

Standard 5 — Onboard management of livestock

Guiding principle

Onboard facilities, management and husbandry must be adequate to maintain the health and welfare of livestock throughout the sea voyage.

Required outcomes

- The voyage is completed safely.
- Adequate livestock services are maintained throughout the voyage.
- Onboard care and management of the livestock is adequate to maintain their health and welfare throughout the voyage.
- Statutory reporting requirements are met, both during and after the voyage.

Overview

Onboard management covers the period from the time the first animal is loaded onto the vessel until the last animal is unloaded at the port of disembarkation. Provisions should exist to ensure that animal health and welfare interventions are undertaken where necessary to treat or euthanase sick or injured animals.

Once loading begins at the point of embarkation, the master of the vessel assumes overall responsibility for the management and care of the livestock during transport on the vessel. This responsibility continues until the point of disembarkation. It includes the provision of satisfactory livestock services such as ventilation, food, water, drainage and lighting.

Where an accredited veterinarian is required to accompany the consignment, that person is responsible for monitoring and regular reporting of consignment conditions on board during and after the voyage.

Accredited stock persons accompanying the consignment are responsible for providing appropriate care and management of the livestock on board during the voyage.

Livestock vessels carry crew in sufficient numbers with experience in the care of animals to satisfactorily provide for their tending, feeding and watering, as well as assisting the accredited stock person(s) and/or veterinarian onboard in their responsibilities during the voyage.

After the livestock have been loaded on board the vessel and all requirements have been met, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) will issue the health certificate and export permit.

These Standards are relevant to each stage of the livestock export chain and should be reflected in relevant quality assurance programs. Livestock sourced for export must meet any requirement under a law of a state or territory. State and territory governments are responsible for ensuring that these jurisdictional requirements are met under respective state and territory legislation. AQIS must be satisfied that importing country requirements and the Standards have been met before issuing a health certificate and export permit.

Further details regarding roles and responsibilities and the export chain process are outlined in the Australian Position Statement on the Export of Livestock (www.daff.gov.au/livestockexportstandards).

Linkages to other parts of the live export chain

Only fit and healthy animals that comply with these Standards and importing country requirements may be presented for loading onto the vessel at the port of embarkation.

At disembarkation, the master of the vessel transfers responsibility for the animals to the importer in the importing country, and should provide details of the voyage that may affect the future health and welfare of the livestock.

Definitions

Accredited stock person means a stock person who is accredited by LiveCorp for the shipboard husbandry of livestock.

Accredited veterinarian means a veterinarian who is accredited by AQIS to carry out duties in relation to the export of livestock.

A day for reporting purposes means 24 hours commencing at 12 noon.

Day one (1) of the voyage means the first day at sea after leaving the first port of loading.

Long haul means any journey greater or equal to ten (10) days.

Notifiable incident means an incident that has the potential to cause serious harm to the health and welfare of animals. A notifiable incident includes, but is not limited to:

- a shipboard mortality rate equal to or greater than a reportable level;
- disablement of ventilation, feeding and/or watering systems on a vessel carrying livestock, causing a serious adverse effect on animal welfare;
- rejection of livestock at an overseas port;
- diagnosis or strong suspicion of an emergency disease in a consignment of livestock;
- marine casualty of a vessel carrying livestock;
- disablement of a vessel carrying livestock, such that assistance is required for return to port;
- an act of terrorism or piracy; and/or
- any other incident that has a serious adverse effect on animal health and welfare.

Reportable level means, in respect of any species, the percentage listed below or three (3) animals, whichever is the greater number of animals:

- sheep and goats: two (2) per cent;
- cattle and buffalo, voyages ≥ 10 days: one (1) per cent;
- cattle and buffalo, voyages < 10 days: zero point five (0.5) per cent;
- camelids: more than three (3) deaths;
- deer: more than three (3) deaths.

Shipboard mortality rate refers to any species, and means the percentage determined by dividing the number of deaths of that species occurring while on the vessel (including during loading and unloading) by the total number of that species loaded, and multiplying the resulting figure by 100.

Version 2.1— Standard for onboard management of livestock

Number	Standard
S5.1	<p>The onboard management of livestock for export by sea must ensure that the health, welfare and physical needs of livestock are met during the voyage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) An accredited stock person must accompany each consignment of livestock and must remain with the consignment until the vessel has completed discharging at the final port of discharge. (b) An accredited veterinarian must accompany each consignment of livestock where required by the relevant Australian Government agency and must remain with the consignment until the vessel has completed discharging at the final port of discharge. (c) Accredited stock persons and/or veterinarians must work with the vessel's master and crew to maintain the health and welfare of the livestock on board. (d) All personnel handling and caring for livestock or who are otherwise responsible for animals during the voyage must be able to demonstrate an adequate level of experience and skill to allow them to undertake their duties.
S5.2	<p>Any livestock for export identified after loading as being sick or injured must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be given immediate treatment; and (b) be killed humanely and without delay, where euthanasia is necessary.
S5.3	<p>The consignment must be checked before departure to ensure that the livestock have been loaded according to the loading plan.</p>
S5.4	<p>All livestock for export must be offered feed and water as soon as possible after being loaded on the vessel, and within no more than twelve (12) hours.</p>
S5.5	<p>All livestock on the vessel must have access to adequate water of a quality to maintain good health and suitable feed to satisfy their energy requirements, taking into consideration any particular needs of the livestock species, class and age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) There must be a contingency plan to provide satisfactory tending, feeding and watering of the livestock in the event of a malfunction of the automatic feeding or watering systems, but without compromising the safe navigation of the vessel. (b) Adequate feed and water must be supplied to livestock waiting to be discharged, and during the discharge period.

Number	Standard
S5.6	<p>Livestock and livestock services on the vessel must be regularly inspected (day and night) to ensure that the health and welfare of the livestock are maintained while the livestock are on the vessel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A meeting must be held daily to discuss all issues relating to the health and welfare of the livestock. This must include the master and/or the master's representative, accredited stock person and veterinarian. (b) Livestock must be systematically inspected to assess their health and welfare. (c) Feed and water supply systems must be monitored day and night and maintained in good order. (d) The pen stocking density must be checked regularly throughout the voyage and adjustments made as required. (e) Ventilation must be monitored regularly each day to ensure adequate thermoregulation of the livestock. (f) Washing down of decks and disposal of faeces and litter must be carried out with regard to the health and welfare of livestock.
S5.7	<p>Any livestock identified as being sick or injured must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) be given prompt treatment; (b) be transferred to a hospital pen, if required; and (c) if necessary, be euthanased humanely and without delay (the carcasses of any dead livestock must be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of Annex V of MARPOL 73/78¹).
S5.8	<p>Veterinary drugs must be stored and used according to veterinary directions and manufacturers' recommendations, and treatment records must be maintained.</p>
S5.9	<p>When bedding is used, it must be maintained in adequate condition to ensure the health and welfare of the livestock.</p>
S5.10	<p>A contingency plan for the following emergencies must be prepared for each consignment as part of the consignment risk management plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) mechanical breakdown; (b) a feed or water shortage during the voyage; (c) an outbreak of a disease during the voyage; (d) extreme weather conditions during the voyage; and (e) rejection of the consignment by the overseas market.

¹ International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Vessels, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78). Annex V: Prevention of pollution by garbage from vessels.

Number	Standard
S5.11	<p>If a notifiable incident occurs at any time, the relevant Australian Government agency must be advised as soon as possible and within twelve (12) hours. In relation to a notifiable incident involving a mortality equal to or greater than the reportable level, a report must be provided that includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) details of the mortalities (eg number, species, suspected cause); (b) factors that may have contributed to the deaths; and (c) the current location of the vessel and, if appropriate, its destination and estimated time of arrival.
S5.12	<p>For journeys greater or equal to ten (10) days, an accredited stock person must provide daily reports on the health and welfare of the livestock to the relevant Australian Government agency, commencing on day one (1) of the voyage. The report must include the information outlined in Appendix 5.1.</p> <p>Where an accredited veterinarian is on board, the veterinarian rather than the stock person must provide the daily report.</p>
S5.13	<p>Regardless of the journey duration, within five (5) days of completion of discharge at the final port of discharge, an accredited stock person must provide an end-of-voyage report on the health and welfare of the livestock to the relevant Australian Government agency. The report must include the information outlined in Appendix 5.2.</p> <p>Where an accredited veterinarian is on board, the veterinarian rather than the stock person must provide the end-of-voyage report.</p>

Appendix 5.1 Daily report to the Australian Government

Commencing on day one (1) of the voyage, the report must include the following information:

Port of loading	eg Portland	eg Fremantle
Cattle		
Buffalo		
Sheep		
Goats		
Camelids		
Deer		

Veterinarian
Stockman
Vessel.....
Date
Day No*.....
Vessel's position and ETA at next port

- 1 Dry bulb temperature and humidity
 - One average recording for each deck, each day
 - Bridge temperature (ambient)
- 2 Wet bulb reading – per deck
- 3 Feed consumption – average per head
- 4 Water consumption – average per head
- 5 Health and welfare issues – sick pen report including medication and treatments
- 6 Respiratory character
 - 1 = normal
 - 2 = panting
 - 3 = gasping
- 7 Faeces - average for each cattle deck
 - 1 = normal
 - 2 = sloppy
 - 3 = runny diarrhoea
 - 4 = like sheep pellets
- 8 Issues from daily meeting
- 9 Mortality

Note* - Day number must be consistent with the day number used by the Master of the Vessel

Mortality	Euthanasia	Natural causes	Species
Daily			
Cumulative			

- 10 General Comments

Appendix 5.2 End-of-voyage report to the Australian Government

This report must provide a general overview of the voyage, with mention of any specific issues relevant to the health and welfare of the livestock, and must include the following information:

- 1 Vessel name
- 2 Voyage number
- 3 Departure port(s)
date
total loaded, by species
- 4 Discharge port(s)
date
total unloaded, by species
- 5 Feed and water
access
maintenance issues
- 6 Environmental conditions
weather
temperature
humidity
ventilation
decks/bedding
- 7 Health and welfare of livestock
number of livestock born during the voyage
number of abortions
- 8 Relationships with master/crew/accredited stock person/accredited veterinarian
- 9 Comments on discharge operations