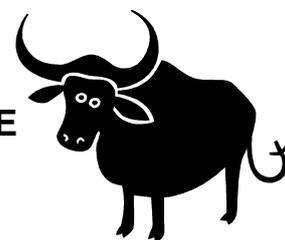


LAND TRANSPORT OF BUFFALO STANDARDS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Derived from The Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals – Livestock Transport Edition One December 2008

Part A General Standards

1. Responsibilities and Planning

SA1.1 A person in charge must exercise a duty of care to ensure the welfare of buffalo under their control and compliance with the livestock transport standards.

The responsibility for buffalo welfare in the transport process is:

- i. the consignor for the:
 - a. mustering and assembling of buffalo; and
 - b. handling; and
 - c. preparation, including inspection and selection as 'fit for the intended journey'; and
 - d. feed and water provision; and
 - e. holding periods before loading; and
- ii. the transporter is responsible for:

the master of the marine vessel is responsible for the livestock on roll-on/roll-off livestock transport vehicles during a sea journey

 - a. the loading including final inspection during loading as 'fit for the intended journey'; and
 - b. the loading density; and
 - c. additional inspections of buffalo; and
 - d. spelling periods during the journey; and
 - e. unloading
- iii. the receiver after unloading.

SA1.2 If a person in charge reasonably expects the journey time to exceed 24 hours, the transporter must possess a record which is accessible at the road side and that specifies:

- i. the date and time that the buffalo last had access to water; and
- ii. the date and time buffalo inspections and any welfare concerns and actions taken; and
- iii. emergency contacts.

A person in charge who is transferring responsibility for buffalo to be further transported for a total journey time of longer than 24 hours must provide a record with this information to the next person in charge.

2. Buffalo Handling Competency

SA2.1 A person involved in any part of the buffalo transport process must be competent to perform their required task, or must be supervised by a competent person.

3. Transport vehicles and facilities for buffalo

SA3.1 A person in charge must ensure that the vehicles and livestock handling facilities are constructed, maintained and operated in a way that minimises risk to the welfare of buffalo. Vehicles and facilities must:

- i. be appropriate to contain buffalo; and
- ii. have effective airflow; and
- iii. have flooring that minimises the likelihood of injury or of buffalo slipping or falling; and
- iv. be free from internal protrusions and other objects that could cause injury; and
- v. have sufficient vertical clearance for buffalo to minimise the risk of injury.

4. Pre-transport selection of buffalo

- SA4.1 Buffalo must be assessed as fit for the intended journey at every loading by a person in charge. A buffalo is not fit for a journey if it is:
- i. unable to walk on its own by bearing weight on all legs; or
 - ii. severely emaciated; or
 - iii. visibly dehydrated; or
 - iv. showing visible signs of severe injury or distress; or
 - v. suffering from conditions that are likely to cause increased pain or distress during transport; or
 - vi. blind in both eyes; or
 - vii. known to be, or visually assessed to be near (within two weeks) parturition, as specified in the species requirements, unless time off water and journey is less than four hours duration to another property.
- SA4.2 Any buffalo assessed to be not fit for the intended journey must only be transported under veterinary advice.
- SA4.3 The consignor must only supply buffalo that are fit for the intended journey.
- SA4.4 A person in charge must not load, nor permit to be loaded, buffalo that are not fit for the intended journey except under veterinary advice.
- SA4.5 If a buffalo is assessed to be not fit for the intended journey before loading, a person in charge must make appropriate arrangements for their care, treatment or humane destruction of the buffalo at the first reasonable opportunity.

5. Loading, transporting and unloading of buffalo

- SA5.1 If the maximum permitted time off water is reached, the person in charge must provide the buffalo with a spell (water, food, space to lie down and rest) according to the table below before continuing the current journey or before starting another journey.
- SA5.2 The person in charge must manage time off water to minimise risk to the welfare of the buffalo according to:
- i. the increased risk to buffalo welfare of longer journeys close to the permitted maximum time off water; and
 - ii. the assessment of whether the buffalo are fit for the remainder of the intended journey; and
 - iii. the predicted climatic conditions, especially heat or cold; and
 - v. the class of buffalo, especially if weak, pregnant, recently having given birth, lactating or immature; and
 - v. the nature of the intended journey.
- SA5.3 If no records are provided indicating the last time the buffalo had access to water, buffalo at a livestock handling facility (saleyard, spelling facility or staging point) must be provided with reasonable access to water by the person in charge within 24 hours at the facility, or within the maximum time off water relevant to the class of animal if this is less than 24 hours.
- SA5.4 The driver must assess the loading density for each pen or division in the livestock crate. The assessment is based on average live weight of the intended buffalo loading, and must be managed to minimise risk to the welfare of the buffalo. Determination of loading density must consider all of the following factors:
- i. class
 - ii. size and body condition
 - iii. hair length
 - iv. horn status
 - v. predicted climatic conditions
 - vi. nature of the intended journey
 - vii. design and capacity of the vehicle.

SA5.6	The driver must segregate livestock by sufficient internal partitions to minimise risk to the welfare of other buffalo. Determination of segregation must consider all the following factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. class and size ii. general health of the buffalo iii. level of aggression iv. nature of the intended journey.
SA5.7	A person who handles buffalo in the transport process must do so in a manner that is appropriate to the class, and minimises pain or injury. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. buffalo must not be lifted by only the head, ears, horns, neck or tail; or ii. buffalo must not be lifted off the ground by a single leg unless they are less than 15 kilograms live weight; or iii. mechanical lifting of buffalo must ensure that the buffalo is supported or secured as necessary; or iv. buffalo must not be thrown or dropped; or v. buffalo must not be struck in an unreasonable manner, punched or kicked; or vi. buffalo which are unable to stand must not be dragged, except in an emergency to allow safe handling, lifting, treatment or humane destruction.
SA5.8	A person who handles buffalo in the transport process must not use an electric prodder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. on genital, anal or facial areas; or ii. on buffalo under three months old; or iii. on buffalo that are unable to move away; or iv. excessively on an animal.
SA5.10	A transporter must ensure that the ramp and the vehicle are properly aligned, and that any gap between the ramp and the vehicle is sufficiently narrow to minimise the likelihood of injury to buffalo during loading and unloading.
SA5.11	The transporter must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. inspect the livestock crate immediately before departure, to ensure that doors are closed and secured; and ii. inspect the receival yard immediately before unloading, to ensure that there is free access and sufficient space for the buffalo intended to be unloaded; and iii. take reasonable steps to notify a receiver of the arrival of the buffalo at the destination.
SA5.12	The transporter must inspect buffalo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. on the vehicle before departure; and ii. except when buffalo travel on roll-on/roll-off livestock transport vehicles during a sea journey, within the first hour of the journey and then at least every three hours or at each driver rest stop, whichever comes first; and iii. at unloading; and iv. at each driver or vehicle change over stop.
SA5.13	Upon identifying a distressed or injured animal at an inspection, a person in charge must provide or seek assistance at the first reasonable opportunity. Weak, ill or injured buffalo must be identified to the person receiving them.
SA5.14	The receiver of buffalo must make arrangements at the first reasonable opportunity for separating weak, ill or injured buffalo for rest and recovery, appropriate treatment, or humane destruction and disposal of dead buffalo.
SA5.15	A person in charge must take reasonable steps to minimise the impact of extreme weather conditions on the welfare of buffalo during the transport process.

6. Humane Destruction

- SA6.1 A person in charge must ensure that humane destruction methods result in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious.
- SA6.2 A person in charge must ensure a moribund buffalo is humanely destroyed by a competent person or under the direct supervision of a competent person at the first reasonable opportunity.
- SA6.3 If a competent person is not immediately available to humanely destroy a buffalo, the person in charge must arrange for a competent person to carry out the procedure at the first reasonable opportunity; unless it is in the welfare interest of the buffalo and a competent person is not immediately available, and the person considers they have the capability to destroy it.
- SA6.4 A person humanely destroying buffalo must take reasonable action to confirm that it is dead.
- SA6.7 A person must not use blunt trauma to the forehead to destroy a buffalo.
- SA6.8 A person must not destroy a buffalo by bleeding-out by neck cut.

Part B Buffalo Specific Standards

- SB2.1 A person in charge must ensure time off water does not exceed the time periods given below for each class of buffalo:
- | Class | Maximum time off water (hours) | Minimum Spell duration (hours) |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 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 |
- SB2.2 If buffalo over six months have been off water for 36 hours, the person in charge must ensure the buffalo have a spell for 24 hours before starting another journey. If cows known to be more than seven months pregnant (excluding the last four weeks of pregnancy), lactating cows, calves and young buffalo have been off water for 24 hours, the person in charge must ensure the buffalo have a spell for 12 hours before starting another journey.
- SB2.3 Buffalo known to be in the last four weeks of pregnancy must only be transported under veterinary advice, unless the journey is less than four hours duration.
- SB2.4 A person must not use an electric prodder on a buffalo during the transport process unless reasonable actions to cause movement have failed.
- SB2.5 A person must not use a dog to move a buffalo during the transport process.
- SB2.6 Buffalo that suffer heat stress during transport must be cooled at the first opportunity by water spray.

* Relevant standards highlighted in blue will be regulated under the *NT Livestock Regulations*

Compliance and enforcement relating to the Land Transport Standards

The compliance and enforcement approach adopted by the Animal Biosecurity Branch is outlined in the Factsheet - Enforcement of Animal Biosecurity Legislation for the Livestock Industries available at www.nt.gov.au/d/animalhealth and for increasing severity of non-compliance is:

- verbal warning
- written warning
- issue an infringement notice
- order by an inspector or chief inspector
- prosecution

Under the Northern Territory *Livestock Regulations*, penalties for non-compliance with a relevant standard outlined in the Land Transport Standards can be in the form of an infringement notice or prosecution. Current penalties are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Penalties

Standard	Infringement Notice (Penalty units)	Prosecution (Maximum penalty)
SA1.2, SA5.11, SA5.12, SA5.13, SA6.2, SA6.4, , SA6.7, SA6.8	5	50
SA3.1, SA4.3, SA4.4, SA5.1, SA5.3, SA5.6, SA5.7, SA5.8, SA5.14, SA5.15, SA6.6, SB2.1, SB2.2, SB2.4, SB2.5, SB2.6	10	100

*At 1 July 2012, one (1) penalty unit is equivalent to \$141.00.

More Information

- Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries website www.nt.gov.au/d/livestockstandards
- Land Transport Standards website www.livestockwelfarestandards.net.au/
- Fit to Load Guide on MLA website www.mla.com.au/Publications-tools-and-events/

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Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer
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Tennant Creek Region

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer
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Livestock Biosecurity Officer
Ph: 08 8962 4492 M: 0457 517 347

Katherine Region

Field Veterinary Officer
Ph: 08 8973 9716 M: 0407 498 003

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer
Ph: 08 8973 9754 M: 0418 895 084

Alice Springs Region

Senior Field Veterinary Officer
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Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer
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