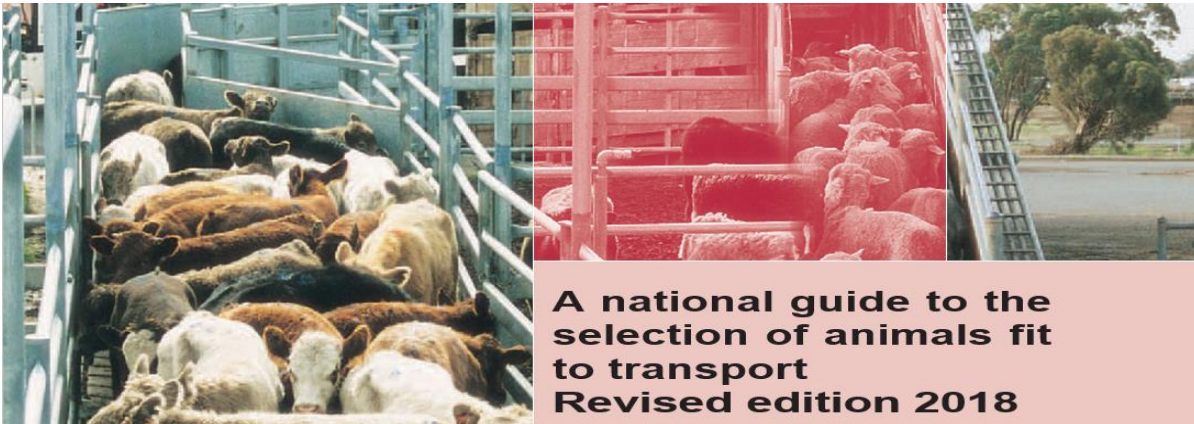



Is the Animal Fit to Load – What's Changed?



A national guide to the selection of animals fit to transport
Revised edition 2018

Is it fit to load?



Is the animal fit to load? 
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

A national guide to the pre-transport selection and management of livestock
Revised edition 2019



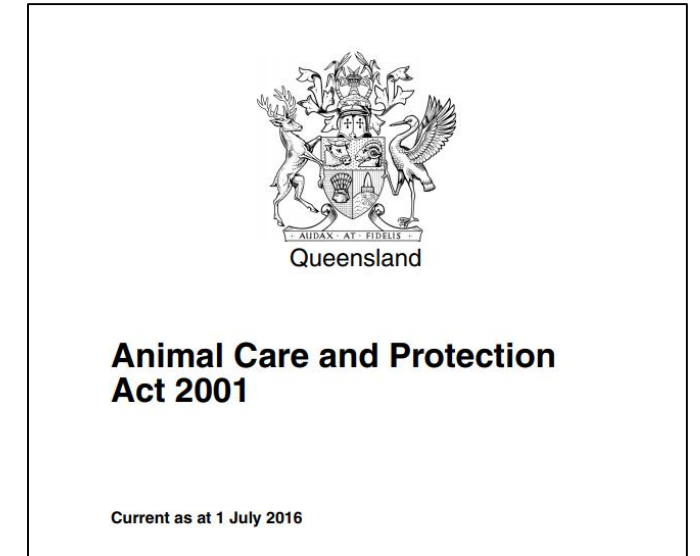
Endorsed by:



Is the Animal Fit to Load – Revised Edition

The 2019 edition contains additional information on:

- clear roles and responsibilities for consignors and transporters
- clear checklists to assess whether an animal is fit to load
- managing effluent
- loading densities
- transporting bobby calves
- using a firearm or captive bolt for euthanasia.



Is the Animal Fit to Load?

The producer/consignor (manager) is responsible for:

- mustering and handling prior to loading
- preparation, inspection and selection as 'fit for the intended journey'
- providing feed and water prior to loading
- providing advice to the transporter on the fitness of animals
- completing the necessary transport documentation (e.g. NVD or waybill).

Table 1: At what point is a 'person in charge' of animals

Person in charge of animals	When the person is responsible
Producer/consignor	Prior to loading
Transporter/driver	Loading, unloading and during the journey
Receiver* (e.g. processor, agent, saleyard manager/superintendent)	After unloading

*For more detail on receiver responsibilities refer to animalwelfarestandards.net.au/saleyards-and-depots

Is the Animal Fit to Load?

The Check List

Prior to loading you must ensure the animal:

- ✓ **can walk** on its own by bearing weight on all four legs
- ✓ is free from severe **injury or distress**
- ✓ is **strong enough** to make the journey
- ✓ **can see** well enough to walk, load and travel (e.g. it is not blind in both eyes)
- ✓ is **not in late pregnancy** or too young to travel
- ✓ has had **adequate access to water** prior to loading



Remember, if in doubt, leave it out.

Is the Animal Fit to Load?

Transporting Bobby Calves

You cant:

- Consign a bobby calf across Bass Straight
- Use a dog or a electric prodder on calves
- Throw, drop, hit or drag at calf
- Lift an animal of the ground by the head, neck, ears, tail, single leg.



Using Firearms/Captive Bolts to perform Euthanasia

- Minimum muzzle velocity for adult cattle is 0.22 magnum
- Minimum muzzle velocity for sheep & goats is 0.22 caliber
- Confirming death (dilation of pupil, absence of corneal blink)
- Absence of respiration.



Is the Animal Fit to Load?

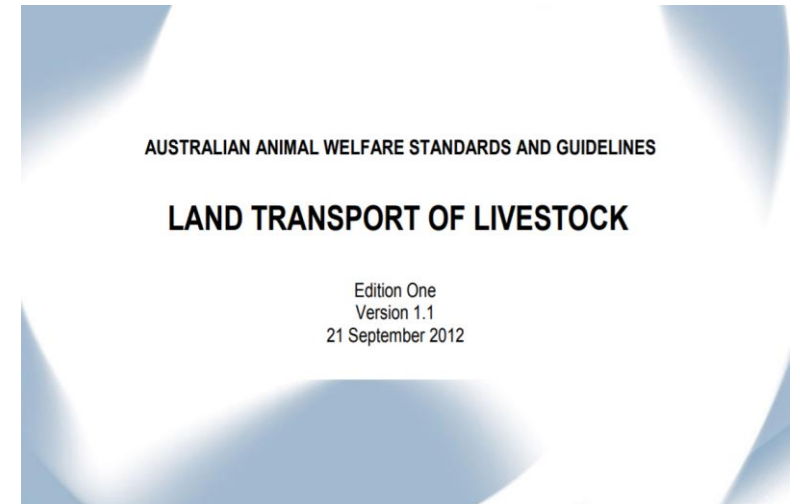
Managing Effluent

- Excess effluent can cause animals to slip and injure themselves
- Limit access to lush green feed and provide roughage
- Provide access to water unless operating under a wet curfew
- NVHR classifies effluent loss as a load restraint breach.



Loading Densities

- Transporter must ensure that loading densities adhere to the Standards and Guidelines
- Loading must also account for wool length, presence of horns, size of animal, if young are at foot and prevailing weather conditions and transport time.



Is the Animal Fit to Load?

Animals that cannot walk or stand normally are unfit to load.



Is the Animal Fit to Load?

Sick or injured animals that are unfit to load

Ingrown horns

Hernia's

Cancers

Enlarged testicles

Infections



Is the Animal Fit to Load?

Sick or injured animals that are unfit to load

Swollen pizzle

Lumpy jaw

Full udders

Refusal to stand or walk

Panting or heat stress



Is the Animal Fit to Load?

Animals with eye disease or injuries

Eye cancer



Eye disease



Blind in both eyes









Is the Animal Fit to Load?

Animals that are emaciated, dehydrated or weak



Assessing low body condition breeds and crossbreeds

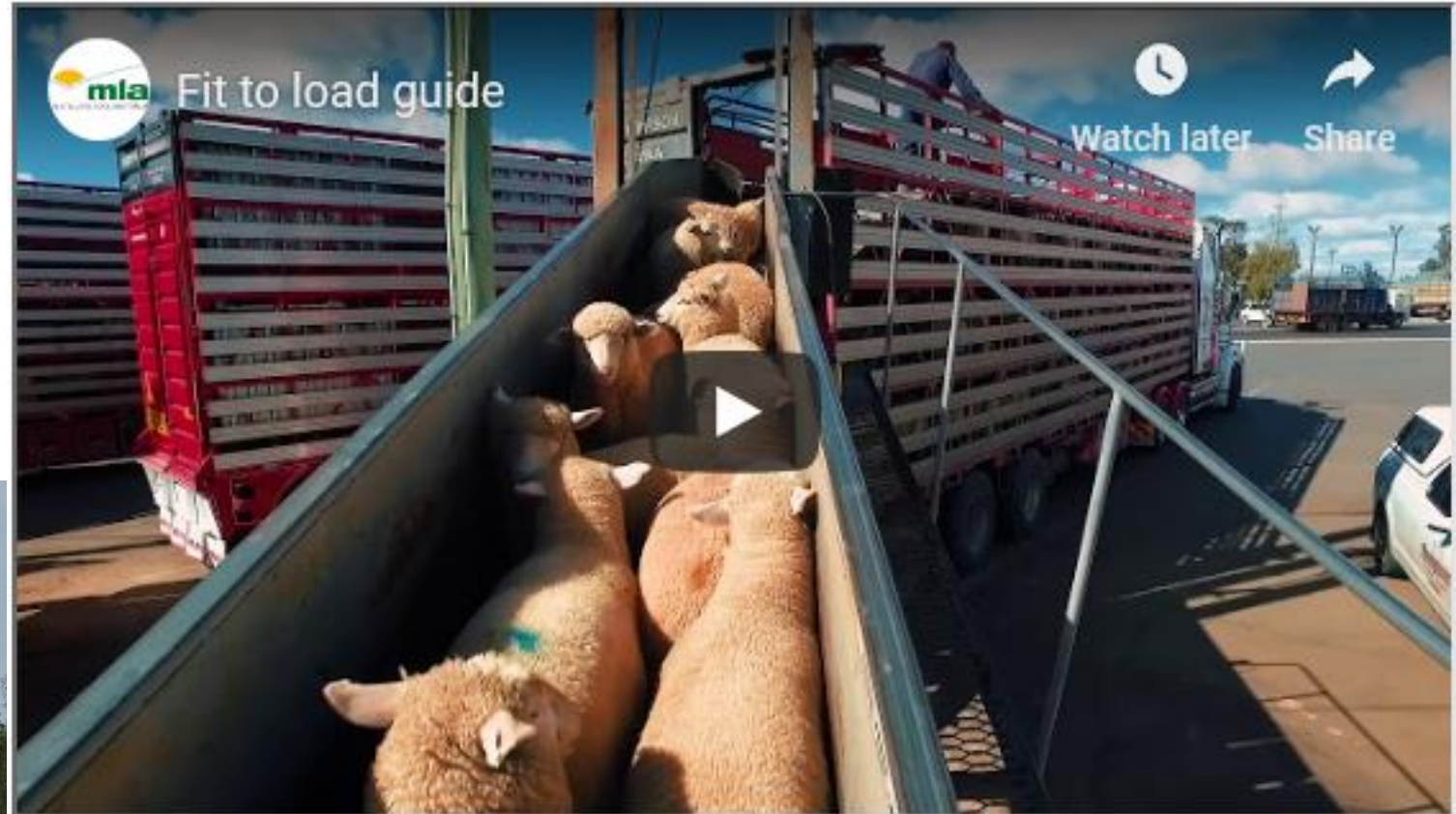
Level of low body condition	B-E 1/BCS 2	D 0/BCS 1	E 0/BCS 0
<i>Bos taurus</i> or cross bred animals			
<i>Bos indicus</i> animals			
Brief description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lean but strong and healthy with evident muscle wastage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy but with significant muscle wastage• Able to recover for transport if adequately fed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weak, with no body reserves. At risk of death from cold, wet weather or other stressors• Recovery for transport dependent on high quality care but will be slow
Backbone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easily seen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spines of backbone identifiable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spines of backbone individually identifiable

<http://www.alpa.net.au/UserFiles/File/Documents/MLA%20Low%20Score%20cattle%20Sept%202013.pdf>

Fit to load video available:

Search 'fit to load' on MLA website

www.mla.com.au



← ?????????

Fit to Load - Summary

The 'person in charge' of an animal is responsible for its welfare and ensuring the animal is not exposed to or treated in any way that causes pain, injury or distress.

The producer/consignor is responsible for the welfare of animals prior to loading.

The transporter/driver is responsible for the welfare of animals at the point of loading, during the journey and at the point of unloading.

If in doubt leave it out!!

Conclusion:

- Transparency
- Responsibility
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Normality.

Industry hit hard by live export ban

Susan McDonald, Anna Henderson, Alison Middleton

Updated 9 Jun 2011, 1:15pm

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association says it is disappointed with the Federal Government's decision to temporarily suspend all live cattle exports to Indonesia, but says it may save the industry in the long term.

The Government plans to stop all exports to Indonesia for up to six months or until animal welfare safeguards are in place.

Association president Rohan Sullivan says it is better than an indefinite ban.

"I am disappointed that it has had to come to this," he said.



PHOTO: The export ban will apply for up to six months
(Ben Collins: ABC Local)

"If you can't assure the outcome then don't do it!"