

Good Animal Welfare in Stock Transport Is A *Shared* Responsibility!

New animal welfare laws for stock transport are likely to come into effect in 2009. Use this guide to make sure you're ready. Ever-changing attitudes to animal welfare mean that the reputation of the Australian meat and livestock industry is on the line. It's a professional industry, but we all have a role to play. Working together with the best techniques ensures good outcomes for the stock and higher returns for the industry.

9 Stock Preparation Rules for Producers and Agents:

1. Understand that livestock stress in transport is *cumulative*. The truck journey will always be tougher on stock that are *already stressed*. Producers, agents, saleyards and feedlots have a role to play in reducing this stress before the journey. Your efforts in preparing stock well for transport will ensure animals are in good condition on arrival, this will reduce stress levels, skin staining, bruising, downers, and deaths.

2. Only present stock to the carrier that are fit for the intended journey You have a responsibility to the carrier to present stock in the right condition for travel. If any stock are sick, injured, diseased, blind, severely lame, severely emaciated or heavily pregnant they should not travel. Such stock often go down on the journey and drag fit stock down with them. Draft them out and care for them appropriately *before* loading.

3. Don't conduct high-stress activities immediately before loading

Crutching, dipping, drenching or dehorning stock should be avoided close to loading as these activities cause higher pre-trip stress levels. Ear tagging prior to loading should be avoided, however if some stock have lost NLIS tags they must be applied before the animal leaves the property.

4. Yard your stock well before loading Never run stock straight out of the paddock to the trucks. Bring stock into yards at least 12 hours prior to transport if possible, preferably the night before. Ensure that suitable watering facilities are available. Yarded stock settle better and therefore travel much better.

5. 'Empty out' your stock before they travel Stock that are full of water and green feed never travel as well as drained stock that have had access to dry feed (ie good quality dry hay/grower pellets). Stock full of green feed will empty out quicker during transport and then become stressed, weak and unsteady. Urine and dung can stain wool and skins, reducing value and causing slipping, which may lead to downers and deaths. Take your stock off feed and water for at least 12 hours before the journey, where possible and strictly comply with maximum time off water for the intended journey (refer to rule 8 below). Under the *Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Export of Livestock*, any livestock entering the export supply chain are only allowed to be off feed and water for up to 12 hours prior to the journey.

6. Use professional stock carriers who are competent in stock handling and loading and who work with well-maintained equipment that is designed for the species to be carried. Ask your carrier about TruckCare - the audited stock carrying quality assurance system (for a list of accredited carriers visit www.alta.org.au)

7. Take special care with drought-affected stock When stock are already weakened through drought, stress levels and the risk of downers and deaths increase. Follow good practices and have selected stock properly prepared well in advance for these trips. Withholding food and water from drought affected livestock can be a risk and should only be carried out after careful consideration of the intended journey and stock condition. *Never* let your fodder levels get so low that you can't yard and prepare stock properly prior to final transport. If in doubt, make the decision to remove drought-affected stock earlier rather than later.

8. Strict 'maximum time off water' rules exist – abide by them!

Different species/classes of stock are permitted different maximum water deprivation times. This is a vital aspect of animal welfare in stock transport and you must know the rules. In 2009, these maximums are set to become law in all States and territories and in that event all parties will be responsible for abiding by them.

Maximum times off water Consistent with draft legislation and current standards and guidelines for stock exports.

Species/Class	Max time off water	Extensions available?	Notes
Cattle (over 6 months)	48 hours	no extensions	Stock are assessed as travelling well and can complete the journey in good condition and driving conditions are favourable. Stock must then be spelled and provided with food, water and rest for min. 36 hrs prior to commencing another journey.
Young cattle (Under 6 months)	24 hours	No extensions	Stock are assessed as travelling well and can complete the journey in good condition and driving conditions are favourable. Stock must then be spelled and provided with food, water and rest for min. 12 hrs prior to commencing another journey.
Sheep (over 4 months) Goats (over 6 months)	48 hours	No extensions	Stock are assessed as travelling well and can complete the journey in good condition and driving conditions are favourable. Stock must then be spelled and provided with food, water and rest for min. 36 hrs prior to commencing another journey.
Lambs / Sheep (Under 4 months) Kids (under 6 months)	28 hours	No extensions	Stock are assessed as travelling well and can complete the journey in good condition and driving conditions are favourable. Stock must then be spelled and provided with food, water and rest for min. 12 hrs prior to commencing another journey.
Species/Class	Max time off water	Extensions available?	Notes
			Australian Standards for Exporting of Livestock (ASEL) only. Animals transported for live export, unlike abattoir, need an opportunity for full recovery from water deprivation prior to boat loading, so standards are higher.
Cattle (over 6 months)	36 hours	48 hours	Stock are assessed as travelling well and can complete the journey in good condition and driving conditions are favourable. Stock must then be spelled and provided with food and water for min. 36 hrs post- transport recovery.
Sheep (over 6 months)	32 hours	extension 38 hours	Extension only allowed if stock are travelling well and not showing signs of fatigue, thirst or distress; If adverse weather conditions not prevailing or predicted; Animals must be rested with feed and water for at least 12 hours post-transport.
Goats (over 12 months)	Max 32 hours	Extension up to 38 hours	Extension only allowed if stock are travelling well and not showing signs of fatigue, thirst or distress; If adverse weather conditions not prevailing or predicted; Animals must be rested with feed and water for at least 12 hours post-transport.
Lambs under 6 months and kids under 12 months	Max 20 hours	Extension up to 28 hours	Extension allowed if stock are travelling well and not showing signs of fatigue, thirst or distress; If adverse weather cond. not prevailing or predicted; Animals must be rested with feed and water for at least 12 hours post-transport.

9. Only load the livestock to approved density guidelines Whether loading your own stock or using a professional carrier, the following densities are the recommended guidelines under the current Australian codes of practice. They will also become guidelines under new stock transport laws from 2009. Follow these guidelines, ensure all internal pens of the crate are secured and only consider varying from guidelines to allow for sheep in full wool versus shorn, horned stock versus poll and extremes of temperature *en route*.

An industry initiative brought to you by the:



Cattle

Mean liveweight (kg)	Minimum floor area (m ² /head)	Number of head per 12.5 m x 2.4m deck
100	0.31	97
150	0.42	71
200	0.53	56
250	0.77	38
300	0.86	34
350	0.98	30
400	1.05	28
450	1.13	26
500	1.23	24
550	1.34	22
600	1.47	20
650	1.63	18

Sheep

Mean liveweight (kg)	Minimum floor area (m ² /head) ^a	Number of head per 12.5 m x 2.4m deck
20	0.17	176
30	0.19	157
40	0.22	136
50	0.25	120
60	0.29	103

^a Based on average liveweight, wool of 25 mm length, and no horns

Goats

Mean liveweight (kg)	Minimum floor area (m ² /head)	Number of head per 12.5 m x 2.4m deck
20	0.15	200
30	0.17	176
40	0.22	136
50	0.25	120
60	0.28	107

Pigs

Average liveweights (kg)	Pen Length				Space Allowance (m ² /head)
	3m Min Number of Head	3m Max Number of Head	4m Min Number of Head	4m Max Number of Head	
50	30	33	40	44	0.22
75	21	25	31	34	0.29
100	19	21	25	28	0.35
125	15	19	21	23	0.42
150	13	15	18	20	0.48
175	12	13	16	18	0.55
200	11	13	14	16	0.61

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