



Competent stock handlers on freighter aircraft – applying for alternative arrangements in accordance with ASEL 3.0.

Live Animal Exports Division

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This policy is a guide to applying for approval under the notice of intention to export (NOI) for alternative arrangements to competent stock handler requirements on freighter aircraft, as provided for under standard 6.1.25 of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) 3.0.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to exporters and is applicable only to applications for alternative arrangements to ASEL s6.1.24 b). All other applicable ASEL standards are not covered by this policy and must be met in accordance with the requirements of ASEL.
- 2.2 This document outlines the process exporters must follow when seeking to make an application under ASEL s6.1.25 as part of an NOI. When assessing an application, the department will consider whether granting an alternative arrangement will ensure the international transport arrangements for the livestock are adequate for their health and welfare (see [assessment of applications received by the department](#)).
- 2.3 This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant export legislation and standards listed under [related material](#).

3 Requirements

- 3.1 In accordance with ASEL s6.1.24 a competent stock handler who is employed or contracted by the exporter must accompany consignments to oversee the welfare of the livestock during flight, at transit stops and during unloading of the aircraft, where the livestock are transported on charter aircraft and freighter aircraft.
- 3.2 Under ASEL s6.1.25, an exporter may apply for approval of an alternative arrangement for the requirement for a competent stock handler to accompany consignments of livestock being exported on freighter aircraft (ASEL s6.1.24 b)).

4 Instructions

- 4.1 Exporters that wish to apply for an alternative arrangement to the requirement for a competent stock handler to accompany livestock on a freighter aircraft must make a written application to the department at the time of submitting an NOI for the consignment. The application must be uploaded via TRACE or sent to livestockexp@awe.gov.au. If the application is made after an NOI has been approved, it will be considered a variation to the NOI application.

4.2 The application must include:

- the consignment LNC number
- the reasons or grounds in which the application is being made
- details of the loading arrangements for the livestock, including:
 - where on the aircraft the livestock will be loaded
 - what proportion the consignment takes up of the total aircraft pay load

Note the department will only consider applications where the consignment consists of less than 50% of the total freighter aircraft pay load

- details on how the exporter will ensure the alternative arrangement will not compromise animal health and welfare. This includes details of any additional inspections or treatments carried out by an AAV or competent stock handler to verify the animals' health, welfare and appropriateness for export immediately prior to loading onto the aircraft
- if access is available to the animals during the flight, details of a suitable member(s) of the crew who will be responsible for the oversight and care of the livestock at all times while on the aircraft, including:
 - details on how (including how often) the livestock will be checked during the flight
 - a process for the crew member(s) to provide a report on the livestock to the exporter's nominated competent stock handler as soon as practicable on arrival at any transit and destination stops (ASEL s6.1.26). This is so animals can receive prompt handling and care as soon as possible after landing if required.
- a written communication plan outlining how the exporter can contact the captain of the aircraft, and vice versa, at any time during the export journey
- a written contingency plan for circumstances where animals become sick, injured or distressed at any time during the export journey. This must cover how arrangements will be made for their prompt and humane handling, care, treatment, separation, euthanasia and/or disposal in compliance with ASEL and all relevant and applicable legislation.

Assessment of applications received by the department

4.3 The department will consider any applications on an individual consignment basis. The assessment will be based on the criteria outlined in this document and the relevant legislation. The department will provide a written outcome of decision to the exporter.

4.4 In addition to other relevant matters, the department may consider whether to approve an application based on:

- the species and classes of animals being exported
- any livestock being exported under an approved management plan
- the loading arrangements for the livestock, including:
 - the location on the aircraft where the livestock will be loaded
 - the ability to access the livestock during the flight
 - the proportion the livestock take up of the total aircraft pay load

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- any planned transit stops
- the route of travel, destination or time of year (including departure and arrival ports with different climatic conditions)
- whether the exporter has had a recent or previous notifiable incident.

4.5 If an application is approved and any circumstances of the consignment change this may affect the approval. Any changes will be reviewed by the department when an exporter amends a previously approved NOI. Exporters will be notified if the changes impact any previous approvals given.

4.6 Unless otherwise approved in writing as part of an NOI application, the exporter must have a competent stock handler accompany all air consignments where required by ASEL s6.1.24.

5 Related material

For more information see:

- [Export Control \(Animals\) Order 2004](#)
- [Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock \(ASEL\) 3.0](#)
- [TRACE](#)