

## TRANSPORT OF HORSES

The GRA is committed to the welfare of the racehorse during all aspects of their career. Accordingly, the following protocol has been established to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect and promote the welfare, safety and well-being of racehorses while travelling to and from the racecourse.

### International transportation

- 1) Long distance international movement of race horses is usually managed by professional Shipping Agents who have the primary responsibility for the safety and welfare of race horses during transportation.
- 2) While professional Shipping Agents generally manage horses during transportation to a very high standard, the GRA will check that Shipping Agents have systems and procedures in place to:
  - a) Ensure compliance with relevant regulations on Air Transport such as IATA Live Animals Regulations 1 and International Air Transportation Association (IATA) guidelines on air safety and cargo requirements.
  - b) Strive to achieve best international practice with respect to duration of journeys, assessment of veterinary suitability to travel and provision of feed water and safe areas for rest and recovery during prolonged journeys.
  - c) Educate and train personnel in the safe and humane transportation of horses

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## **Local transportation**

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION OF HORSES**

#### **Requirements of Horse transport vehicle:**

- 1) Provide adequate ventilation, cooling systems, and protection from exhaust emissions within the horse compartments.
- 2) Ensure there is adequate side and top padding to protect horses' hips and heads during transit.
- 3) Facilitate easy and effective cleansing and disinfection.
- 4) Have strong non-slip, safe flooring.
- 4) Eliminate overhead hazards in horse compartments.
- 5) Eliminate gaps that may entrap a horse's limb as far as is possible.
- 6) Have secure door closing systems.
- 9) Have loading ramps that are secure and safe.
- 10) Incorporate human safety facilities and design features.
- 11) Incorporate fire risk minimisation design features and procedures.

#### **Contingency Plan of Transportation Operators**

The GRA will require that any company or individual involved in the commercial transportation of registered Thoroughbred horses have contingency plans to manage incidents that may occur during the transportation of horses including, but not limited to:

- a) Vehicle breakdown
- b) Transportation in adverse weather conditions
- c) Injuries to horses that occur during loading, travelling, and unloading
- d) Loss of air-conditioning / ventilation
- e) Traffic accidents
- f) Natural disasters such as fires, flooding, or storms
- g) Injury to the personnel accompanying horses

**To maintain good health and welfare during transport:**

- 1) Each animal should be provided with sufficient space to maintain its balance in order to reduce the risk of injury and stress
- 2) The vehicle should be well-ventilated to help prevent respiratory problems or overheating
- 3) The animal should not be transported in very high temperatures, or high humidity, as there is a risk of the animal overheating
- 4) The vehicle's loading ramp should not be steeper than an angle of 20 degrees (36.4% to the horizontal), and a means to aid the animal in climbing up or going down the ramp should be present (e.g. foot battens)
- 5) Anti-slip flooring (e.g. rubber matting) should be present within the vehicle and on the ramp
- 6) Side barriers should be used on the ramp to prevent falls
- 7) The ceiling height should be at least 75cm above the wither to avoid injury
- 8) The vehicle should be driven slowly and carefully to provide a comfortable journey for the animal and reduce the risk of injury and fatigue.