To: Live animal exporters, transporters, drivers/attendants and all operators organising or carrying out long journeys for the purpose of transporting livestock to other Member States.

Re: Introduction of new rules for assembly operations of livestock under the Animal Health Law *(Article 43, Delegated Regulation 688/2020)*

This notice is provided for advice only, is not legally binding, and is without prejudice to the rights and obligations on various parties set out in the relevant legislation.

Measures

- To reflect a change in rules for assembly centres introduced by the Animal Health Law (Regulation (EU) 2016/429), and its associated legislation including Commission Delegated Regulation 688 of 2020, the Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) Division will update assembly centre movement rules to include the new EU 14-day movement requirement, which is as follows: 'the period of time between the date of departure of each of the livestock animals from its establishment of origin and the date of its departure from the establishment approved for assembly operations in the Member State of origin to another Member State shall be no longer than 14 days' (Article 43 (1)(b) of Commission Delegated Regulation 688 of 2020 – see *Annex II*)

  Live animal exporters and assembly centre owners should be aware that this change will **take effect from 18 May 2022.**

  Operators must ensure that the animals are not subjected to more than three assembly operations and that those assembly operations are carried out on establishments approved for assembly operations (Article 43 (1) of Commission Delegated Regulation 688 of 2020 -see *Annex II*).

- Each livestock animal subjected to those assembly operations is moved to their final place of destination in another Member State at the latest within 20 days after the date of leaving the establishment of origin. In the case of transport by sea of animals, the period of 20 days may be extended by the duration of the journey by sea (Article 43 (1)(a) of Commission Delegated Regulation 688 of 2020 – see *Annex II*)

- Article 45 of Commission Delegated Regulation 688 of 2020 requires that operators of establishments approved for assembly operations must ensure that the establishment or separate accommodation areas within the establishment are emptied of animals and cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals not longer than 14 days of uninterrupted use (see *Annex II*). In addition, the tyres of the means of transport, from which animals are unloaded or onto which animals are loaded, are disinfected before leaving the establishment.

Entry into force:
28/03/2022

Annex I – Definitions

Definitions from Animal Health Law	**'Assembly operation'** means the assembling of kept terrestrial animals from more than one establishment for a period shorter than the required residency period for the species of animals concerned. '**Establishment**' means any premises, structure, or, in the case of open-air farming, any environment or place, where animals or germinal products are kept, on a temporary or permanent basis, except for: (a) households where pet animals are kept; (b) veterinary practices or clinics;

Annex II - Legislation

Commission Delegated Regulation 688 of 2020	***Chapter 4*** ***Assembly operations in respect of kept ungulates and poultry*** *Article 43* **Specific rules for assembly operations of kept ungulates and poultry** 1. During the movement of kept ungulates and poultry from the establishment of origin to an establishment in the Member State of destination, operators shall ensure that the animals are not subjected to more than three assembly operations and that those assembly operations are carried out on establishments approved for assembly operations or on means of transport in accordance with Article 44 under the following conditions: (a) each of the kept ungulates and poultry subjected to those assembly operations is moved to their final place of destination in another Member State at the latest within 20 days after the date of leaving the establishment of origin; (b) the period of time between the date of departure of each of the kept ungulates and poultry from its establishment of origin and the date of its departure from the establishment approved for assembly operations in the Member State of origin to another Member State shall be no longer than 14 days. 2. On request by the competent authority, the operator requesting the animal health certificate in order to comply with Article 143(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 shall provide a movement history, including all assembly operations, of the animals forming the consignment since their departure from the establishment of origin. 3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1(a), in the case of transport by waterway/sea of animals, the period of 20 days laid down in paragraph 1(a), may be extended by the duration of the journey by waterway/sea.

Commission Delegated Regulation 688 of 2020	*Article 45* **Detailed rules for biosecurity measures for assembly operations** 1. Operators of establishments approved for assembly operations shall ensure that (a)the establishment or epidemiologically separate animal accommodation areas within the establishment are emptied of animals and cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals not exceeding 14 days of uninterrupted occupation; (b)the tyres of the means of transport, from which animals are unloaded or onto which animals are loaded, are disinfected before leaving the establishment. 2. Operators carrying out assembly operations of kept ungulates or poultry on means of transport shall ensure that the tyres of the means of transport are disinfected before leaving the establishment of origin.

End.