

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PLANNING

- 1 Time off food and water prior to loading is managed
- 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 for the duration of the journey
- 3 Horses 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 HORSES

- 5 Horses are not loaded if they are:
- unable to bear weight on all legs (ie has an equine lameness score of 4 to 5); 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 Horses 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 to minimise risks to the horses

- 8 Vehicles and facilities are appropriate for horses; 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. If a mare with a foal at foot is transported for more than five hours, there is sufficient space for the foal to suckle and to lie down
- 10 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
- 11 All vehicles and stalls can be easily accessed for feeding, watering and visual inspection.
- 12 The walls of the crate or stall are strong enough to withstand horse activity
- 13 Fully enclosed, environmentally controlled vehicles have effective airflow with at least 12 air changes per hour
- 14 There is a clearance of at least 2.2 m between the livestock crate floor and overhead structures
- 15 Horses being transported across Bass Strait are individually stalled, except for mares with foals at foot, which are stalled together

LOADING AND OFF LOADING OF HORSES

- 16 Loading density minimises risk to horses and considers their class, size and body condition, the predicted climatic conditions, the nature of the journey and the design and capacity of the vehicle.
- 17 Horses are segregated according to their class, size, general health, aggression; and the nature of the journey to minimise risks to their welfare. Stallions are segregated from other horses

- 18 Dogs are not used to move horses nor transported in the livestock crate.
- 19 Electric prodders are not used on horses

TIME OFF WATER, JOURNEYS AND SPELLS

- 20 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 journey time	Maximum time off water	Minimum Spell duration
Horses over 6 months old	24 hrs	24 hrs	12 hrs
Lactating mares	12 hrs	12 hrs	12 hrs
Foals less than 6 months old	12 hrs	12 hrs	12 hrs
Mares known to be more than 7.5 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	12 hrs	12 hrs	12 hrs

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

- 22 The maximum journey time for horses is only extended up to 36 hours and only if:
- they are not exposed to the elements; and
 - they have access to feed and water every five hours; and
 - they have sufficient space to allow a comfortable standing position; and
 - flooring is suitable and allows urine drainage; and
 - they are regularly assessed to be fit to continue; and
 - they have a 24 hour spell at the end of the journey

- 23 In the absence of records, on arrival at their destination, horses are watered within 24 hours of the maximum time off water for their class (whichever is the lesser) and, if their maximum time off water is reached, spelled before commencing another journey

HUMANE DESTRUCTION

- 24 If a horse is killed, it is done in a manner which results in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious
- 25 Horses 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 horse at the time considers it is in the welfare interest of the horse and he is capable of killing it humanely, he may kill it.
- 26 Weak, ill or injured horses are identified to the receiver and separated for rest and recovery, treatment, or humane destruction promptly.
- 27 A horse which has been killed is checked to ensure that it is dead
- 28 Blunt trauma is not used to kill horses.
- 29 Horses are not killed by cutting their throats unless they are pre-stunned

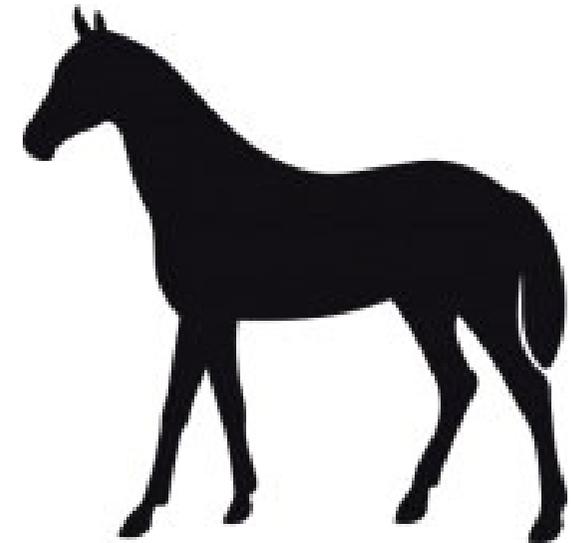
DURING THE JOURNEY

- 30 Horses are inspected:
- on the vehicle before departure; and
 - within the first hour of the journey and at least every 3 hours (except sea journeys) or at each driver rest stop, whichever comes first, to assess the horses as being fit for the rest of the journey
 - each time the vehicle stops for a change of driver or vehicle; and
 - at unloading;
- 31 If an inspection finds that a horse is distressed or injured, it is attended to at the first reasonable opportunity
- 32 The impact of severe weather is minimised during transport

ON ARRIVAL AT THE DESTINATION

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

* If horses 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 horses 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.



Australian Livestock Transport Standards and Guidelines

Horses Checklist

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