

LAND TRANSPORT OF CAMELS 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 camels; 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:
 - 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 camels; 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 camels 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 camels 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 camels transport process must be competent to perform their required task, or must be supervised by a competent person.

3. Transport vehicles and facilities for camels

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 camels.

Vehicles and facilities must:

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

4. Pre-transport selection of camels

- SA4.1 Camels 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 camels that are fit for the intended journey.

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

SA5.1 If the maximum permitted time off water is reached, the person in charge must provide the camels 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 camels 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 camels are fit for the remainder of the intended journey; and
- iii. the predicted climatic conditions, especially heat or cold; and
- iv. the class of camels, 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 camels had access to water, camels 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 camels 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 camels loading, and must be managed to minimise risk to the welfare of the camels.

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 camels by sufficient internal partitions to minimise risk to the welfare of other camels. Determination of segregation must consider all the following factors:

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

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

- i. camels must not be lifted by only the head, ears, neck or tail; or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. camels must not be lifted off the ground by a single leg; or iii. mechanical lifting of camels must ensure that they are supported or secured as necessary; or iv. camels must not be thrown or dropped; or v. camels must not be struck in an unreasonable manner, punched or kicked; or vi. camels which are unable to stand must not be dragged, except in an emergency to allow safe handling, lifting, treatment or humane destruction.
SA5.8	<p>A person who handles camels in the transport process must not use an electric prodder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. on genital, anal or facial areas; or ii. on camels under three months old; or iii. on camels 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 camels during loading and unloading.
SA5.11	<p>The transporter must:</p> <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 camels intended to be unloaded; and iii. take reasonable steps to notify a receiver of the arrival of the camels at the destination.
SA5.12	<p>The transporter must inspect camels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. on the vehicle before departure; and ii. except when camels 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 camels must be identified to the person receiving them.
SA5.14	The receiver of camels must make arrangements at the first reasonable opportunity for separating weak, ill or injured camels 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 camels 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 camels 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 camels, 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 animal 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 camels must take reasonable action to confirm they are dead.
SA6.5	Firearm must be in the frontal or poll positions.
SA6.6	Captive bolt must be in the frontal or poll positions, accompanied by appropriate restraint and applied in contact with the skull
SA6.7	A person must only use blunt trauma to the forehead to destroy camels if that animal is less than 24 hours old.

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

Part B Camel Specific Standards

SB3.1 A person in charge must ensure time off water does not exceed the time periods given below for each class of camels:

Class	Maximum time off water (hours)	Minimum Spell duration (hours)
Camels over 6 months old	48	36
Calves 1- 6 months old	24	12
Lactating cows with calves at foot	24	12
Camels known to be more than 9 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	24	12

SB3.2 Journey time for camels over 6 months old, excluding camels known to be in the final month of pregnancy, may be extended to 72 hours only under the following conditions:

- i. camels must be watered and fed on the vehicle every 24 hours
- ii. there must be space for all camels to lie down on their sternums
- iii. regular assessments must be made that the camels are fit for the remainder of the intended journey
- iv. camels must have a mandatory spell of 24 hours before starting another journey
- v. if camels over 6 months old have been off water for 48 hours, they must have a mandatory spell of 36 hours before starting another journey.

SB3.3 If camels under 6 months old or camels known to be more than 9 months pregnant excluding the last 4 weeks, or lactating cows with calves at foot or calves one to six months old have been off water for 24 hours, the person in charge must ensure the camels have a spell for 12 hours before starting another journey.

SB3.4 Camels known to be, or visually assessed to be in the last 4 weeks of pregnancy must only be transported under veterinary advice unless the journey is less than 4 hours duration.

SB3.5 When standing at rest camels must have a minimum of 100mm clearance between the top of their hump and the livestock create.

SB3.6 Electric prodders must only be used on camels after reasonable actions to cause movement have failed.

SB3.7 Dogs must not be used to move camels.

SB3.8 Camel bulls in rut must be segregated during transport.

* 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, SA5.8, SA5.14, SA5.15, SB3.1, SB3.2, SB3.5, SB3.6, SB3.7, SB3.8	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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