



TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOL

Corresponds with Requirement 13.0

- All horses must be loaded, transported, and unloaded in a manner that is both humane and safe.
- All employees that perform or assist with transporting horses have been trained to adhere to this protocol.
- All individuals are expected to comply with all transport requirements in the Health of Animals Regulations. This document can be accessed at: <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/health-of-animals-regulations-part-xii>

Pre-Transport

- Horses are assessed for fitness prior to being loaded for transport with consideration of all relevant transport factors (e.g., total duration of anticipated trip, prevailing weather conditions).
 - Unfit horses are not transported, except to receive veterinary care on the advice of a veterinarian.
 - *(If the facility cares for gestating mares)* Mares in the last 10% of their gestation periods are not transported.
- If the expected duration of the horse's transport time without access to feed or water is longer than 24 hours, horses must be fed and watered within 4 hours of being loaded.
- The individual doing the transporting must provide written proof of a contingency plan to _____ (who) before leaving the property. This contingency plan must include:
 - A plan for unforeseen delays or circumstances that might compromise the animal's welfare
 - A plan for if an animal becomes compromised at any point during loading, travel, and unloading



Loading

- All horses must be handled and loaded by those who are knowledgeable in this process.
- Horses must be loaded in a humane manner. This means a horse cannot be:
 - beaten, struck, whipped, or kicked, particularly if it does not have a clear path to move forward
 - moved using an electric prod
 - dragged
 - lifted or moved by its tail
- Horses must be loaded and unloaded in a safe environment using chutes and ramps that are appropriate for horses, as needed. Loading areas should be well-lit and non-slip.
 - Ramps, gangways, chutes, and other pathways used to load horses cannot have a slope exceeding 30°

During Transport

- Horses may only be shipped in containers that are an appropriate size (i.e. the horse must be able to stand on all four feet with its head raised, have a full range of head motion, and not touch the ceiling)
 - Horses must also be able to move in a way that allows them to avoid injury and crushing/trampling.
 - Horses should not be shipped in vehicles with multiple decks.
- Adequate ventilation and protection from weather for the full duration of the trip must be ensured.
- Horses must be transported on an appropriate bedding material to absorb liquid waste.
- Incompatible animals must be safely separated from one another. In particular, mares with its suckling offspring, and mature stallions must be segregated from all other animals during transport.
- Horses must not be without access to feed, water, or rest for more than 28 hours, after which they must have a rest period of at least 8 consecutive hours before resuming their journey.



Unloading

- Horses must be loaded and unloaded in a safe environment using chutes and ramps that are appropriate for horses, as needed. Unloading areas should be well-lit and non-slip.
 - Ramps, gangways, chutes, and other pathways used to unload horses cannot have a slope exceeding 30°
- Horses are individually assessed upon arrival to the facility
- Horses are provided water upon arrival to the facility.