

Baku city

The Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Decision

No: 03:7/531

Date: June 11, 2026

**On strengthening epizootological surveillance to protect the territory of the country
from infectious animal diseases potentially transmitted
from foreign countries**

Recently, the trend of the spread of especially dangerous infectious animal diseases in various countries indicates an increase in epizootic risks. Under these circumstances, insufficient biosafety measures during the transportation of animals-including high-density crowding, inadequate ventilation conditions, violations of sanitary-hygienic norms, and improper disinfection of transport vehicles-can create favorable conditions for the spread of pathogens, and consequently, significantly increase the risk of deterioration of the epizootic situation within the territory of the country. The failure of transport vehicles to meet relevant requirements and loading norms reduces the effectiveness of border veterinary control over animals during import and transit transportation, thereby enabling especially dangerous animal diseases to penetrate the country's territory.

Crowding animals during transport, failing to provide proper ventilation regimes, prolonged stress, and physical injuries lead to violations of animal welfare principles.

This, in turn, creates conditions for both the weakening of the animals' immune status and an increase in their susceptibility to diseases. According to the current recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the design and equipment of vehicles in accordance with the species, age, size, and live weight of animals-particularly in the process of transporting large and small ruminants-is of vital importance in terms of protecting their health and minimizing stress factors.

To this end, pursuant to sub-clauses 3.0.33-2 and 3.0.33-4 of the "Regulations on the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan," approved by Decree No. 1681 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated November 13, 2017,

I HEREBY DECIDE:

1. Effective January 1, 2027, the transportation of animals imported into the country shall be carried out in specialized transport vehicles that meet the requirements of the "Terrestrial Animal Health Code" of the World Organisation for Animal Health.

2. The period until January 1, 2027, shall be designated as a preparatory phase, during which the transportation of imported animals in adapted vehicles shall be permitted strictly on a single-deck allocation, up to a maximum limit of 60 heads for large ruminants and 150 heads for small ruminants.
3. Depending on the species of animals, the area density norms per animal in specialized transport vehicles shall be established as follows:

For large ruminants:

Approximate live weight of the animal (kg)	Area norm per animal (m2/animal)
> 50	0.30
50–80	0.30–0.40
81–110	0.40–0.70
111–200	0.70–0.95
201–325	0.95–1.30
236–550	1.30–1.60
551–700 and above	> 1.60

For small ruminants:

Category	Live Weight (kg)	Area (m2/animal)
Shorn sheep and lambs weighing 26 kg and more	< 55	0.20–0.30
	> 55	> 0.30
Unshorn sheep	< 55	0.30–0.40
	> 55	> 0.40
Sheep in late pregnancy	< 55	0.40–0.50
	> 55	> 0.50
Goats	< 35	0.20–0.30
	35–55	0.30–0.40
	> 55	0.40–0.75
Goats in late pregnancy	< 55	0.40–0.50
	> 55	> 0.50

4. An official request shall be addressed to the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan to ensure the implementation of this Decision.
5. The Information Support and Innovative Solutions Department of the Agency's Headquarters shall ensure the placement of this Decision on the official website of the Agency.
6. The Import and Export Control Department of the Agency's Headquarters shall ensure that importers are duly informed regarding the implementation of this Decision.

7. The International Relations Department of the Agency's Headquarters shall ensure that exporting countries are duly informed regarding the implementation of this Decision.
8. The Strategic Planning, Coordination, and Implementation Control Department of the Agency's Headquarters shall ensure that copies of this Decision are dispatched to the structural units of the Agency's Headquarters, regional branches, the Food Safety Agency of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and relevant state bodies.

**Head of the Animal Health and Biosafety Department,
Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the
Republic of Azerbaijan**

Galib Abdulaliyev