

## 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 Buffalo 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 BUFFALO

- 5 Buffalo 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 Buffalo 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 buffalo
- 8 Vehicles and facilities are appropriate for buffalo; 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 BUFFALO

- 10 Loading density minimises risk to Buffalo and considers their class, size and body condition and hair length, horn status, the predicted climatic conditions, the nature of the journey and the design and capacity of the vehicle.
- 11 Buffalo 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 Buffalo are handled appropriately and competently. They are:
- not lifted by only the head, ears, horns, neck, tail or hair; 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).

- 13 Dogs are not used to move buffalo. Dogs in the vicinity of buffalo are kept under control.
- 14 Electric prodders are not used unless reasonable actions to cause movement have failed. Prodders are not used:
- on genital, anal or facial areas; or
  - on buffalo under three months of age; or
  - on buffalo that are unable to move away; or
  - excessively on a buffalo.

## TIME OFF WATER, JOURNEYS AND SPELLS

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

Class	Maximum time off water	Minimum Spell duration
Adult buffalo over 6 months old	36	24
Buffalo 1–6 months old	24	12
Buffalo known to be more than 7 months pregnant excluding the last 4 weeks	24	12
Lactating buffalo with calves at foot	24	12

### Notes

- If buffalo 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 buffalo 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.

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

- 17 In the absence of records, on arrival at their destination, buffalo 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

- 18 If a buffalo is killed, it is done in a manner which results in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious
- 19 Buffalo 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 buffalo at the time considers that he is capable of killing it humanely and if it is in the welfare interest of the buffalo, he may kill it.
- 20 Weak, ill or injured buffalo are identified to the receiver and separated for rest and recovery, treatment, or humane destruction promptly.

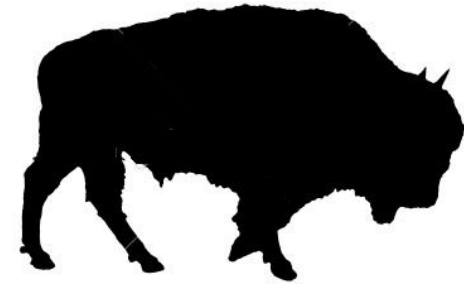
- 21 A buffalo which has been killed is checked to ensure that it is dead
- 22 Buffalo are not killed using blunt trauma or by cutting their throats.

#### DURING THE JOURNEY

- 23 Buffalo 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 buffalo as being fit for the journey
  - each time the vehicle stops for a change of driver or vehicle; and
  - at unloading;.
- 24 If an inspection finds that a buffalo is distressed or injured, it is attended to at the first reasonable opportunity
- 25 The impact of severe weather is minimised during transport
- 26 If a buffalo is heat stressed, it is cooled with a water spray at the first opportunity

#### ON ARRIVAL AT THE DESTINATION

- 27 The receival yard is inspected before unloading, to ensure that there is access and sufficient space for the buffalo to be unloaded
- 28 The receiver is notified of the arrival of the buffalo (if possible) and, if the journey was over 24 hours, provided with the records of the journey
- 29 Weak, ill or injured buffalo are promptly identified to the receiver and separated for rest and recovery, treatment, or destruction



## Australian Livestock Transport Standards and Guidelines

### Buffalo Transport Checklist

This check list applies from the time buffalo 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 buffalo. These are the criteria that inspectors will use when they conduct a routine inspection of arrangements



DEPARTMENT OF  
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