**RESPONSIBILITIES AND PLANNING**

1 Time off food and water prior to loading is

8 Vehicles and facilities are appropriate for horses; with effective airflow and flooring that

18 Dogs are not used to move horses nor

transported in the livestock crate.

managed

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 for the duration of the journey

minimises 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

9. If a mare with a foal at foot is transported for

more than five hours, there is sufficient space

19 Electric prodders are not used on horses

**TIME OFF WATER, JOURNEYS AND SPELLS**

20 Transport and spell times comply with the table

below and the criteria for calculating time off

water and journey duration are applied an met\*

3 Horses are prepared, inspected and selected as

being ‘fit for the intended journey’.

4. The livestock crate is inspected immediately

before departure, to ensure that doors are closed

for the foal to suckle and to lie down

The ramp and the vehicle are properly aligned,

10 so any gap between them is narrow enough to

minimise the likelihood of injury during loading

Class Maximum journey time

Maximum time off water

Minimum Spell duration

and secured

**PRE-TRANSPORT SELECTION OF HORSES**

5 Horses are not loaded if they are:

• unable to bear weight on all legs (ie has an

equine lameness score of 4 to 5); 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; or

• in the last four weeks of pregnancy (unless the time off water and journey is less than

and unloading

11 All vehicles and stalls can be easily accessed for feeding, watering and visual inspection.

12 The walls of the crate or stall are strong enough to withstand horse activity

13 Fully enclosed, environmentally controlled vehicles have effective airflow with at least 12 air changes per hour

14 There is a clearance of at least 2.2 m between the livestock crate floor and overhead structures

15 Horses being transported across Bass Strait

are individually stall them, except for mares with foals at foot, which are stalled together

Horses over 6 months old

Lactating mares

Foals less than

6 months old

Mares known to be more than 7.5 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks

24 hrs 24 hrs 12 hrs

12 hrs 12 hrs 12 hrs

12 hrs 12 hrs 12 hrs

12 hrs 12 hrs 12 hrs

four hours duration and the destination is directly to another property)

unless under veterinary advice

6 Horses 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 to minimises risks to the horses

**LOADING AND OFF LOADING OF HORSES**

16 Loading density minimises risk to horses and

considers their class, size and body condition,

the predicted climatic conditions, the nature of the journey and the design and capacity of the

vehicle.

17 Horses are segregated according to their class,

size, general health, aggression; and the nature

of the journey to minimise risks to their welfare. Stallions are segregated from other horses

21 Time off water minimises risks to horses and

takes into account:

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

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

• climatic conditions, especially heat or cold;

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

• the nature of the intended journey

22 The maximum journey time for horses is only

extended up to 36 hours and only if:

• they are not exposed to the elements; and

• they have access to feed and water every five hours; and

• they have sufficient space to allow a comfortable standing position; and

• flooring is suitable and allows urine drainage;

and

• they are regularly assessed to be fit to continue; and

• they have a 24-hour spell at the end of the journey

23 In the absence of records, on arrival at their

destination, horses are watered within 24 hours

of the maximum time off water for their class (whichever is the lesser) and, if their maximum time off water is reached, spelled before

**DURING THE JOURNEY**

30 Horses are inspected:

• on the vehicle before departure; and

• within the first hour of the journey and at least every 3 hours (except sea journeys) or at each driver rest stop, whichever comes first, to assess the horses as being fit for the rest of

the journey

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

• at unloading;

31 If an inspection finds that a horse is distressed

or injured, it is attended to at the first

reasonable opportunity

32 The impact of severe weather is minimised

during transport

**ON ARRIVAL AT THE DESTINATION**

commencing another journey

**HUMANE DESTRUCTION**

24 If a horse is killed, it is done in a manner which

results in rapid loss of consciousness followed

by death while unconscious

25 Horses 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 horse at the time considers it is in the welfare interest of the horse and he is capable of killing it humanely, he may kill it.

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

27 A horse which has been killed is checked to

ensure that it is dead

33 The receival yard is inspected before

unloading, to ensure that there is access and

sufficient space for the horses to be unloaded

34 The receiver is notified of the arrival of the

horses (if possible) and, if the journey was over

24 hours, provided with the records of the journey

35 Weak, ill or injured horses are promptly

identified to the receiver and separated for

rest and recovery, treatment, or destruction

\* If horses are spelled for the duration stated in the table above the transport process is deemed to be completed and another transport process can be undertaken. If horses are unloaded

& provided with water for less than 4 hours, their time off water,

is not reduced. If water is provided for between 4 and 24 hours,

the time for which such access was provided is deducted from

the time off water. The time off water is calculated by adding:

assembly time; time in a holding facility prior to loading; loading;

**Australian Livestock Transport**

**Standards and Guidelines**

**Horses Checklist**

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



28 Blunt trauma is not used to kill horses.

29 Horses are not killed by cutting their throats

unless they are pre-stunned

time on a vehicle; unloading; holding in a handling facility during DEPARTMENT OF

transit or at a destination until water is provided. **PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES**