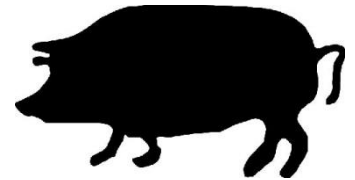


LAND TRANSPORT OF PIGS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



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 livestock under their control and compliance with the livestock transport standards.

The responsibility for livestock welfare in the transport process is:

- i. the consignor for the:
 - a. mustering and assembling of pigs; 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 (except for rail) is responsible for:
 - a. the loading including final inspection during loading as 'fit for the intended journey'; and
 - b. the loading density; and
 - c. additional inspections of the pigs; 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 pigs last had access to water; and
- ii. the date and time of inspections and any welfare concerns and actions taken; and
- iii. emergency contacts.

A person in charge who is transferring responsibility for pigs 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. Stock Handling Competency

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

3. Transport vehicles and facilities for pigs

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 pigs. Vehicles and facilities must:

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

4. Pre-transport selection of pigs

SA4.1 Pigs must be assessed as fit for the intended journey at every loading by a person in charge. An animal 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

SA4.2 Any animal assessed to be not fit for the intended journey must only be transported under veterinary advice.

SA4.3 The consignor must only supply pigs that are fit for the intended journey.

SA4.4 A person in charge must not load, nor permit to be loaded, pigs that are not fit for the intended journey except under veterinary advice. If pigs are 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 at the first reasonable opportunity.

5. Loading, transporting and unloading of pigs

SA5.1 If the maximum permitted time off water is reached, the person in charge must provide the pigs 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 pigs according to:

- i. the increased risk to welfare of longer journeys close to the permitted maximum time off water; and
- ii. the assessment of whether the pigs are fit for the remainder of the intended journey; and
- iii. the predicted climatic conditions, especially heat or cold; and
- iv. the class of pigs, 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 pigs had access to water, pigs 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 pigs 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 or each container. The assessment is based on average live weight of the intended pigs loading, and must be managed to minimise risk to the welfare of the pigs.

Determination of loading density must consider all of the following factors:

- i. class
- ii. size and body condition
- iii. predicted climatic conditions
- iv. nature of the intended journey
- v. design and capacity of the vehicle.

SA5.5 The driver must have the final decision on the loading density.

SA5.6 The driver must segregate pigs by sufficient internal partitions to minimise risk to the welfare of other pigs. Determination of segregation must consider all the following factors:

- i. class and size
- ii. general health of the pigs
- iii. level of aggression
- iv. nature of the intended journey.

SA5.7 A person who handles pigs in the transport process must do so in a manner that is appropriate to the class, and minimises pain or injury. Specifically:

- i. pigs must not be lifted by only the head, ears, neck or tail; or
- ii. pigs must not be lifted off the ground by a single leg; unless they are less than 15kg

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. mechanical lifting of pigs must ensure that they are supported or secured as necessary; or iv. pigs must not be thrown or dropped; or v. pigs must not be struck in an unreasonable manner, punched or kicked; or vi. pigs which are unable to stand must not be dragged, except in an emergency to allow safe handling, lifting, treatment or humane destruction.
SA5.9	A person in charge must ensure that a dog is under control at all times during loading, transporting and unloading pigs.
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 pigs 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 pigs intended to be unloaded; and iii. take reasonable steps to notify a receiver of the arrival of the pigs at the destination.
SA5.12	The transporter must inspect pigs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. on the vehicle before departure; and ii. except when pigs 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 pigs must be identified to the person receiving them.
SA5.14	The receiver of pigs must make arrangements at the first reasonable opportunity for separating weak, ill or injured pigs for rest and recovery, appropriate treatment, or humane destruction and disposal of dead stock.
SA5.15	A person in charge must take reasonable steps to minimise the impact of extreme weather conditions on the welfare of pigs 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 moribund pigs are 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 pigs, the person in charge must arrange for a competent person to carry out the procedure at the first reasonable opportunity.

SA6.4 A person humanely destroying pigs must take reasonable action to confirm they are dead.

SA6.7 A person must not use blunt trauma to the forehead to destroy pigs, unless the piglets are less than 15kg liveweight.

SA6.8 Pigs must not be destroyed by bleeding-out by neck cut.

Part B Pigs Specific Standards

SB9.1 A person in charge must ensure time off water does not exceed the time periods given below for each class of pigs:

Class	Maximum time off water (hours)	Minimum Spell duration (hours)
Pigs	24	12
Lactating sows with piglets	12	12
Weaners	12	12

SB9.2 Journey time may be extended to 72 hours only under the following conditions:

- i. Pigs must have access to water and food on the vehicle within every 24 hours
- ii. There must be space for all pigs to lie down
- iii. Pigs must be assessed regularly to be fit for the remainder of the intended journey
- iv. Pigs must be provided with water and food and rest for 24 hours before starting another journey.

SB9.3 If pigs have been off water for the maximum time permitted, they must be provided with water, food and rest for 12 hours before starting another journey.

SB9.4 Electric prodders must not be used on pigs

* Standards highlighted 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, SA5.9, SA5.14, SA5.15, SB9.1, SB9.2, SB9.3, SB9.4	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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