

Before Transport

- ▶ Animals should be dry (where possible) at loading.
- ▶ Liaise with processors in relation to delivery time.
- ▶ Withdraw feed for minimum 8, maximum 12 hours before slaughter - account for transport time and holding time in the factory lairage.
- ▶ Have free access to clean drinking water before transport.

Loading Livestock

- ▶ Only clean stock deemed fit for transport should be loaded.
- ▶ Only persons with experience of moving/handling stock should be involved in loading and unloading.
- ▶ Care should be taken during loading and unloading:
 - ▶ Minimise stress during loading/unloading.
 - ▶ Allow sheep to flow.
 - ▶ Remove potential distractions on loading ramp and/or alley.
 - ▶ Ensure correct handling to maintain animal welfare and avoid carcass damage.
- ▶ Avoid mixing groups or batches of livestock:
 - ▶ Use solid partitions/dividers to separate groups.
- ▶ Provide sufficient space for animals in transit (see Table 1).

Table 1.

Recommended space allowance for different categories of sheep

Category	Weight (kg)	Area in m ² /animal
Shorn	26 to 55	0.2 to 0.3
	over 55	over 0.3
Unshorn	under 55	0.3 to 0.4
	over 55	over 0.4

Ref: Council Regulation (EC) 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.

Clean Livestock Policy for Sheep

Sending dirty sheep to slaughter increases the contamination risk from harmful bacteria, putting our customers' health at risk.

Dirty sheep cost money and could damage the sheep meat and fleece markets

A guide for sheep transport



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Farmers, hauliers and processors have a role to play in reducing the risk of food contamination following transport of livestock. It is important to minimise the food safety risk associated with soiling of fleece with faecal material.

Hygiene during sheep transport is important to food safety. Cleanliness of the transport vehicle is important to avoid cross-contamination from previous loads and/or from chemical cleaning agents.

Unsuitable conditions during transport may result in lambs being downgraded in the factory to a lower cleanliness category. In the context of the clean livestock policy, practical steps to improve hygiene during transport include the following:



Vehicle and Haulier

- ▶▶ Ensure vehicles comply with relevant road safety laws and permissible weight limits.
- ▶▶ Sheep transporters must comply with EC (Animal Transport and Control Post) Regulations, S.I. No. 675/2006.
- ▶▶ For animals transported distances greater than 65 km, use only authorised hauliers.
- ▶▶ Vehicles should be roofed (where possible) and well ventilated.
- ▶▶ Vehicles should be clean, dry and disinfected before loading.
- ▶▶ Use absorbent materials on the floor where needed
- ▶▶ Where decks are in use, ensure that faeces /urine from higher decks do not soil sheep on lower decks.