



EXPORT ADVISORY NOTICE – 2007-19			21 September 2007
Title:	Export of goats by sea		
Species:	Goats		
Country:	All destinations	File No.	2007/00655
Relevant to:	[1] AQIS Live Animal Exports Officers [2] Livestock Exporters [3] Livecorp [4] Registered Premises operators		

Purpose

To replace EAN 2006-02 issued on 7 June 2006. (The additional revisions are in bold)

To advise exporters and registered premises operators of conditions which AQIS are placing on approvals of a Notice of Intention (NOI) and Consignment risk management plan (CRMP) for the export of goats by sea.

Background

Goats being exported are at risk of high mortality rate if not accustomed to drinking and feeding from troughs and accustomed to the ration to be fed on board the vessel.

Version 1 of the Australian Standard for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) includes the following:

ASEL S1.20.

Captured feral goats must not be sourced for export unless they have been accustomed to being handled and to eating and drinking from troughs for a minimum of 21 days before transfer to pre-embarkation registered premises.

Even if goats are prepared in accordance with the ASEL, there is a considerable risk of high number of mortalities during sea transport. A high number of deaths could be caused by, but are not limited to, goats not being adapted to drinking from troughs and feed related health problems including enterotoxaemia, salmonellosis, acidosis and indigestion.

AQIS is placing the following conditions on the approval of the NOI / CRMPs for goat exports by sea:

- a 5 clear day minimum period in the registered premises
- the exclusive feeding of the shipboard ration for the 5 clear days prior to leaving the registered premises for loading.
- **The shipboard ration must include a minimum of 200 grams of chaff or hay per day per goat.**

The longer time of feeding the shipboard ration in the registered premises is likely to increase the chance of adaption to the shipboard ration and provide a better chance to detect a potential problem before the consignment leaves the registered premises.

AQIS may also require an AQIS accredited shipboard veterinarian to accompany consignments of goats exported by sea. The physical signs and post mortem findings of the causes of feed related health problems are similar and difficult to distinguish. The purpose of placing an on board veterinarian is to monitor and report on the health of the consignment of goats and to evaluate the causes of death. The investigation of the high levels of mortalities was hampered by a lack of post mortem information on the definitive cause of deaths.

Instruction

1. AQIS will be applying the following conditions on the approval of NOI and CRMPs for all goats exported by sea:
 - a) *Goats to be exported by sea are held at one premises for 5 clear days (excluding the day of arrival and departure) before export and*
 - b) *Goats are fed ad libitum during that period and only on **shipboard ration** equivalent to that normally used during the export journey.*
 - c) ***The shipboard ration must include a minimum of 200 grams of chaff or hay per day per goat.***

In addition to the two conditions above, AQIS may require the following:

- d) *An AQIS accredited veterinarian must accompany the consignment on the export voyage.*

To confirm the goats are held in the registered premises for the 5 days and fed appropriately, AQIS officers will inspect the consignment at the registered premises on at least 2 occasions during the preparation. The first inspection will be scheduled on the day of commencement of the exclusive feeding of the shipboard ration. The exporter must submit a NOI/CRMP well in advance of the commencement of the 5 days feeding of shipboard ration at the registered premises to allow for AQIS officers to schedule an inspection at the appropriate times.



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