

LAND TRANSPORT OF POULTRY 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 poultry; 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 poultry; and
 - d. spelling periods during the journey; and
 - e. unloading
- iii. the rail authority is responsible for the poultry during the rail journey
- iv. the master of the marine vessel is responsible for the poultry 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 poultry 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 poultry 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 poultry transport process must be competent to perform their required task, or must be supervised by a competent person.

3. Transport vehicles and facilities for poultry

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 poultry. Vehicles and facilities must:

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

4. Pre-transport selection of poultry

SA4.1 Poultry 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 poultry that are fit for the intended journey.

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

SA5.2 The person in charge must manage time off water to minimise risk to the welfare of the poultry 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 poultry are fit for the remainder of the intended journey; and
- iii. the predicted climatic conditions, especially heat or cold; and
- iv. the class of poultry, especially if weak, pregnant, recently having given birth, lactating or immature; and
- v. the nature of the intended journey.

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

- i. poultry must not be thrown or dropped; or
- ii. poultry must not be struck in an unreasonable manner, punched or kicked; or
- iii. poultry which are unable to stand must not be dragged, except in an emergency to allow safe handling, lifting, treatment or humane destruction.

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 poultry must be identified to the person receiving them.

SA5.14 The receiver of poultry must make arrangements at the first reasonable opportunity for separating weak, ill or injured poultry for rest and recovery, appropriate treatment, or humane destruction and disposal of dead birds.

SA5.15 A person in charge must take reasonable steps to minimise the impact of extreme weather conditions on the welfare of poultry 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 poultry 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 poultry, 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 the bird.

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

Part B Poultry Specific Standards

SB10.1 A person in charge must ensure time off water does not exceed the time periods given below for each class of poultry:

Class	Maximum time off water (hours)
Poultry	24
Chicks	60a following take off b

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

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

SB10.2 A consignor must ensure poultry over four days old have reasonable access to food within the 12 hours before assembly for transport.

SB10.3 A person in charge must ensure that poultry, excluding chicks are not held in containers for more than 24 hours, unless provided with reasonable access to feed, water and shelter.

SB10.4 A person transporting poultry in containers must ensure that the containers are:

- i. lifted and placed with care; and
- ii. positioned on the vehicle in an upright position without excessive tilting; and
- iii. not dropped or thrown; and
- iv. securely attached to the vehicle; and
- v. suitable for the purpose of transporting

SB10.5 The consignor must ensure poultry with broken legs or poultry that are unable to walk are not transported.

SB10.6 A person must not lift or carry poultry by the head, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast. Exceptions are permitted for:

- i. chicken breeder birds and adult geese, which may be lifted and carried by the base of both wings
- ii. turkeys, which may be lifted by the tail feathers and neck or by a leg and a wing
- iii. ducks, which may be lifted and carried by their necks or by the base of both wings.

SB10.7 Legs of poultry must not be tied together

SB10.8 The transporter must take reasonable action to minimise the risk to the welfare of chicks from chilling and overheating and chicks must be placed in a suitable brooding environment after arrival and within 72 hours of take-off.

* 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, SA5.13, SA6.2, SA6.4	5	50
SA3.1, SA4.3, SA4.4, SA5.7, SA5.14, SA5.15, SB10.1, SB10.2, SB10.3, SB10.5, SB10.6, SB10.7, SB10.8	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/

Darwin Region

Senior Field Veterinary Officer
Ph: 08 8999 2035 M: 0427 003 600

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer
Ph: 08 8999 2030 M: 0439 270 039

Tennant Creek Region

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer
Ph: 08 8962 4458 M: 0401 113 445

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
Ph: 08 8951 8181 M: 0401 118 181

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