



# APC Overnight Limited Code of Practice for the Transport of Live Fish.

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## 1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out APC Overnight's approved Code of Practice which must be adhered to by Depots and Suppliers when transporting live fish.

## 2 Scope

- 2.1 The code of practice applies to all APC Overnight Depots, Hauliers and Suppliers who may be involved either directly or indirectly in the transport of live fish.

## 3 Definitions

Consignor

## 4 References

- 4.1 Environment Agency Fisheries Technical Services Fact Sheet  
4.2 Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association Ltd Code of Practice

## 5 Associated documents

- 5.1 Table of associated documents.

Document title	Description	Location
Live fish transport driver card	Instruction card issued to all drivers transporting live fish for or on behalf of APC Overnight	Master document held by APC Overnight HSE Department.  Issued to all drivers who carry live fish

## 6 General Principles

- 6.1 Aquatic organisms must be transported in such containers, under such conditions, in particular with regard to space, temperature, and with such supply of water and oxygen appropriate for the species concerned.
- 6.2 No fish shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey.
- 6.3 Transport of aquatic organisms should be undertaken in a manner that does not cause unnecessary stress or compromise their disease status.

## 7 Supplier.

- 7.1 Preparation for Transport
- 7.1.1 No live fish should be despatched unless in direct response to an order that has been received.
- 7.1.2 Only live fish determined to be in good health, so far as is reasonably practicable to determine without the veterinary inspection, should be considered for transport.
- 7.1.3 As appropriate to size, age and species of the fish concerned food may be withdrawn prior to transport.
- 7.1.4 Fish should ordinarily be packed to survive double the intended transport time in the UK. For transport by APC Overnight, this equates to 48 hours.
- 7.2 The responsibility for the welfare of the fish lies with the packer.
- 7.3 Containers
- 7.3.1 Live fish should be packed within a thick, leak proof plastic bag of at least 500 gauge. This should then be packed into an outer bag (double bagged) of the same specification.

- 7.3.2 The inner bag should be filled with water from the same source as the fish until it is approximately 20 to 30% full. Do not overfill as this will reduce the level of oxygen within the bag.
- 7.3.3 Ideally the volume of fish should not exceed 10% of the volume of water. The live fish should be placed in the inner bag at the last available moment before transport. The inner bag should then be inflated to its maximum capacity with air or, if available, oxygen. The bag should then be sealed so that it is airtight by twisting the neck of the bag, fold over and secure with strong elastic bands, tape or commercial bag ties.
- 7.3.4 The inner bag should then be placed into the outer bag and this should be sealed as above. The bags should be smoothed out and the corners taped to avoid the live fish becoming trapped.
- 7.3.5 Both bags should then be placed within a polystyrene container or a cardboard box lined with polystyrene to maintain the water temperature for as long as possible.
- 7.3.6 The container or box should be clearly marked on the outside as LIVE FISH, preferably on all sides of the box in order that this can be clearly seen however the box is placed within a cage or on a pallet. The container or box will also have orientation arrows or "this side up" clearly displayed on the outer surface.
- 7.4 Documentation to Accompany Consignments
- 7.4.1 All documentation is prepared containing the following information:
- Origin and owner.
  - Place of departure.
  - Date and time of departure.
  - Intended place of destination.
  - Expected duration of the intended journey.
  - Name of person responsible for transport.

## **8 Depots**

- 8.1 The Depot will issue a copy of this Code of Practice to all existing and prospective customers who wish to transport live fish.
- 8.2 Live fish will only be manifested on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday unless after a bank holiday which will be Wednesday, Thursday.
- 8.3 All live fish accounts will be sent by timed/security service only.
- 8.4 All Depots will comply with this Code of Practice and HS033 Transport of Live Fish Procedure at all times.
- 8.5 Where a delay to the delivery is identified which may extend the journey beyond 24 hours, the Transportation of Live Fish Contingency Plan will be adopted. This is attached at Appendix A of HS033 Transport of Live Fish Procedure, which is provided to all APC Overnight Limited's Depots.