

ANATIONAL GUIDE TO THE SELECTION OF ANIMALS FIT TO TRANSPORT



IS IT FIT
TO LOAD?

IS IT FIT
TO EXPORT?

ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION AND LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards for the Land Transport of Livestock (the Standards) define specific requirements in relation to livestock transport in Australia. The Standards are enforceable. It is an offence to load and transport an animal in a way that causes, or is likely to cause, it unnecessary harm. These Standards replace the individual state/territory livestock transport provisions of the Australian model codes of practice for the welfare of animals, so there are now the same rules nationwide for livestock transport. This "Is It Fit To Load" guide will help producers, agents, buyers and transporters meet their legal obligations under the Standards.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide has been developed to help you decide if an animal is fit to be loaded for transport by road or rail to any destination within Australia. An animal is not fit for the journey if it:

- is not strong enough to undertake the journey
- cannot walk normally, bearing weight on all legs
- is severely emaciated or visibly dehydrated
- is suffering from severe visible distress or injury
- is in a condition that could cause it pain or distress during transport
- is blind in both eyes
- is in late pregnancy



**IS IT FIT TO LOAD?
IF IN DOUBT,
LEAVE IT OUT!**

PREPARING LIVESTOCK FOR TRANSPORT

Preparing livestock for transport correctly is a vital element of any journey.

Well-prepared stock travel better, are less stressed and associated animal welfare issues are avoided. Producers should consider the following:

- plan the journey including rest stops and inspections
- know who to contact in case of an emergency
- make sure the facilities including yards, races, loading ramps and vehicles are well constructed, clear from obstructions and will not injure livestock
- handle livestock quietly and with minimum force – stress is cumulative
- segregate animals appropriately (e.g. horned animals, mothers with young)
- rest recently mustered livestock prior to loading

“PREPERATION IS KEY”



PREPARING LIVESTOCK FOR TRANSPORT - FEED AND WATER

Maximum time off water

The Standards determine the maximum period of time that each species can be held off water during transport. This period includes mustering and any time off water in yards, as well as the journey itself. But, these are maximum limits - certain classes of animals, such as pregnant or young animals, or conditions such as hot dry weather could mean animals need even more regular access to water.

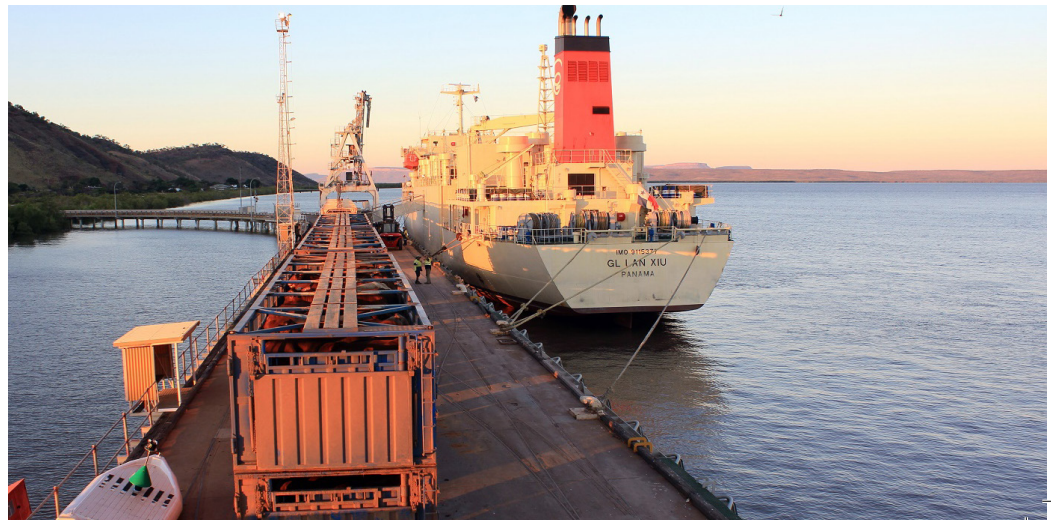
Journey log

Transporters, drivers and agents should always seek information about how long animals have been off feed and water before loading. If it is likely that the journey will take more than 24 hours, then the date and time when animals last had access to water and when they were last inspected, must be recorded by the person in charge. Written information about who to contact in an emergency must also be provided.

Feed and water during curfews

Dry feed such as hay (but not green feed) can be offered prior to loading even if water has been withheld. While food and/or water is on offer, make sure that there is enough space for every animal to access it, as shy feeders become an issue when space is limited.

SPECIES	CLASS OF ANIMAL	MAX. TIME OFF WATER	REQUIRED SPELLING PERIOD
Cattle	Cattle over 6 months old	48 hours	36 hours
	Calves 30 days to 6 month old	24 hours	12 hours
	Lactating cows with calves at foot	24 hours	12 hours
	Cows known to be more than 6 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	24 hours	12 hours
	Calves 5 - 30 days old travelling without mothers (12 hours max . journey)	24 hours	12 hours



IS IT FIT TO EXPORT?

A guide to the supply of livestock for the Australian livestock export industry

In addition to the "Is It Fit to Load" guide above, if you are supplying cattle into a live export market, you are required to meet additional regulation outlined in the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) (Version 2.3) 2011.

About this guide

The supply of appropriately prepared livestock that are fit for travel and export is critical for successful health and welfare outcomes that underpin the livestock export trade. As a condition of licencing, Australian livestock exporters are required to comply with the ASEL. This places an obligation to comply with exporter requirements on agents and producers who supply livestock. Animals that are supplied for export must meet Standard 1, Sourcing and On-Farm Preparation of Livestock, as detailed in ASEL.

This guide assists in the maintenance of high standards of animal health and welfare by illustrating some types of animal that should not be supplied for export. Note: This field guide complements but does not replace the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock, which should be referred to if further information is required. Please note that the immediate responsibility to provide proper care for animals rests with the person in charge of the animals at the time.

***"IS IT FIT TO EXPORT?
IF IN DOUBT LEAVE IT OUT."***

Live weight

Live weight between 200kg and 650kg

Special conditions apply to cattle heavier than 650kg

Weaning status

Weaned for at least 14 days before sourcing.

Condition

Emaciated or overfat cattle must not be supplied for export (refer to Body Condition images in this guide).

Horns

Slaughter and feeder cattle must have a maximum horn length of 12cm and must be blunt ended.

Body Condition

Cattle must be from condition scores 3-5 (inclusive) on a scale of 1-5.

Pregnant cattle must be from condition scores 4-5 on a scale of 1-5.

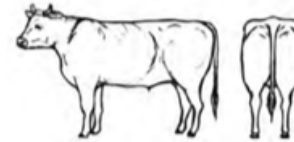
Pregnancy status

Slaughter and feeder cows

Female cattle must have been spayed or pregnancy tested and must be certified spayed or not pregnant.

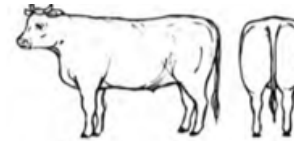
Breeding cows

Breeding cows and heifers must have been pregnancy tested and must be declared not more than 190 days pregnant on the scheduled departure date.



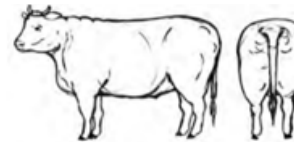
Condition Score 3

Hip bones visible faintly
Ribs generally not visible
Tail-head area not recessed
Body outline almost smooth



Condition Score 4

Hip bones not visible
Ribs well covered
Tail-head area slightly lumpy
Body outline rounded



Condition Score 5

Hip bones showing fat deposit
Ribs very well covered
Tail-head area very lumpy
Body outline bulging due to fat

WHAT TO DO IF AN ANIMAL IS UNFIT TO LOAD?

If you identify an animal which meets any of the criteria in the 'Fit to Load' guide, then you must not transport it. You can:

- treat the animal and transport when recovered and fit to load
- consult a veterinary surgeon and then transport only under veterinary advice
- humanely destroy the animal, or

ABOUT CATTLE COUNCIL

**CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
ACKNOWLEDGES THE CONTRIBUTION
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LIVECORP.**



LEVY OVERSIGHT

Cattle Council of Australia is legislated to oversee the grass-fed cattle levy through the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Act. Each of Cattle Council's four consultative committees play an important role in ensuring levy money is spent correctly in evaluating the performance of and planning of the strategic goals to be pursued by levy funded body Meat & Livestock Australia.

STRATEGY

Cattle Council's annual work program is guided by the Beef Industry Strategic Plan (BISP 2020) and broader Meat Industry Strategic Plan (MISP 2020). Cattle Council continues to be guided by the strategies outlined in these plans through its own policy and communications development.

INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT

Cattle Council represents the industry on national issues through its involvement with over 60 committees across Australia and throughout the supply chain. Through this representation, producers have a voice in decision-making that provides practical benefits for the whole of industry.

ADVOCACY

Cattle Council's advocacy activities include engagement with politicians, governments and NGOs for practical policy outcomes that benefit grass-fed producers and the beef industry as a whole.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Cattle Council represents the cattle industry nationally through the development of strong policy that focuses on producer needs. Cattle Council develops policy that is well researched and informed via extensive consultation direct with producers across Australia.

MEMBERSHIP

Cattle Council aims to give beef producers a voice and represent producers at the national and international level. Benefits of annual membership include:

- Nominate for board positions
- Vote for leadership positions
- Nominate to participate on Cattle Council policy committees
- Communicate directly to Cattle Council on national policy issues
- Receive regular updates from Cattle Council
- Receive members-only access to Cattle Council interactive website

Membership is based on one membership per individual (or per PIC) and equates to one vote per membership. The cost of annual membership is \$100.00 + GST. If you are a member of a state farming organisation, your membership fee is waived. For more information on membership please visit our website.

For more information, contact us on +61 2 6269 5600, email cca@cattlecouncil.com.au, or visit www.cattlecouncil.com.au, follow us on

