transport shall be provided.

- **Rule 85 - Definition:**

*Note: The definition of poultry will include all the given birds, and the usage of the word "poultry" will assume the meaning here throughout the rest of these rules.*

In this chapter, unless context otherwise requires, "pigs" includes piglets, hogs, hoglets and animals of pigs family,

- **Rule 86 - Duration of travel:**

*Note: This rule states that Rules 87 to 95 shall apply to the transport of pigs by rail or road and involve journeys of more than six hours.*

Rules 87 to 95 shall apply to the transport of pigs by rail or road involving journeys of more than six hours.

- **Rule 87 - Health Certificate:**

*This rule mandates the requirement of a valid health certificate by a qualified veterinary surgeon approving the fit condition of the pigs for travel, and are not suffering any infectious or parasitic diseases. A carrier is obligated to refuse travel without such certificate.*

(1) A valid health certificate by a veterinary doctor to the effect that the pigs are in a fit condition to travel by rail or road and are not suffering from infectious or contagious or parasitic disease shall accompany each consignment in the transport of pigs by rail or road.

(2) In the absence of a certificate under sub-rule (1), the carrier shall refuse to accept the consignment for transport.

(3) The certificate under sub rule (1) shall be in a form specified in Schedule K

- **Rule 88 - Identification of consignor and consignee**

For the purpose of this Chapter -

(a) *Labelling of details*

each consignment shall bear a label showing in bold red letters the name, address and telephone number (if any) of the consignor and consignee, the number and type of pigs being transported and quantity of rations and food provided to them.

(b) *Consignee required to be intimated of details*

the consignee shall be informed in advance about the train or vehicle in which the consignment of pigs is being sent and its arrival time.

(c) *Consignment must be booked by the next train or vehicle and should not be detained once the booking is accepted.*

the consignment of pigs shall be booked by the next train or vehicle and shall not be detained after the consignment is accepted for booking.

- **Rule 89 - First aid:**

*Note: It is mandatory to provide first aid equipment to accompany the pigs. Appropriate ramps should be provided for loading and unloading, but in a railway wagon, the use of the dropped door should be used as a ramp.*

In transport of pigs by rail or road.

(a) first-aid equipment shall accompany the pigs;

(b) suitable ramps shall be provided for loading and I unloading the pigs;

(c) in the case of a railway wagon, when the loading or unloading is done on the platform the dropped door of the wagon shall be used as a ramp.

- **Rule 90 - Group of pigs:**

*Note: Mixing of sexes is prohibited during transportation.*

In transport of pigs by rail or road, male young stock shall not be mixed with female stock in the same compartment.

- **Rule 91 - Facility of food and water:**

*Note: It is mandatory to provide sufficient food and water throughout the journey, and also provide regular water facilities.*

In transport of pigs by rail or road, sufficient food and fodder shall be carried to last during the journey and watering facility shall be provided at regular intervals.

- **Rule 92 - Padding of floor during travel:**

*Note: It is mandatory to provide padding of minimum 5 cm for the animals for transport by rail or road.*

In transport of pigs by rail or road, material for padding, such as straw, shall be placed on the floor to avoid injury if an animal lies down, and this shall be not less than 5 cm thick.

- **Rule 93 - Ban on fettering:**

*It is illegal to tie down the legs of the pigs. They can only be fettered where there is a risk that they will jump out.*

In transport of pigs by rail or road, the animals shall not be fettered unless there is a risk of their jumping out and their legs shall not be tied down.

- **Rule 94 - Space requirement during rail travel and transport of pigs by rail:**

(a) no railway wagon shall accommodate more than the number of pigs as specified in the Table below :

TABLE

Broad gauge

(1)

Metre gauge

(2)

Narrow

gauge

(3)

Area of Wagon Area of Wagon Area of Wagon Area of Wagon

Less than 21.1

squares Metres

More than 21.1

Square Metres  
Less than 12.5  
Square Meter  
More than 12.5  
Square Meter  
Number of Pigs  
35  
Number of Pigs  
50  
Number of Pigs  
25  
Number of Pigs  
30 not allowed

(b) *Upper door to be fixed with closely melded wide gauge and fixed, to provide ventilation*  
adequate ventilation shall be provided in every wagon and the upper door of one side of wagon shall be kept open and properly fixed and the upper door of the wagon shall have wire gauge closely welded mesh arrangements to prevent burning cinders from the engines entering the wagon and leading to fire breakout.

- **Rule 95 - Space requirement during road travel -**

In transport of pigs by road:

(a) *Permissible legal capacity*

goods vehicles of capacity of 5 or 4.5 tons, which are generally used for transportation of animals, shall carry not more than twenty pigs.

(b) *Partitions must be provided as per the schedule to avoid trapping and crowding*

in the case of large goods vehicles and containers,

Explanation : For the purpose of this rule the certificate partition shall be provided at every two or three metres shall be issued in such form as may be specified for this across the width to prevent the crowding and trapping purpose by the Central Government of pigs

(c) *Separate panels to be provided for pigs under p six weeks old*

in the case of pigs under six weeks of age, separate panels shall be provided.

- **Rule 96 - Issue of certificate before transportation :**

*Note: This rule is extremely significant as it states that the carrier is legally obligated to reject transportation of any animals unless there is a valid certificate issued by an officer, person or organization which is recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of a India or Central Government.*

*The certificate must verify that all rules and orders pertaining to the animal being transported, including the rules of transport, hand been complied with. The certificate should also state that the animal is not being transported for any purpose contrary to law.*



(1) A valid certificate issued by an officer or any person or Animal Welfare Organisation duly recognised and authorised for this purpose by the Animal Welfare Board of India or the Central Government shall be procured by any person making transport of any animal before transportation of such animal verifying that all the relevant Central and State Acts, rules and orders pertaining to the said animals including the rules relating to transport of such animals have been duly complied with and that the animal is not being transported for any purpose contrary to the provision of any law.

(2) In the absence of such certificate, the carrier shall refuse to accept the consignment for transport.

- **Rule 97 - Cancellation of permit or authorisation for transport:**

*Note: Where any officers or authorized persons/organisations make a complaint due to any failure to follow the rules on transport of animals, then the permit which authorizes such transport will be cancelled. The police will then prevent further transport and proceed to act against the offenders.*

(1) In the event of contravention or non compliance of any of the rules contained in these rule for transport of animals, if it is pointed out in writing by any officer or persons or Animal Welfare Organisations authorised for this purpose by the Animal Welfare Board of India or the Central Government, then, any permit or authorisation issued for such transport shall be immediately cancelled by the concerned authority and it shall be the duty of the police to stop the further transport even from the intermediary station and proceed against the said offenders and deal with the animal in accordance with law.

(2) The custody of the animals immediately after unloading from the rail wagons, truck or any other vehicle shall be given to the authorised Animal Welfare Organisation if available, till the competent authority or the magistrate having jurisdiction decides about their care and upkeep.

- **Rule 98 - General conditions of transport:**

*(1) Animals being transported must be healthy and fit to travel. A qualified veterinary doctor must examine such animals to ensure that they are in good condition to travel, while considering the length and type of journey, and are not suffering any infectious or parasitic diseases. A carrier is obligated to refuse travel without such certificate.*

Animals to be transported shall be healthy and in good condition and such animals shall be examined by a veterinary doctor for freedom from infectious diseases and their fitness to undertake the journey; provided that the nature and duration of the proposed journey shall be taken into account while deciding upon the degree of fitness.

*(2) New-borne, diseased, blind, starving, lame or weary animals are prohibited from being transported, as are mothers who just gave birth. Any animal who is unfit for transport is prohibited from being transported.*

An animal which is unfit for transport shall not be transported and the animals who are new born, diseased, blind emaciated, lame, fatigued or having given birth during the preceding seventy two hours or likely to give birth during transport shall not be transported.

*(3) Pregnant animals and animals which are too young are prohibited from being mixed with other animals*

Pregnant and very young animals shall not be mixed with other animals during transport

*(4) Different classes of animals will be kept separately*

Different classes of animals shall be kept separately during transport.

*(5) Diseased or ill animals are prohibited from being mixed with other animals*

Diseased animals, whenever transported for treatment, shall not be mixed with other animals

*(6) Tranquilizers should administered to troublesome animals only*

Troublesome animals shall be given tranquilisers before loading during transport.

*(7) Social groups of animals must be maintained during transport*

Animals shall be transported in their on-farm social groups (established atleast one week prior to journey)