

# CLITHEROE AUCTION MART CO LTD

## Guidance for the handling of poultry at markets

**The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and The Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 requires poultry to be handled and transported in the following way:**

### **Poultry handlers must not:**

- Lift or carry poultry by the head, neck, wing or tail.
- Tie or bind poultry by the neck, leg or wing.
- Use only one hand when catching, lifting and carrying poultry - you should always use both hands to support the bird.
- Carry poultry in a sack or bag. You must use only rigid containers with enough space and ventilation.
- Carry poultry head downwards.
- Transport poultry in containers with other types of livestock.
- Expose unfit poultry for sale.
- Cause suffering to poultry at any time.

### **When transporting poultry always remember that:**

- Poultry and animals quickly overheat during warm weather in vehicles. Do not leave them in your vehicles as they could die. Failure to comply with this specific advice could result in prosecution for causing unnecessary suffering.
- The means of transport should be designed, constructed, maintained and operated to avoid injury and suffering and ensure the safety of the animals.
- Rigid containers must be of a sufficient size, strength and design to prevent the poultry from injury and unnecessary suffering while contained within.
- Containers should always be carried upright and you should make sure that heads, legs and wings are unable to protrude.
- Receptacles shall be labelled to indicate they contain live birds and marked with a sign indicating the receptacles upright position.
- You must not overcrowd the container and should avoid jolting or shaking it. Containers should be secured so as to prevent displacement.
- Ensure there is always an adequate supply of fresh air into the container.
- Transport of poultry over 65km and under eight hours requires the transporter to be authorised (different rules apply for animals being transported over eight hours) and requires an Animal Transport Document to be filled in for each journey.
- As from 05/01/08 drivers or attendants responsible for the transport of farmed poultry over 65km must hold a valid certificate of competence.

**Note:** a journey starts from a place where animals are first loaded and have been accommodated for at least 48 hours.

For further details of the legal requirements relating to the transportation of animals please contact the your local animal health office.

## **Handle with care**

Three simple rules for better poultry handling:

1. Use both hands.
2. Enclose the wings and support all the bird's weight in your hands.
3. Ask for help with box lids and cage doors.

## **Remember**

This is the correct way to handle poultry at a market. Further advice is available from the animal health inspector on duty at the market.

## **What are the consequences of non-compliance?**

*Failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence. The maximum penalty on conviction is a fine of £5,000 and/or one month's imprisonment.*

**STAFF WILL NOT UNLOCK CAGES FOR PURCHASERS WITHOUT BOXES OR CARRIERS WHICH ARE SUITABLE**

# **Guidance for the purchasers of hatching eggs at market**

Under auction stipulations all hatching eggs are sold as such with a guarantee from the vendor that they are not knowingly infertile or knowingly have already been in an incubator.

In cases where there is a problem with over 50% of the eggs in one lot sold, the auction will endeavor to resolve the issue with the vendor on behalf of the purchaser.

However, this can only happen when the problem is notified to the office within 7 days of purchasing the eggs and not beyond this period of time.

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