

# Role of assembly centres



## What is an assembly centre?

Animals are often first brought from a farm to an assembly centre. Animals are assembled at these centres for a short stay before being selected and sorted for the right destination.



## Why use assembly centres

Livestock assembly centres are strategically located throughout the Netherlands. This enables animals to be assembled regionally and avoids lengthy transport.

There is also a lot of variation between the livestock transported from farms, so the final destination is often still unknown. Buyers want to receive larger groups of animals with uniform characteristics. Animals are sorted into groups at the assembly centre. This is also where the destination of the animals is determined.

## Role and functions



### Selection

- Animals are sorted into similar groups.



### Animal welfare

- A time for rest and care between journeys.
- Animals always have access to water and are housed on clean straw.
- Sorting into uniform groups is essential for better care and supervision during transport and on farms.



### Inspections

- Inspections for animal health, animal welfare and identification and registration.



### Efficiency

- Assembly centres prevent unnecessarily long transport times. This is better for the animals and the climate.



### Social factor

- Meeting place to share professional information and maintain contacts.



There are **over 60** approved assembly centres in the Netherlands.

## Laws and regulations

### Assembly centres:

- must be approved by the official authority.

### Regular inspections:

- to ensure compliance with the regulations

### Important requirements:

- only one category of animals may be assembled at the same time.
- cleaning and disinfection take place after each assembly operation to prevent the spread of disease.
- employees must complete a mandatory, NVWA-approved training.



## More information?

Watch our video about the indispensable role of assembly centres.

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