

F3 Road transport of livestock (reviewed 24/12/2012)

- 1 The welfare of livestock during transportation is a shared responsibility between the owner, the driver and the final receiver. Those responsible must follow the provisions of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines - Land Transport of Livestock as incorporated into relevant state or territory law, and the provisions for the transport of livestock made under state and territory road transport legislation.
- 2 It should be mandatory for all livestock transporters to obtain copies of the transport Standards and Guidelines, and to issue copies to any drivers under their employ.
- 3 People responsible for the transport of livestock must be competent in their expected responsibilities. Competencies include the ability to plan journeys and develop appropriate contingency arrangements, animal handling, inspection and assessment of livestock fitness, maintaining accurate records of feed and water times, basic animal first aid, humane killing, and vehicle operation and maintenance.
- 4 Livestock owners must not provide, and drivers must not accept, animals that are not fit for transportation. Livestock that are not fit for transportation may include animals that are sick, injured, dehydrated, in poor body condition, or in the later stages of pregnancy.
- 5 Maintenance of trucks and ancillary equipment requires very careful attention, particularly when only used part-time. Special attention must be given to the condition of vehicle flooring and loading ramps to ensure all non-slip surfaces are in good order. Vehicles must be thoroughly cleaned prior to loading and at the end of the journey.
- 6 Trucks used for transport of livestock at night must carry sufficient lighting to facilitate the thorough inspection of livestock by drivers en route.
- 7 Sick and injured animals must be provided with proper veterinary assistance or destroyed when discovered either en route or at off-loading. Drivers must be fully trained and competent in the humane killing of animals and basic veterinary care procedures. All trucks must carry the necessary equipment for both humane killing and basic veterinary care, particularly as trained assistance is difficult to obtain outside normal working hours.
- 8 Drivers must observe stipulated rest periods and should carry a simple log book which details the movement of the animals prior to acceptance for transport and their last access to water and feed. This is of particular importance in the transport of bobby calves, lambs and other more vulnerable animals such as those that are drought affected, pregnant or lactating.

- 9 Special attention must be given to the particular needs of young animals such as calves and lambs. Drivers must be satisfied young animals are of sufficient age and strength to withstand the intended journey. 'Dopey' and lethargic animals should not be transported. Sufficient room to lie down with appropriate bedding must be provided for young animals.

See also—F4 Transportation of bobby calves

- 10 Livestock must not be left in stationary transporters overnight or during other extended periods when the driver is not in attendance.
- 11 All trucks used for the commercial transport of animals should be registered as suitable for the purpose by road transport authorities. Drivers should have their licence endorsed to be in charge of a truck carrying livestock only after demonstrating sufficient knowledge of the needs of livestock when transported.
- 12 Ancillary equipment for the humane transport of livestock, such as tarpaulins must be carried on trucks at all times and drivers trained in the use of the equipment as required.
- 13 Special attention must be given to the particular needs of livestock carried in cages or containers, such as poultry where loads must be properly secured to prevent animals falling off trucks. Animals transported in this fashion require more frequent inspection en route.
- 14 Drivers must load livestock onto trucks using the established stocking densities as a guide together with their own experience of the species being loaded to avoid overcrowding or loading the animals too loosely. Particular attention must be given when transporting small groups of animals to ensure correct trucking density and proper foothold.
- 15 Dogs, electric goads and sticks must not be used on livestock.