

# Is it fit to export?

**A guide to the supply of livestock for the Australian  
livestock export industry**



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## **About this guide**

The supply of appropriately prepared livestock that are fit for travel and export is critical for successful health and welfare outcomes that underpin the livestock export trade.

As a condition of licencing, Australian livestock exporters are required to comply with the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock. This places an obligation to comply with exporter requirements on agents and producers who supply livestock. Animals that are supplied for export must meet Standard 1 for Sourcing and On-Farm Preparation of Livestock. This guide assists in the maintenance of high standards of animal health and welfare by illustrating some types of animal that should not be supplied for export.

Note: This field guide complements but does not replace the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock, which should be referred to if further information is required. Some of the images shown in this guide have been digitally manipulated for illustrative purposes and are not intended to be photorealistic. Please note that the immediate responsibility to provide proper care for animals rests with the person in charge of the animals at the time.

# What cattle are fit to supply for export?

## Live weight

- Live weight between 200kg and 650kg.
- Special conditions apply to cattle heavier than 650kg.

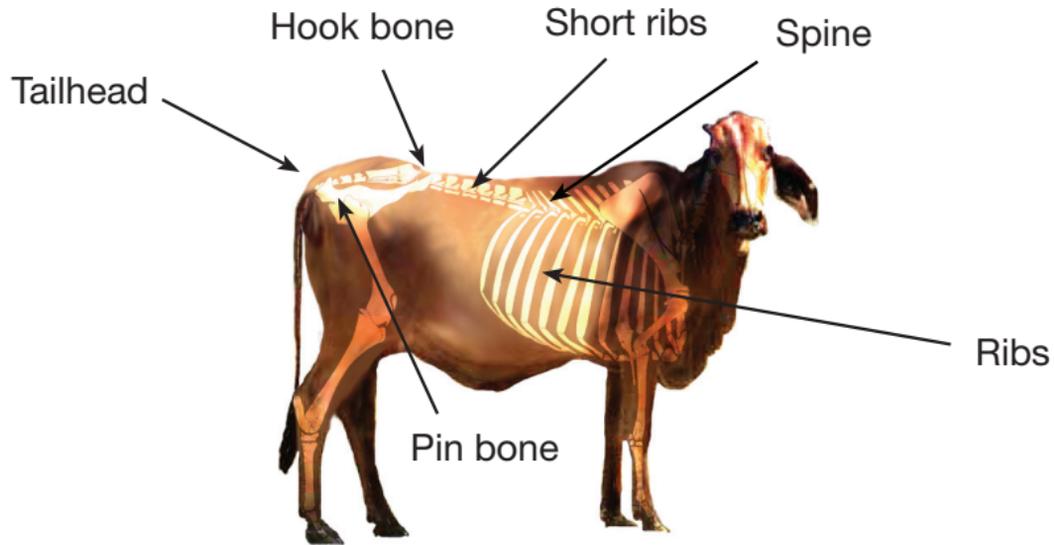
## Weaning status

- Weaned for at least 14 days before sourcing.

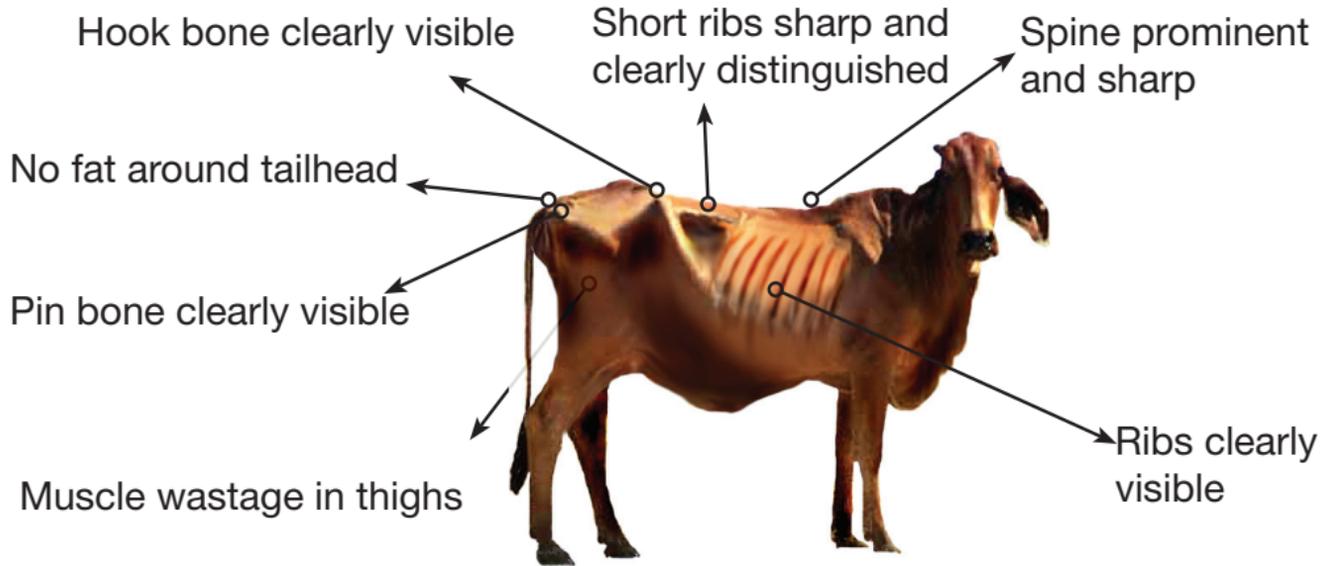
## Condition

- Emaciated or overfat cattle must not be supplied for export (refer to the images in this guide).

# Use these features to decide if beef cattle are in fit condition to supply for export

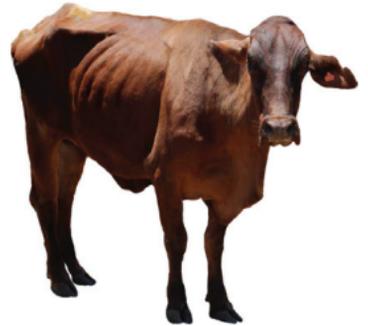
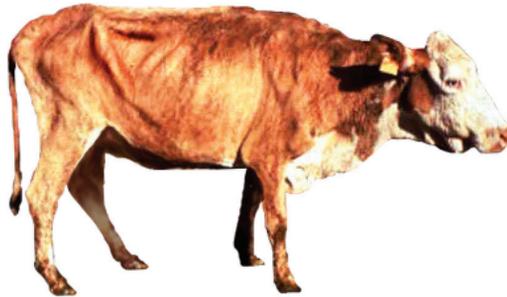


# Too thin to supply for export



Note: This image is a guide only. The responsibility for the welfare of the animal resides with the person in charge of the animal.

# Examples of cattle that are too thin to supply for export



Note: These images are guides only. The responsibility for the welfare of the animal resides with the person in charge of the animal.

# Too fat to supply for export

Hook bone fully covered with lumpy fat deposits

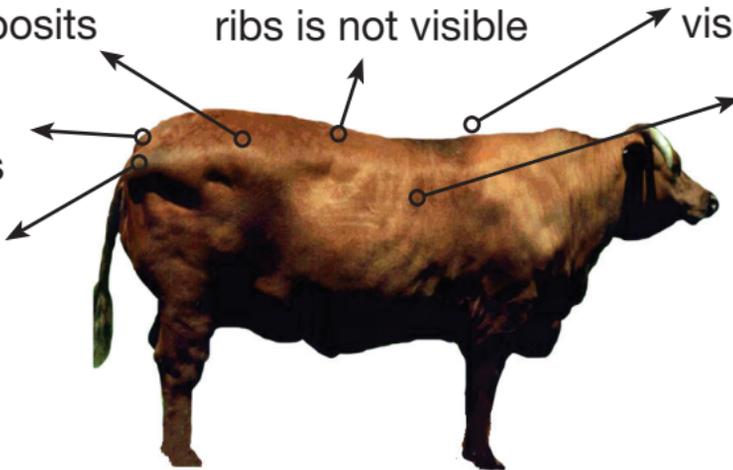
Bone structure of short ribs is not visible

Spines are not visible

Tailhead buried in lumpy fat deposits

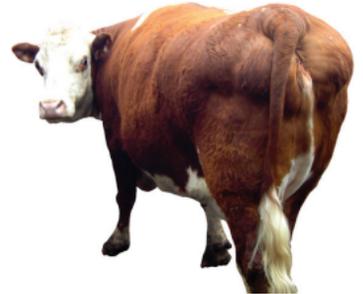
Fat deposits over the ribs

Pin bone covered with lumpy fat deposits



Note: This image is a guide only. The responsibility for the welfare of the animal resides with the person in charge of the animal.

# Examples of cattle that are too fat to supply for export



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# What sheep are fit to supply for export?

## Live weight

- Live weight greater than 28kg for export by sea and greater than 20kg for export by air.

## Weaning status

- Weaned for at least 14 days before sourcing.

## Wool

- Up to 25mm in length.
- At least 10 days off shears.

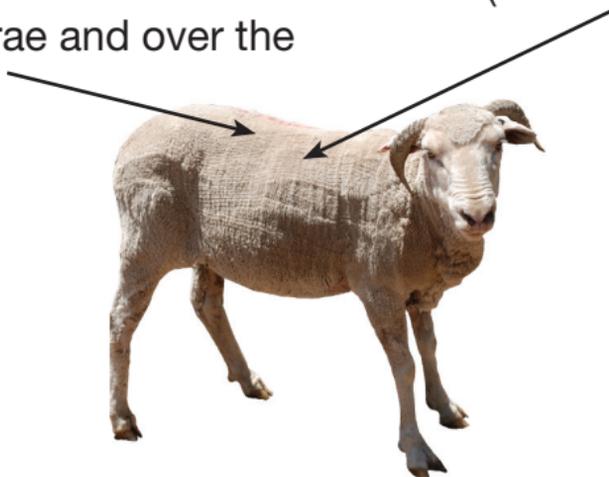
## Condition

- Sheep may only be exported from Darwin, Weipa or Wyndham from June to October.
- Emaciated or overfat sheep must not be supplied for export.

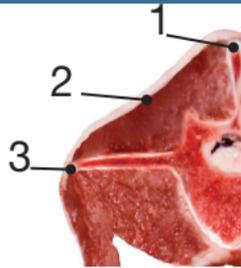
# Use these features to decide if sheep are in fit condition to supply for export

Fat cover over the vertical and horizontal processes of the lumbar vertebrae and over the loin muscle

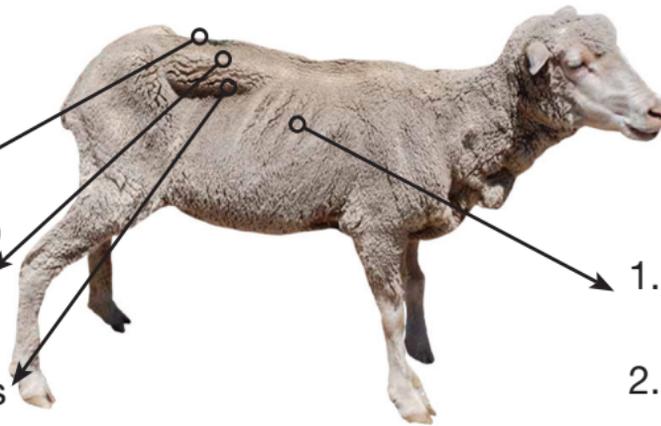
Fat cover over the 12<sup>th</sup> rib at the GR site (110mm down from the midline)



# Too thin to supply for export



1. Vertical processes prominent and sharp
2. Loin muscle shallow and concave
3. Horizontal processes sharp and easily felt

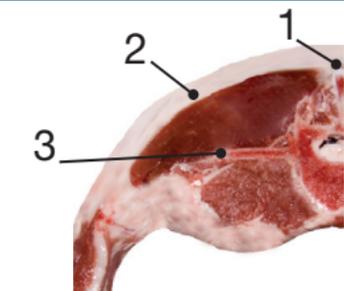


1. Individual ribs easily felt
2. Little fat cover over ribs (0–5mm)

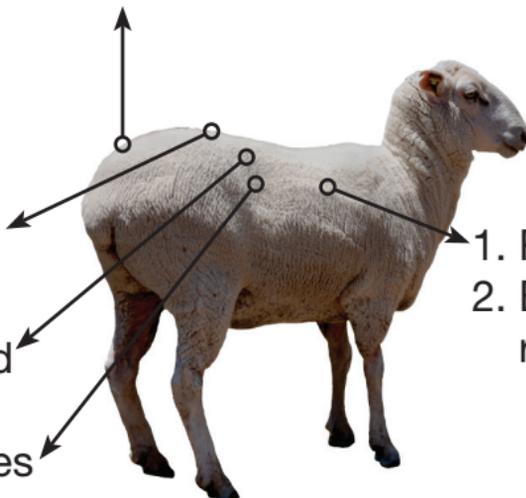


Note: This image is a guide only. The responsibility for the welfare of the animal resides with the person in charge of the animal.

# Too fat to supply for export

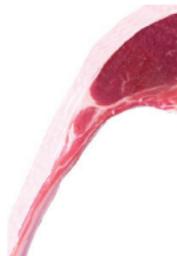


Fat deposits evident over tail and rump



1. Vertical processes cannot be felt
2. Loin muscle full and convex
3. Horizontal processes cannot be felt

1. Ribs can barely be felt
2. Excessive fat cover over ribs (more than 20mm)



Note: This image is a guide only. The responsibility for the welfare of the animal resides with the person in charge of the animal.

# What goats are fit to supply for export?

Goats must be accustomed to handling and must have been fed and watered from troughs for at least 21 days before export.

## Live weight

- Live weight greater than 22kg for export by sea and greater than 14kg for export by air.

## Weaning status

- Weaned for at least 14 days before sourcing.

## Condition

- Emaciated or overfat goats must not be supplied for export.

# Use these features to decide if goats are in fit condition to supply for export

Fat cover over the vertical and horizontal processes of the lumbar vertebrae and over the loin muscle

Fat cover over the 12<sup>th</sup> rib at the GR site (110mm down from the midline)

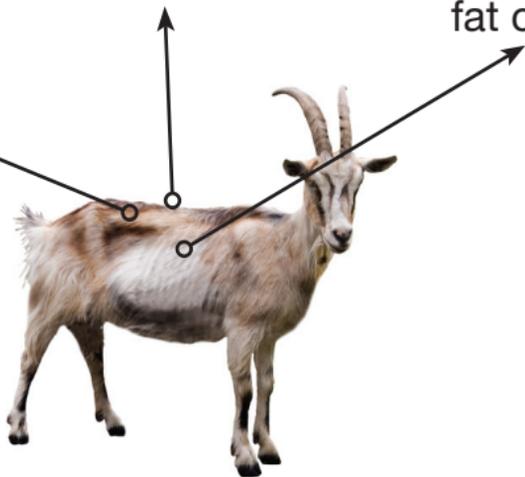


# Too thin to supply for export

Individual short ribs  
can be felt; little  
muscle or fat covering  
can be detected

Backbone is  
prominent and sharp

Ribs very easily felt at the  
GR site; less than 3mm  
fat cover



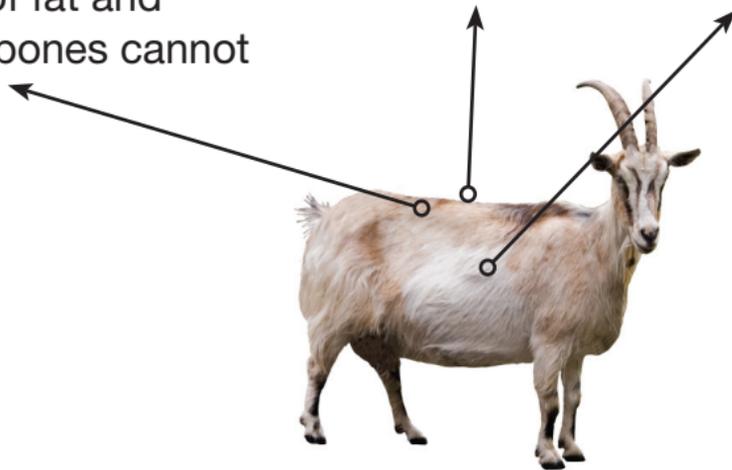
Note: This image is a guide only. The responsibility for the welfare of the animal resides with the person in charge of the animal.

# Too fat to supply for export

Short ribs covered in a layer of fat and individual bones cannot be felt

Backbone lies in the centre of a groove of fat

Ribs can only be felt with pressure; excessive fat cover over ribs (more than 12mm)



Note: This image is a guide only. The responsibility for the welfare of the animal resides with the person in charge of the animal.

# Horns

## Slaughter and feeder cattle

- 12cm maximum length and blunt ended.

## Slaughter and feeder sheep and goats

- Horns must not be turned in so as to damage the head or eyes.
- Horns must not endanger other animals.
- Horns must not restrict access to feed or water.



Horns of slaughter and feeder rams must be one full curl or less.

Note: Additional conditions may apply.

# Pregnancy status

## Slaughter and feeder cows, ewes and does

- Female cattle must have been spayed or pregnancy tested and must be certified spayed or not pregnant.
- Ewes weighing more than 40kg and does weighing more than 35kg must have been pregnancy tested and must be certified not pregnant.

## Breeding cows, ewes and does

- Breeding cows and heifers must have been pregnancy tested and must be declared not more than 190 days pregnant on the scheduled departure date.
- Breeding ewes and does must have been pregnancy tested and be certified not more than 100 days pregnant on the scheduled departure date.

# Animal health

**Animals with the following conditions must not be supplied for export**



Pinkeye



Fly strike



Lameness



Scabby mouth

Note: Please consult the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock for a complete list of health rejection criteria.



Pizzelle rot

## **Water deprivation time**

Dehydration is a major potential risk to the well-being of livestock being transported. The following are suggested maximum times for water deprivation under normal environmental conditions. Deprivation time is the total continuous time livestock are without access to water during mustering, yarding, curfew, transport and at their destination after unloading.

**Cattle** must not normally be deprived of water for more than 36 hours.

**Mature sheep and goats** must not normally be deprived of water for more than 32 hours.

**Young sheep** (less than six months old) and **young goats** (less than 12 months old) must not normally be deprived of water for more than 20 hours.

Further information on the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock is available from:



**Australian Government**

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**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

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**Is it fit to export?**

**If in doubt, leave it out.**

