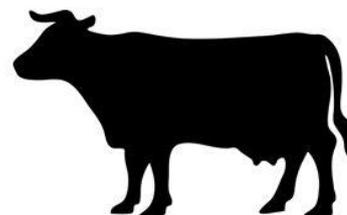


# LAND TRANSPORT OF CATTLE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



*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 cattle; 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 cattle; and
  - d. spelling periods during the journey; and
  - e. unloading
- iii. the rail authority is responsible for the cattle during the rail journey
- iv. the master of the marine vessel is responsible for the cattle on roll-on/roll-off livestock transport vehicles during a sea journey
- v. 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 cattle 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 cattle 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 cattle transport process must be competent to perform their required task, or must be supervised by a competent person.

### 3. Transport vehicles and facilities for cattle

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 cattle. Vehicles and facilities must:

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

#### 4. Pre-transport selection of cattle

- SA4.1 Cattle 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 cattle that are fit for the intended journey.

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

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

- i. class
- ii. size and body condition
- iii. horn status
- iv. predicted climatic conditions
- v. nature of the intended journey
- vi. 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 cattle by sufficient internal partitions to minimise risk to the welfare of other cattle. Determination of segregation must consider all the following factors:

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

SA5.7	A person who handles cattle 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"> <li>i. cattle must not be lifted by only the head, ears, horns, neck or tail; or</li> <li>ii. cattle must not be lifted off the ground by a single leg; or</li> <li>iii. mechanical lifting of cattle must ensure that they are supported or secured as necessary; or</li> <li>iv. cattle must not be thrown or dropped; or</li> <li>v. cattle must not be struck in an unreasonable manner, punched or kicked; or</li> <li>vi. cattle which are unable to stand must not be dragged, except in an emergency to allow safe handling, lifting, treatment or humane destruction.</li> </ul>
SA5.8	A person who handles cattle in the transport process must not use an electric prodder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. on genital, anal or facial areas; or</li> <li>ii. on cattle under three months old; or</li> <li>iii. on cattle that are unable to move away; or</li> <li>iv. excessively on an animal.</li> </ul>
SA5.9	A person in charge must ensure that a dog is under control at all times during loading, transporting and unloading cattle. A transporter must ensure that a dog is not transported in the same pen as cattle, with the exception of bonded guardian dogs.
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 cattle during loading and unloading.
SA5.11	The transporter must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. inspect the livestock crate immediately before departure, to ensure that doors are closed and secured; and</li> <li>ii. inspect the receival yard immediately before unloading, to ensure that there is free access and sufficient space for the cattle intended to be unloaded; and</li> <li>iii. take reasonable steps to notify a receiver of the arrival of the cattle at the destination.</li> </ul>
SA5.12	The transporter must inspect cattle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. on the vehicle before departure; and</li> <li>ii. except when cattle 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</li> <li>iii. at unloading; and</li> <li>iv. at each driver or vehicle change over stop.</li> </ul>
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 cattle must be identified to the person receiving them.
SA5.14	The receiver of cattle must make arrangements at the first reasonable opportunity for separating weak, ill or injured cattle 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 cattle 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 cattle 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 cattle, 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 cattle must take reasonable action to confirm they are dead.
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 cattle if that animal is less than 24 hours old.
SA6.8	Cattle must not be destroyed by bleeding-out by neck cut.

## Part B Cattle Specific Standards

SB4.1	A person in charge must ensure time off water does not exceed the time periods given below for each class of cattle:		
	<b>Class</b>	<b>Maximum time off water (hours)</b>	<b>Minimum Spell duration (hours)</b>
	Cattle over 6 months old	48	36
	Calves 30 days to 6 months old	24	12
	Lactating cows with calves at foot	24	12
	Calves 5–30 days old travelling without mothers	18	-
	Cattle known to be more than 6 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	24	12
SB4.2	If cattle over six months old have been off water for 48 hours, the person in charge must ensure the cattle have a spell for 36 hours before starting another journey. If cows known to be more than six months pregnant excluding the last four weeks, 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 cattle have a spell for 12 hours before starting another journey.		
SB4.3	Cattle 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 to another property.		
SB4.7	A person consigning a premature calf (including induced calf) must ensure the calf is as fit for the journey as a normal, full-term calf.		

\* 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](http://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, SA5.9, SA5.14, SA5.15, SB4.1, SB4.2	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](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/livestockstandards)
- Land Transport Standards website [www.livestockwelfarestandards.net.au/](http://www.livestockwelfarestandards.net.au/)
- Fit to Load Guide on MLA website [www.mla.com.au/Publications-tools-and-events/](http://www.mla.com.au/Publications-tools-and-events/)

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Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer  
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#### Katherine Region

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