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| **RESPONSIBILITIES AND PLANNING TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND FACILITIES** 12 Dogs are not transported in the same pen as 1 Time off food and water prior to loading is 7 Vehicles, and facilities (holding, loading, or sheep. Dogs which are known to bite aremanaged and, if the journey is likely to exceed unloading) are constructed, maintained and muzzled when used to move sheep. Dogs in24 hours, recorded and provided to the operated in a way that minimises risk to the the vicinity of sheep are kept under control. transporter welfare of sheep13 Electric prodder are not used: 2 If the journey is likely to exceed 24 hours, 8 Vehicles and facilities are appropriate for sheep; • on genital, anal or facial areas; orrecords of the date and time of access to water, with effective airflow and flooring that minimises • on sheep under three months of age; orinspections and subsequent actions and the likelihood of slipping or falling or injury; free • on sheep that are unable to move away; or emergency contacts are provided to the from internal protrusions and other objects that • excessively on an sheep.transporter. These records are updated and could cause injury; and with sufficient verticalpassed on to the next person in charge for the clearance to minimise the likelihood of injury **TIME OFF WATER, JOURNEYS AND SPELLS**duration of the journey 14 Transport and spell times comply with the table 9. The ramp and the vehicle are properly aligned, below and the criteria for calculating time off3 Sheep; are prepared, inspected and selected as so any gap between them is narrow enough to water and journey duration are applied an met\*being ‘fit for the intended journey’. minimise the likelihood of injury during loading |
| and unloading4. The livestock crate is inspected immediately before departure, to ensure that doors are closed **LOADING AND OFF LOADING OF SHEEP**and secured 10 Loading density minimises risk to sheep and considers their class, size and body condition**PRE-TRANSPORT SELECTION OF SHEEP** and wool length, the predicted climatic5 Sheep are not loaded if they are: conditions, the nature of the journey and the• unable to bear weight on all legs; or design and capacity of the vehicle.• severely emaciated; or• visibly dehydrated; or 11 Sheep are segregated according to their class • showing visible signs of severe injury or and size; general health, level of aggression;distress; or and the nature of the journey to minimise risks• suffering from conditions that are likely to to their welfare. | Class | Maximum time off water | Minimum Spell duration |
| Sheep known or visually assessed to be, between14 weeks and 19 weeks pregnant | 24 | 12 |
| Sheep known or visuallyassessed to be more than19 weeks pregnant | 4 | 24 |
| Lactating sheep | 28 | 12 |
| Sheep under 4 months | 28 | 12 |
| Other sheep | 48 | 36 |
| cause increased pain or distress duringtransport; or 12 Sheep are handled appropriately and Notes• blind in both eyes; or competently. They are: • If sheep are spelled for the duration stated in• in the last four weeks of pregnancy (unless • not lifted by only the head, ears, horns, the table above, the transport process isthe time off water and journey is less than neck, tail or wool; or deemed to be completed and another four hours duration and the destination is • not lifted off the ground by a single leg, transport process can be undertaken.directly to another property) unless they weigh less than 15 kgs • If sheep are unloaded and provided with unless under veterinary advice • supported and secured if lifted mechanically; water for less than 4 hours, their time off• not thrown or dropped; water, is not reduced.6 Sheep that are not fit to load are managed, • not unreasonably struck, punched or kicked; • If water is provided for between 4 and 24 treated or humanely destroyed promptly • not dragged if they can’t stand, (except for hours, the time for which such access wasemergency handling, lifting, treatment or provided is deducted from the time off water. destruction). |

• 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.

15 Time off water minimises risks to sheep and

takes into account:

• increased risk of journeys close to the maximum time off water;

• assessment that the sheep are fit for the remainder of the journey;

• climatic conditions, especially heat or cold;

• the class of sheep, especially if weak, pregnant, recently having given birth, lactating or immature; and

• the nature of the intended journey

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 a sheep is killed, it is done in a manner which

results in rapid loss of consciousness followed

by death while unconscious

18 Sheep 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 sheep at the time considers that

he is capable of killing it humanely and if it is in the welfare interest of the sheep, he may kill it.

19 Weak, ill or injured sheep are identified to the

receiver and separated for rest and recovery,

treatment, or humane destruction promptly.

20 A sheep which has been killed is checked to

ensure that it is dead

23 Blunt trauma is only used to kill sheep less than

24 hours old and is a single blow to the head.

 24 Sheep are only killed by cutting their throats if

there is no firearm or captive bolt available.

**DURING THE JOURNEY**

25 Sheep are inspected:

• on the vehicle before departure; and

• within the first hour of the journey; and

• at least every 3 hours or at each driver rest stop, whichever comes first, to assess the sheep as being fit for the journey

• each time the vehicle stops for a change of driver or vehicle; and

• at unloading;.

26 If an inspection finds that an sheep is

distressed or injured, it is attended to at the

first reasonable opportunity

27 The impact of severe weather is minimised

during transport

**ON ARRIVAL AT THE DESTINATION**

28 The receival yard is inspected before

 unloading, to ensure that there is access and

 sufficient space for the sheep to be unloaded

29 The receiver is notified of the arrival of the

sheep (if possible) and, if the journey was

over 24 hours, provided with the records of the journey

30 Weak, ill or injured sheep are promptly

identified to the receiver and separated for

rest and recovery, treatment, or destruction



**Australian Livestock Transport**

**Standards and Guidelines**

**Sheep Transport Checklist**

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



DEPARTMENT OF **PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**