

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PLANNING

- 1 Time off food and water prior to loading is managed and, if the journey is likely to exceed 24 hours, recorded and provided to the transporter
- 2 If the journey is likely to exceed 24 hours, records of the date and time of access to water, inspections and subsequent actions and emergency contacts are provided to the transporter. These records are updated and passed on to the next person in charge for the duration of the journey
- 3 Sheep; are prepared, inspected and selected as being 'fit for the intended journey'.
- 4. The livestock crate is inspected immediately before departure, to ensure that doors are closed and secured

PRE-TRANSPORT SELECTION OF SHEEP

- 5 Sheep are not loaded if they are:
 - unable to bear weight on all legs; or
 - severely emaciated; or
 - visibly dehydrated; or
 - showing visible signs of severe injury or distress; or
 - suffering from conditions that are likely to cause increased pain or distress during transport; or
 - blind in both eyes; or
 - in the last four weeks of pregnancy (unless the time off water and journey is less than four hours duration and the destination is directly to another property)

unless under veterinary advice
- 6 Sheep that are not fit to load are managed, treated or humanely destroyed promptly

TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND FACILITIES

- 7 Vehicles, and facilities (holding, loading, or unloading) are constructed, maintained and operated in a way that minimises risk to the welfare of sheep
- 8 Vehicles and facilities are appropriate for sheep; with effective airflow and flooring that minimises the likelihood of slipping or falling or injury; free from internal protrusions and other objects that could cause injury; and with sufficient vertical clearance to minimise the likelihood of injury
- 9. The ramp and the vehicle are properly aligned, so any gap between them is narrow enough to minimise the likelihood of injury during loading and unloading

LOADING AND OFF LOADING OF SHEEP

- 10 Loading density minimises risk to sheep and considers their class, size and body condition and wool length, the predicted climatic conditions, the nature of the journey and the design and capacity of the vehicle.
- 11 Sheep are segregated according to their class and size; general health, level of aggression; and the nature of the journey to minimise risks to their welfare.
- 12 Sheep are handled appropriately and competently. They are:
 - not lifted by only the head, ears, horns, neck, tail or wool; or
 - not lifted off the ground by a single leg, unless they weigh less than 15 kgs
 - supported and secured if lifted mechanically;
 - not thrown or dropped;
 - not unreasonably struck, punched or kicked;
 - not dragged if they can't stand, (except for emergency handling, lifting, treatment or destruction).

- 12 Dogs are not transported in the same pen as sheep. Dogs which are known to bite are muzzled when used to move sheep. Dogs in the vicinity of sheep are kept under control.
- 13 Electric prodder are not used:
 - on genital, anal or facial areas; or
 - on sheep under three months of age; or
 - on sheep that are unable to move away; or
 - excessively on an sheep.

TIME OFF WATER, JOURNEYS AND SPELLS

- 14 Transport and spell times comply with the table below and the criteria for calculating time off water and journey duration are applied an met*

Class	Maximum time off water	Minimum Spell duration
Sheep known or visually assessed to be, between 14 weeks and 19 weeks pregnant	24	12
Sheep known or visually assessed to be more than 19 weeks pregnant	4	24
Lactating sheep	28	12
Sheep under 4 months	28	12
Other sheep	48	36

Notes

- If sheep are spelled for the duration stated in the table above, the transport process is deemed to be completed and another transport process can be undertaken.
- If sheep are unloaded and provided with water for less than 4 hours, their time off water, is not reduced.
- If water is provided for between 4 and 24 hours, the time for which such access was provided is deducted from the time off water.

- The time off water is calculated by adding: assembly time; time in a holding facility prior to loading; loading; time on a vehicle; unloading; holding in a handling facility during transit or at a destination until water is provided.

15 Time off water minimises risks to sheep and takes into account:

- increased risk of journeys close to the maximum time off water;
- assessment that the sheep are fit for the remainder of the journey;
- climatic conditions, especially heat or cold;
- the class of sheep, especially if weak, pregnant, recently having given birth, lactating or immature; and
- the nature of the intended journey

16 In the absence of records, on arrival at their destination, sheep are watered within the maximum time off water for their class and, if their maximum time off water is reached, spelled before commencing another journey

HUMANE DESTRUCTION

17 If a sheep is killed, it is done in a manner which results in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious

18 Sheep are killed by a person who is competent in the method of killing. If there is no competent person available and the person in charge of the sheep at the time considers that he is capable of killing it humanely and if it is in the welfare interest of the sheep, he may kill it.

19 Weak, ill or injured sheep are identified to the receiver and separated for rest and recovery, treatment, or humane destruction promptly.

20 A sheep which has been killed is checked to ensure that it is dead

23 Blunt trauma is only used to kill sheep less than 24 hours old and is a single blow to the head.

24 Sheep are only killed by cutting their throats if there is no firearm or captive bolt available.

DURING THE JOURNEY

- 25 Sheep are inspected:
- on the vehicle before departure; and
 - within the first hour of the journey; and
 - at least every 3 hours or at each driver rest stop, whichever comes first, to assess the sheep as being fit for the journey
 - each time the vehicle stops for a change of driver or vehicle; and
 - at unloading;.

26 If an inspection finds that an sheep is distressed or injured, it is attended to at the first reasonable opportunity

27 The impact of severe weather is minimised during transport

ON ARRIVAL AT THE DESTINATION

28 The receival yard is inspected before unloading, to ensure that there is access and sufficient space for the sheep to be unloaded

29 The receiver is notified of the arrival of the sheep (if possible) and, if the journey was over 24 hours, provided with the records of the journey

30 Weak, ill or injured sheep are promptly identified to the receiver and separated for rest and recovery, treatment, or destruction



Australian Livestock Transport Standards and Guidelines

Sheep Transport Checklist

This check list applies from the time sheep are assembled for transport until they are unloaded, and fed and watered or killed at their destination. It is a series of outcome statements based on Livestock Transport Standards as they apply to sheep. These are the criteria that inspectors will use when they conduct a routine inspection of arrangements.