

## 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 Poultry are prepared, inspected and selected as being 'fit for the intended journey'.
4. The vehicle is inspected immediately before departure, to ensure that doors are closed and secured
4. Poultry over four days old have reasonable access to food within the 12 hours before assembly for transport

## PRE-TRANSPORT SELECTION OF POULTRY

- 5 Poultry are not loaded if they are:
- unable to bear weight on both 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
- unless under veterinary advice
- 6 Poultry 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 poultry
- 8 Vehicles and facilities are appropriate for poultry; with effective airflow and containers that minimise 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

## LOADING AND OFF LOADING OF POULTRY

- 10 Loading density minimises risk to poultry and considers their species, class, size and body condition, the predicted climatic conditions, the nature of the journey and the design and capacity of the vehicle.
- 11 Poultry are handled as appropriate to the species and class, and to minimise pain or injury. Specifically:
- i) poultry are not thrown or dropped; or
  - ii) poultry are not struck in an unreasonable manner, punched or kicked; or
- 12 Birds which are unable to stand are not dragged, except in an emergency to allow safe handling, lift in treatment or humane destruction.
- 13 Poultry do not have their legs tied together during the transport process
- 14 Poultry in containers are:
- lifted and placed with care; and
  - positioned on the vehicle in an upright position without excessive tilting; and
  - not dropped or thrown; and
  - securely attached to the vehicle; and
  - suitable for the purpose of transporting poultry.

- 13 Dogs which are known to bite are muzzled when used to move poultry. Dogs in the vicinity of poultry are kept under control.

- 13 Poultry are not lifted by the head, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast with the following exceptions:
- chicken breeder birds and adult geese, may be lifted and carried by the base of both wings
  - turkeys, which may be lifted by the tail feathers and neck or by a leg and a wing
  - ducks, which may be lifted and carried by their necks or by the base of both wings.

## TIME OFF WATER, JOURNEYS AND SPELLS

- 14 Time off water complies with the table below and the criteria for calculating time off water and journey duration are applied as met\*

Class	Maximum time off water (hours)
Poultry other than chicks	24
Chicks	60 <sup>a</sup> following take off <sup>b</sup>

### Notes

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.

a Normal allowable time off water is 72 hours, allowing 12 hours for hatching time before removal (take off) from the hatchery.

b Water-deprivation time allowed can be up to 72 hours following take-off if provided with hydrating material in the transport container.

- 15 Time off water minimises risks to poultry and takes into account:
- increased risk of journeys close to the maximum time off water;
  - assessment that the poultry are fit for the remainder of the journey;
  - climatic conditions, especially heat or cold;
  - the species and class of poultry, especially if weak, or immature; and
  - the nature of the intended journey

- 16 Poultry over four days old are not held in containers for more than 24 hours, unless provided with reasonable access to feed, water and shelter.

- 16 In the absence of records, on arrival at their destination, sheep 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**

- 17 If poultry are killed, it is done in a manner which results in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious

- 18 Poultry 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 poultry at the time considers that he is capable of killing it humanely and if it is in the welfare interest of the bird, he may kill it.

- 19 Weak, ill or injured poultry are identified to the receiver and separated for rest and recovery, treatment, or humane destruction promptly.

- 20 A bird which has been killed is checked to ensure that it is dead

**DURING THE JOURNEY**

- 26 If an inspection finds that an poultry are distressed or injured, it is attended to at the first reasonable opportunity

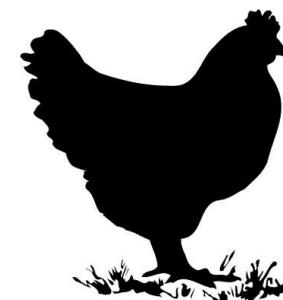
- 27 • The impact of severe weather is minimised during transport. In particular the risk of chicks up to four days old from chilling or overheating is minimised

**ON ARRIVAL AT THE DESTINATION**

- 28 Poultry chicks up to four days old are placed in a suitable brooding environment after arrival and within 72 hours of removal from the incubator.

- 29 The receiver is notified of the arrival of the poultry (if possible) and, if the journey was over 24 hours, provided with the records of the journey

- 30 Weak, ill or injured birds are promptly identified to the receiver and separated for rest and recovery, treatment, or destruction



**Australian Livestock Transport Standards and Guidelines**

**Poultry Transport Checklist**

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



**DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**