



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock

Rejection Criteria Guidebook 2.0

Cattle and Buffalo



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.



Introduction

The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) outlines criteria that, when met, deem an animal ineligible for export. These criteria are termed rejection criteria. Rejection criteria should be understood and used in all parts of the supply chain from farm sourcing, selection and during quarantine/isolation preparation.

This Rejection Criteria Guidebook aims to:

- provide clarification and technical information to users of ASEL (government and non-government) for the selection of export livestock to promote the consistent application of rejection criteria
- improve welfare outcomes for export livestock through better management prior to loading
- provide clear guidelines and images for use by all supply chain stakeholders around livestock that are not suitable for export or to enter the export supply chain.

This guidebook is intended to be a living document that is expanded and improved over time. We ask that if you have photographs or videos of animals that could be included as rejection examples, please contact ASELreview@agriculture.gov.au. If you have comments or feedback on the text or the layout, please let us know.

As this is a living document, we recommend you access the guidebook via the weblink rather than download your own copy.

This is guidance material only and is not intended to replace any state, territory or Australian animal welfare standards or fit to load guidance.

*Where a notifiable animal disease is suspected,
there is an obligation to report this to government authorities.*

*Veterinarians should use their discretion
when assessing an animal's eligibility for export*

ASEL rejection criteria for all species by sea

Table 1: Rejection criteria for all species by sea

Category	Rejection criteria
General requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep wool or hair longer than 25mm* • Failure to meet importing country requirements including sex or breed if specified • Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export • Lactating animals/lactating animals with young at foot • Viral diseases such as scabby mouth or infectious bovine rhinotracheitis • Animals displaying clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease or external parasites • Animals showing signs of injury such as but not limited to fractures or swelling
Systemic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body condition score not appropriate for export (such as emaciated or over-fat) • Anorexia (inappetence or 'shy feeders') • Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak • Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated • Ill-thrift
Gastrointestinal system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea • Bloat
Musculoskeletal system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abnormal gait or lameness of any kind • Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings
Nervous system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nervous symptoms such as head tilt, circling, incoordination • Abnormal or aggressive behaviour/intractable or violent
External/skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalised papillomatosis or generalised ringworm or dermatophilosis • Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions • Generalised skin disease or infection • External skin cancer • Lacerations that penetrate the full thickness of the dermis or are likely to affect the health or welfare of the animal • Discharging wounds or abscesses • Cutaneous myiasis (flystrike) • Balanitis (pizzle rot in sheep) • Blood/abnormal discharge from reproductive tract (vulva/prepuce) • Visible external parasites
Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blindness in 1 or both eyes • Cancer eye • Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye) • Excessive salivation • Nasal discharge consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease • Coughing consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease • Respiratory distress or difficulty breathing • Sharp horns • Horns that could injure the animal or other animals • Horns that could restrict access to feed or water • Bleeding and/or not fully healed horn stumps or broken antlers • For sheep, horns longer than 1 full curl* • For cattle, horns longer than 12cm** • Scabby mouth

ASEL rejection criteria for all species by sea cont.

Category	Rejection criteria
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Groups of animals with unusual mortalitiesDisparities in sex, size, weight or age that could cause an issue with the health or welfare of the animals (redraft animals in this case)

Note: For some rejection criteria, management procedures may occur after sourcing so livestock meet eligibility criteria at the time of export.

*Unless otherwise provided in a relevant management plan approved in writing by the department.

**Horns may be longer than 12 cm if they are pointing downwards parallel to the face or unless otherwise provided in a relevant management plan approved in writing by the department.

ASEL rejection criteria for all species by air

Table 2: Rejection criteria for all species by air

Category	Rejection criteria
General requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to meet importing country requirements including sex or breed if specified • Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export • Viral diseases such as scabby mouth or infectious bovine rhinotracheitis • Animals displaying clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease or external parasites • Animals showing signs of injury such as but not limited to fractures or swelling • Evidence of imminent parturition
Systemic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body condition score not appropriate for export (such as emaciated or over-fat) • Anorexia (inappetence or 'shy feeders') • Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak • Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated • Ill-thrift
Gastrointestinal system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea • Bloat
Musculoskeletal system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abnormal gait or lameness of any kind • Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings
Nervous system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nervous symptoms such as head tilt, circling, incoordination • Abnormal or aggressive behaviour/intractable or violent
External/skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalised papillomatosis or generalised ringworm or dermatophilosis • Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions • Generalised skin disease or infection • External skin cancer • Lacerations that penetrate the full thickness of the dermis or are likely to affect the health or welfare of the animal • Discharging wounds or abscesses • Cutaneous myiasis (flystrike) • Balanitis (pizzle rot in sheep) • Blood/abnormal discharge from reproductive tract (vulva/prepuce) • Visible external parasites
Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blindness in 1 or both eyes • Cancer eye • Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye) • Excessive salivation • Nasal discharge consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease • Coughing consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease • Respiratory distress or difficulty breathing • Sharp horns • Horns that could injure the animal or other animals • Horns that could restrict access to feed or water • Bleeding and/or not fully healed horn stumps or broken antlers • For sheep, horns longer than 1 full curl* • For cattle, horns longer than 12cm** • Scabby mouth

ASEL rejection criteria for all species by air cont.

Category	Rejection criteria
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Groups of animals with unusual mortalitiesDisparities in sex, size, weight or age that could cause an issue with the health or welfare of the animals (redraft animals in this case)

Note: For some rejection criteria, management procedures may occur after sourcing so livestock meet eligibility criteria at the time of export.

*Unless otherwise provided in a relevant management plan approved in writing by the department.

**Horns may be longer than 12 cm if they are pointing downwards parallel to the face or unless otherwise provided in a relevant management plan approved in writing by the department.



Glossary

Term	Definition
Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)	The ASEL sets the requirements for exporting livestock from Australia by sea and air. The standards outline the minimum animal health and welfare conditions exporters must meet.
Blepharospasm	Spasm of the eyelids.
Conjunctiva	Membrane that covers the front of the eye. It is transparent in the central portion, where it is specialised to form the covering of the cornea.
Cornea	Clear part at the front of the eye.
Depression	A reduction or lowering in the animal's activity or consciousness.
Epiphora	Tears from one or both eye(s) that is unable to pass down the tear duct to the inside of the nose. Can be due to blocking of the tear duct or inflammation of cornea or conjunctiva.
Inflamed	Reaction to tissue injury. Shows signs of heat, pain, redness, swelling and loss of function.
Intractable	Difficult or impossible to control.
Intraocular	Within the eyeball.
Mucoid	Involving, resembling, or of the nature of mucus.
Mucopurulent	Containing a mixture of mucus and pus.
Neovascularisation	The development of new blood vessels, especially in tissues where circulation has been impaired by trauma or disease.
Opacity	Lacking transparency or translucence.
Ophthalmalgia	Eye pain.
Photophobia	Sensitive to light/sunlight.
Recumbency	Lying down and a failure to get up.
Ruptured globe	Burst eyeball.
Sclera	Outermost hard fibrous coat of the eye, also known as the 'whites of the eye(s)'.
Tympany	A hollow drum-like sound that is produced when a gas-containing cavity is tapped sharply.



General requirements

Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export	<u>12</u>
Lactating animals/lactating animals with young at foot	<u>17</u>
Animals displaying clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease or external parasites, viral diseases such as infectious bovine rhinotracheitis	<u>18</u>
Animals showing signs of injury such as but not limited to fractures or swelling	<u>19</u>

Systemic conditions

Body condition score not appropriate for export (such as emaciated or over-fat)	<u>21</u>
Anorexia (inappetence or 'shy feeders')	<u>24</u>
Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak	<u>26</u>
Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated and ill-thrift	<u>27</u>

Gastrointestinal system

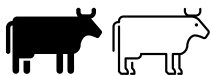
Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea	<u>30</u>
Bloat	<u>32</u>

Musculoskeletal system

Abnormal gait or lameness of any kind	<u>34</u>
Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings	<u>36</u>

Nervous system

Nervous symptoms such as head tilt, circling, incoordination	<u>39</u>
Abnormal or aggressive behaviour/intractable or violent	<u>41</u>



External/skin

Generalised papillomatosis	<u>44</u>
Generalised ringworm	<u>46</u>
Generalised dermatophilosis	<u>48</u>
Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions	<u>50</u>
Generalised skin disease or infection	<u>52</u>
External skin cancer	<u>55</u>
Lacerations that penetrate the full thickness of the dermis or are likely to affect the health or welfare of the animal	<u>57</u>
Discharging wounds or abscesses	<u>58</u>
Balanitis	<u>59</u>
Blood/abnormal discharge from reproductive tract (vulva/prepuce)	<u>62</u>
Visible external parasites	<u>63</u>

Head

Blindness in 1 or both eyes	<u>65</u>
Cancer eye	<u>67</u>
Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye)	<u>69</u>
Excessive salivation	<u>73</u>
Nasal discharge consistent with signs of contagious or infectious disease	<u>75</u>
Coughing consistent with signs of contagious or infectious disease and Respiratory distress or difficulty breathing	<u>77</u>
Sharp horns, horns that could injure the animal or other animals, horns that could restrict access to feed or water, bleeding and/or not fully healed horn stumps, horns longer than 12 cm	<u>79</u>

Other

Disparities in sex, size, weight or age that could cause an issue with the health or welfare of the animals	<u>84</u>
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General requirements

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export

Reject if:

- Required certification cannot be provided (see Considerations)

Considerations:

To facilitate efficient verification by departmental staff, all declarations/certifications should:

- have NLIS numbers itemised (1. XXX 2. XXX and so on) or the total count of animals spayed/tested provided
- link to or include property of origin/property of testing details.

Female **feeder or slaughter** cattle/buffalo by sea require **one of the following**:

- If spayed, a spay declaration stating:
 - ✓ Owner/manager name, contact information and signature
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure
 AND
 - ✓ spayed 30+ days prior to export by Willis dropped ovary technique
 OR
 - ✓ spayed 280+ days prior to export
- Pregnancy certificate by registered veterinarian stating:
 - ✓ veterinarian name, registration no. and signature
 - ✓ method used (manual palpation, blood test or ultrasound as permitted)
 - ✓ not detectably pregnant
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure/sample collection (within 30 days of export)

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Continued over page



Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export

Female **feeder or slaughter** cattle/buffalo by sea continued

- Pregnancy certificate by competent pregnancy tester stating:
 - ✓ name and signature
 - ✓ state or territory accreditation or other authorisation*
 - ✓ method used (manual palpation only)
 - ✓ not detectably pregnant
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure (within 30 days of export)

**not all jurisdictions allow non-veterinarians to diagnose pregnancy: ensure this is permitted in jurisdiction of testing*

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export

Female **breeder** cattle/buffalo by sea require **one of the following**:

- For voyages **less than 10 days** and animal can be manually palpated – pregnancy certificate by registered veterinarian stating:
 - ✓ veterinarian name, registration no. and signature
 - ✓ attestation to current experience and competency in cattle/buffalo pregnancy diagnosis
 - ✓ method used (approved blood test or manual palpation)
 - ✓ not detectably pregnant or number of days pregnant
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure (within 30 days of export if pregnant, within 60 days of export if not detectably pregnant)
- For voyages **10 days or more** and/or animals are too small to be manually palpated – pregnancy certificate by registered veterinarian accredited under PREgCHECK (NCPD) Scheme stating:
 - ✓ veterinarian name, registration no., accreditation no., statement of current accreditation and signature
 - ✓ method used (approved blood test, manual palpation or, if animal is too small to be manually palpated, ultrasound)
 - ✓ not detectably pregnant or number of days pregnant
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure (within 30 days of export if pregnant, within 60 days of export if not detectably pregnant)

IMPORTANT: Check the number of days pregnant and confirm:

- Cattle: max. 190 days pregnant at scheduled discharge date
- Buffalo: max. 220 days pregnant at scheduled discharge date

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export

Female **feeder or slaughter** cattle/buffalo by air require **one of the following**:

- If spayed, a spay declaration stating:
 - ✓ Owner/manager name, contact information and signature
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure

AND

 - ✓ spayed 30+ days prior to export by Willis dropped ovary technique

OR

 - ✓ spayed 280+ days prior to export
- Pregnancy certificate by registered veterinarian stating:
 - ✓ veterinarian name, registration no. and signature
 - ✓ method used (manual palpation, approved blood test or ultrasound as permitted)
 - ✓ not detectably pregnant
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure/sample collection (within 30 days of export)

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export

Female **breeder** cattle/buffalo by air require **one of the following**:

- A pregnancy certificate by registered veterinarian stating:
 - ✓ veterinarian name, registration no. and signature
 - ✓ method used (approved blood test or manual palpation)
 - ✓ Not detectably pregnant or number of days pregnant
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure
- Where the animal is too small to be manually palpated and ultrasound diagnosis is used, a pregnancy certificate by registered veterinarian accredited under PREgCHECK (NCPD) Scheme stating:
 - ✓ veterinarian name, registration no., accreditation no. and signature
 - ✓ method used (ultrasound)
 - ✓ not detectably pregnant or number of days pregnant
 - ✓ NLIS number
 - ✓ date of procedure

IMPORTANT: Check the number of days pregnant and confirm:

- Cattle: max. 190 days pregnant at scheduled date of export*
- Buffalo: max. 220 days pregnant at scheduled date of export*

*unless under a *last third of pregnancy* management plan

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Lactating animals/lactating animals with young at foot

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other

Technical information:

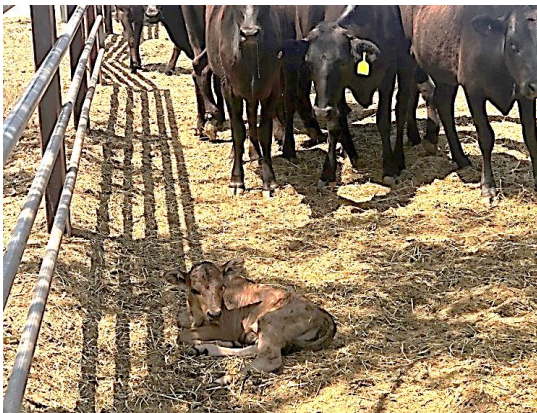
- Lactation is the secretion of milk by the mammary glands.
- Engorged/ distended mammary glands are evidence of lactation
- When lactating, there is increased potential for infection to penetrate the teat duct, which is an important consideration in export animals.

Note: lactating animals with young at foot are not permitted to be exported by sea.

Reject if:

- The animal has evidence of lactation* e.g. milk dripping from teats (including milk dripping from unjoined heifers).
- *unless under a *livestock with young at foot* management plan (air only).

Rejection examples:



Recently calved livestock. It is important to identify the lactating cow.

Considerations:

- Accuracy of pregnancy test certification – could the animal be pregnant/nearing parturition?
- Are there seasonal and/or compositional differences in feed that may have caused premature lactation?





Animals displaying clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease or external parasites, viral diseases such as infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

Technical information:

- Cattle and buffalo are susceptible to a range of infectious and contagious diseases and internal and external parasites.
- They are also susceptible to various internal and external parasites. For more information on external parasites specifically, see Visible external parasites.

Reject if:

- The animal has any infectious or contagious disease or parasitic infection not otherwise specified in ASEL or this guidebook that compromises animal health and welfare.

Rejection examples:



Ocular discharge associated with infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR).

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Animals showing signs of injury such as but not limited to fractures or swelling

Technical information:

- Injuries are physical harm or damage inflicted on an animal's body and can compromise the health and welfare of the animal.
- May be associated with bleeding, swelling, discharge, pain, abnormal behaviour, lameness, hair loss and discolouration of skin.

Reject if:

- The animal is showing signs of injury.

Rejection examples:



Large abnormal swelling on front right leg.



Abnormal abdominal swelling – should be inspected to determine cause.

Considerations:

- If unsure, draft the animal out for close inspection.



Systemic conditions

General
requirements

Systemic
conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other

OFFICIAL



Body condition score (BCS) not appropriate for export (such as emaciated or over-fat)

Reject if:

- Animal does not meet BCS requirements (see Considerations).

Rejection examples:



Bos indicus with BCS 1 out of 5.



Bos taurus with BCS not appropriate for export.



Body condition score (BCS) not appropriate for export (such as emaciated or over-fat)

Needed: photographs of rejectable *Bos taurus* (both ends of scale) meat and dairy breeds.

General
requirements

Systemic
conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other

Considerations:

Sea

- **Dairy breed** cattle must have a BCS of 3.5 or more but less than 5.5 (on a scale of 1 to 8).
 - unless *Bos taurus* and sourced from, or exported through, any area north of latitude 26°S between 1 Oct – 31 Dec inclusive, then they must have a BCS of 3.5 or more but less than 5 (on a scale of 1 to 8).
- **Non-dairy breed** cattle must have a BCS of 2 to 4 (inclusive) (on a scale of 0 to 5).
 - unless *Bos taurus* and sourced from, or exported through, any area north of latitude 26°S between 1 Oct – 31 Dec inclusive, then they must have a BCS of 2 to 3 (inclusive) (on a scale of 0 to 5).
- **Buffalo** must have a BCS of 2 to 4 (inclusive) (on scale of 1 to 5).





Body condition score (BCS) not appropriate for export (such as emaciated or over-fat)

Considerations (cont.):

Air

- **Dairy breed** cattle must have a BCS of 3.5 or more but less than 5.5 (on a scale of 1 to 8).
- **Non-dairy breed** cattle must have a BCS of 2 or more but less than 5 (on scale of 0 to 5).
- **Buffalo** must have a BCS of 2 or more but less than 5 (on scale of 1 to 5).

General

- Breed influences the distribution of fat and muscle.
- Inspect animals while they are standing to accurately estimate BCS.

General
requirements

Systemic
conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Anorexia (inappetence or 'shy feeders')

Alternative names: *inanition, inappetence, poor doers*

Technical information:

- Lack or loss of appetite for food.
- Shy feeders (prolonged lack or loss of appetite) may be a result of failure to adapt to diet changes or the environment (mixing with unfamiliar animals, novel feed and environment, competition, increased human contact, etc.).
- Rumen fill assessment: observation of the paralumbar ('rumen') fossa on the left side of the animal (see figure). The animal has not eaten enough if a clear triangular depression (score 1-2 out of 5) is present.



Location of rumen fossa.

Reject if:

- Any animal with evidence or history of poor feed/water intake.
- Rumen fill score of 1-2 (and the animal has not been under curfew).





Anorexia (inappetence or 'shy feeders')

Rejection examples:

Needed: Examples of rumen fill score 1 and 2 in beef and dairy breeds.

Considerations:

- Compare a suspect anorexic animal to its cohort – it should stand out. If many animals have no rumen fill, there may be an issue with feed delivery or palatability, illness, overcrowding or insufficient trough space.
- Anorexia may not be noticed by brief inspection but may be evident from daily observation over time.
- Anorexia may result in the animal being rejected under other criteria e.g. ill-thrift, poor body condition score.
- If anorexia is as a result of bullying behaviour, redrafting of animals may be required.

General
requirements

Systemic
conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak

Technical information:

- **Uncoordinated** animals show irregular movements e.g. movements which are not smooth and coordinated. Also referred to as ataxia (failure of musculature coordination).
- **Collapsed** animals are in a state of prostration (exhaustion or lack of energy) and depression +/- poor circulation.
- **Weak** animals show reluctance to and difficulty in rising, a disinclination to move, and then only slowly. They may not eat, or eat slowly, and may exhibit a drooping posture.

Reject if:

- The animal is showing signs of incoordination, collapse and/or weakness.
- The animal is not bright, alert and responsive to human/animal interaction.

Rejection examples:



↑ Cattle showing weakness, depressed demeanour and reduced responsiveness.



Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated and ill-thrift

Technical information:

- **Unwell** is a broad term to describe animals that may be displaying a range of clinical signs indicating they are not healthy. An animal that is not bright, alert and responsive to human/animal interaction is considered unwell.
- **Lethargic** animals show signs of drowsiness and/or indifference (lack of interest in surroundings/stimuli).
- **Dehydrated** animals may have a loss of skin elasticity, sunken/dry-looking eyes, signs of lethargy, a dry nose and dry, sticky gums. They may also display panting.
- **Ill-thrift** animals may show a failure to grow compared to their cohort and an inability to maintain weight despite seemingly adequate food available.

Reject if:

- The animal is showing signs of ill-thrift or of being unwell, lethargic or dehydrated.
- The animal is not bright, alert or responsive to human/animal interaction.

General
requirements

Systemic
conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated and ill-thrift

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals.

Considerations:

- Heat waves may cause animals to show lethargy. A plentiful supply of clean cool water and shade is essential. Water sprinklers may be useful to cool animals.
- Recent travel over a long distance or in the heat may cause lethargy. Animals should be given sufficient time to recover prior to further handling.

General
requirements

Systemic
conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Gastrointestinal system

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea

Technical information:

- Rapid movement of faecal matter through the intestine resulting in poor absorption of water, nutritive elements and electrolytes, and producing frequent evacuation of watery droppings.
- Causes include:
 - local irritation of the intestinal mucosa by infectious (e.g. bacteria, viral, protozoa) or chemical agents
 - seasonal considerations e.g. fresh green grass, wet weather
 - increased worm burden
 - disease, stress and nutritional deficiencies
 - indigestion associated with dietary changes.
- May lead to acidosis, or be a sign of acidosis.
- May be associated with abdominal pain, tenesmus (straining), dehydration, loss of body condition and faecal contamination of hindquarters.
- An affected animal may also show signs of lethargy, and dull demeanour compared to cohort.

Reject if:

The animals has:

- heavy faecal contamination of hindquarters or diarrhoea observed, and the animal is not bright, alert and responsive
- bloody diarrhoea
- straining and/or evidence of abdominal pain.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea

Rejection examples:



Evidence of diarrhoea, straining with passage of only mucus.

Credit: Phil Scott. [National Animal Disease Information Service](#)



Heavy faecal contamination of the hind quarters from chronic diarrhoea.

Animals will not be presented for export in this state however this may be observed earlier in the supply chain.

Considerations:

- History: progression and response to treatment.
- A transient dietary diarrhoea from a recent change in diet and the animal is otherwise bright, alert and responsive and eating/drinking does not require rejection, but must be resolved prior to transport to the port.
- It may be necessary to undertake further assessment of the group if diarrhoea is visible in pen/yard

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Bloat

Technical information:

- Tympany/swelling/distention of the rumen, abomasum or caecum. May be frothy (gas mixed with liquid to form stable froth) or free gas bloat.
- Usually sudden in onset.
- Usually associated with discomfort and vocalisation (bellowing).

Reject if:

- The animal is bloated unilaterally, bilaterally symmetrically or asymmetrically.

Rejection examples:



Animal showing evidence of bloat

Considerations:

- Mild left abdominal distention indicating a full rumen or having just fed in the absence of other symptoms suspicious of bloat does not require rejection.
- Animals in late pregnancy can appear bloated.
- Bloat can be an emergency, so consider contacting a veterinarian promptly if bloat is suspected.



Musculoskeletal system

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Abnormal gait or lameness of any kind

Technical information:

- A lame animal is incapable of normal locomotion; there is a deviation from the normal gait.
- Most commonly caused by pain in a limb/trunk or supporting structures; but contractures of joints and deformities, including shortness of limbs, may also be causes.

Reject if:

The animal is:

- not bearing weight evenly on all four legs
- redistributing weight to avoid placing weight on particular limb/s
- arching its back or bobbing its head when walking and its strides are obviously shortened

or the animal has:

- swollen limb/s
- knuckling of limb/s
- persistence lameness
- an obvious injury to the foot/leg
- a hoof deformity
- an abnormal gait other than due to conformation.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Abnormal gait or lameness of any kind

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals.

Considerations:

- Is there a reason the animal is footsore but this will resolve onboard the vessel and its welfare is not compromised?
- Is the lameness suspected to be due to age and size (e.g. arthritis in a mature, heavy bull)?
 - If the welfare of the animal would be placed at risk due to voyage (consider penning, voyage length, etc.) it may be more appropriate to transport the animal to a local abattoir, provided the animal is fit to load.

Note: treating animals on board can be difficult, therefore avoid allowing any lameness on board.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings

Technical information:

- Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings may be associated with the following (this list is not exhaustive):
 - tumour e.g. skin tumours, enlarged lymph nodes
 - infection e.g. lumpy jaw, trauma to body
 - abscess e.g. from vaccination, grass seed penetration
 - haematoma e.g. around bony prominences from trauma
 - hernia e.g. on ventral abdomen due to trauma
 - oedema e.g. submandibular (woody tongue, heart failure), brisket
 - urine e.g. ventral abdomen following urethral obstruction/rupture
 - gas e.g. over rump/back/shoulder (blackleg), sucking wounds.

Reject if:

- The animal has any visible abnormal soft tissue or bony swelling that may adversely affect animal health and welfare.

Rejection examples:

Large abnormal swelling.



General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings

Rejection examples (cont.):



Abnormal swelling of the lower jaw.



Large abnormal soft tissue swelling on the lower eyelid.



Large abnormal soft tissue mass on abdomen.

Considerations:

- Enlargements in lymph nodes (glands) may be transient with illness and return to normal upon returning to good health. These animals may not be appropriate for export until illness has resolved.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Nervous system

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Nervous symptoms such as head tilt, circling, incoordination

Technical information:

- Examples of nervous system symptoms include, but are not limited to:
 - head tilt or circling
 - head pressing
 - stargazing: back tends to be arched and head in upwards position
 - staggers: incoordination, including a tendency to fall over
 - ataxia: abnormal or uncoordinated movements
 - tremors or seizures
 - abnormal chomping of jaws.
- Animals with any of these signs should be drafted out and clinically assessed.

Reject if:

- The animal is persistently or repeatedly displaying nervous system signs such as those described above.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

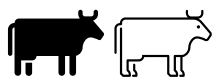
Gastrointestinal
systemMusculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Nervous symptoms such as head tilt, circling, incoordination

Rejection examples:



This animal displayed left-sided ataxia as seen by crossed forelegs.

General requirements
Systemic conditions
Gastrointestinal system
Musculoskeletal system
Nervous system
External/skin
Head
Other





Abnormal or aggressive behaviour/intractable or violent

Technical information:

- Aggressive cattle and buffalo can be dangerous and should be handled carefully.
- Groups of bulls are more likely to become aggressive amongst themselves in the presence of cows.
- Aggressive behaviours can include but are not limited to:
 - repeated charging
 - charging through fences
 - targeting people
 - repeated pawing
 - tail swishing
 - head nodding
 - standing ground or not moving away
 - aggressive vocalisation.

Reject if:

- The animal is displaying abnormal or aggressive, intractable, or violent behaviour such as that described above.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Abnormal or aggressive behaviour/intractable or violent

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals.

Considerations:

- Cattle kept on large properties where little human contact occurs are more likely to become agitated/fearful when confined or placed in new environments.
 - Differentiate between aggressive behaviour and stressed behaviour.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





External/skin

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Generalised papillomatosis

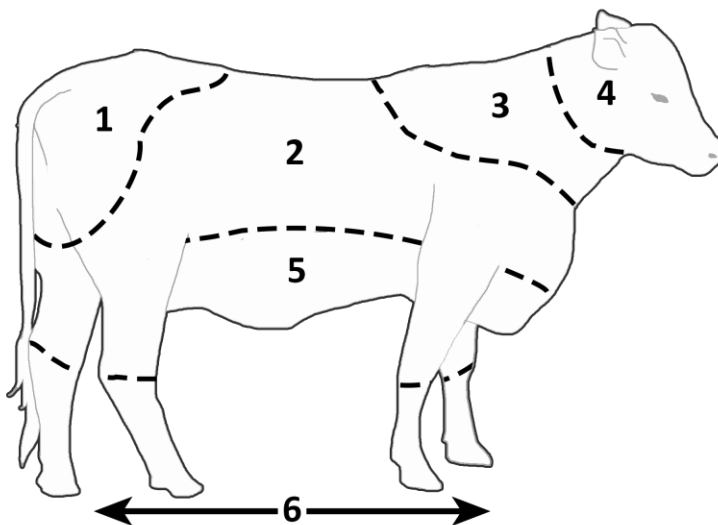
Alternative name for papillomatosis: *warts*

Technical information:

- Hairless, normally benign growths on skin or mucosa caused by papilloma virus. Can spread via direct contact with infected animals, and fomites such as contaminated feed troughs, ear tagging pliers and injection equipment. Lesions vary in appearance from single, discrete growths, to large, broad masses that hang from the body.
- Papillomatosis warts are generally confined to the neck and shoulder region in cattle but can be located on the teats or penis.

Reject if:

- The animal has generalised papillomatosis (multiple coalescing lesions on multiple regions).



Classification of cattle body regions. 1=rump, 2=body and upper leg, 3=shoulders, 4=head, 5=belly, 6=lower leg and foot.

Credit: Adapted from [Pickering et al. 2015](#)

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Generalised papillomatosis

Rejection examples:



Animal with multiple, coalescing lesions on head and shoulders.

Considerations:

- Professional discretion is required when evaluating this condition, considering the size and location/s of lesions, number, likelihood of further welfare issues to the individual animal and/or its cohort.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Generalised ringworm

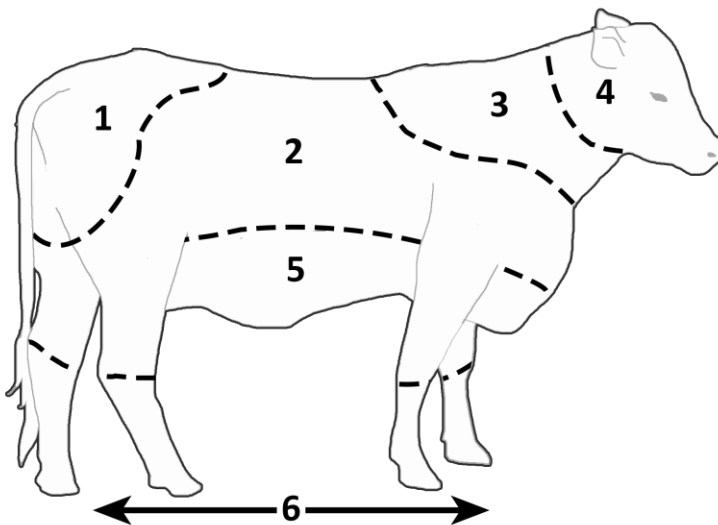
Alternative name for ringworm: *dermatophytosis*

Technical information:

- Usually hairless, circular skin lesions around the eye, with grey-white crust formation but can become thickly crusted. Lesions can also occur on the chest, limbs, dewlap and intermaxillary skin. Can be spread by close contact with an infected animal or contaminated environment. Varies in appearance from single, discrete lesions, to large, coalescing patches. The disease is zoonotic.

Reject if:

- The animal has generalised ringworm (multiple coalescing lesions on multiple regions).



Classification of cattle body regions. 1=rump, 2=body and upper leg, 3=shoulders, 4=head, 5=belly, 6=lower leg and foot.

Credit: Adapted from [Pickering](#) et al. 2015



Generalised ringworm

Rejection examples:



Animal with generalised ringworm.

Considerations:

- Professional discretion is required when evaluating this condition, considering the size and location/s of lesions, number, likelihood of further welfare issues to the individual animal and/or its cohort.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Generalised dermatophilosis

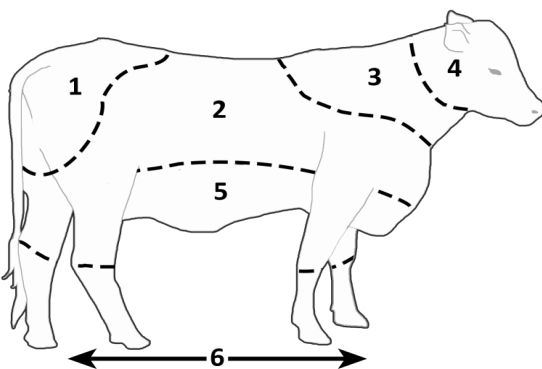
Alternative names for dermatophilosis: *rain scald*

Technical information:

- In cattle, lesions can be observed in three stages:
 - Stage 1 - hairs matted together as paintbrush lesions
 - Stage 2 - crust or scab formation as the initial lesions coalesce
 - Stage 3 - accumulations of cutaneous keratinized material forming wart-like lesions 0.5–2cm in diameter.
- Typical lesions consist of raised, matted tufts of hair.
- Lesions can be found on any part of the body exposed to moist environments including head, neck, udders, back, axillae, groin and scrotum.

Reject if:

- The animal has generalised dermatophilosis (multiple coalescing lesions on multiple regions).



Classification of cattle body regions. 1=rump, 2=body and upper leg, 3=shoulders, 4=head, 5=belly, 6=lower leg and foot.

Credit: Adapted from [Pickering](#) et al. 2015



Generalised dermatophilosis

Rejection examples:



Animal with multiple coalescing lesions over body and belly.

Considerations:

- Professional discretion is required when evaluating this condition, considering the size and location/s of lesions, number, likelihood of further welfare issues to the individual animal and/or its cohort.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



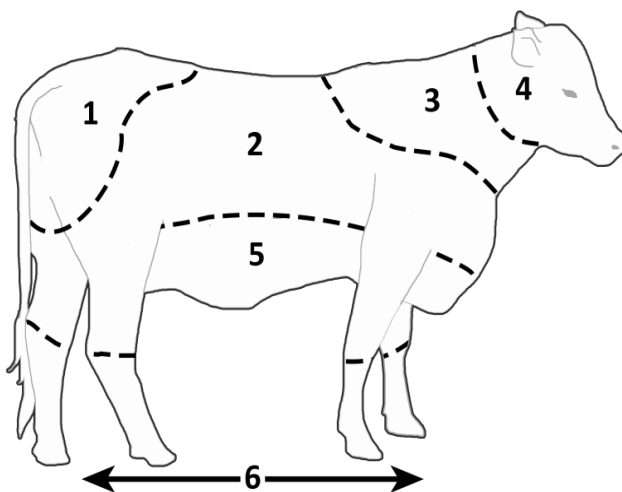
Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions

Technical information:

- Buffalo fly are a primary pest of cattle in northern Australia with a life cycle taking as few as 7-10 days depending on weather conditions. Bites typically occur around the shoulders and withers causing irritation, decrease in performance and can result in hide damage. Bites can also occur on other parts of the body. Buffalo fly bites pose a potential route for the development of secondary infection and should be treated.

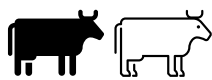
Reject if:

- The animal has generalised buffalo fly lesions (3 or more active lesions on 2 or more regions of the body).
- The animal has an open and active lesion that may adversely affect animal health and welfare.



Classification of cattle body regions. 1=rump, 2=body and upper leg, 3=shoulders, 4=head, 5=belly, 6=lower leg and foot.

Credit: Adapted from [Pickering](#) et al. 2015



Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions

Rejection example:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





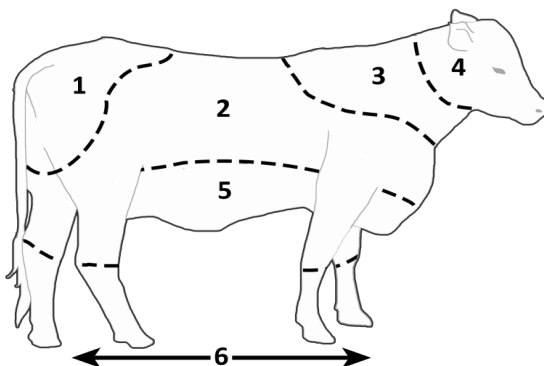
Generalised skin disease or infection

Technical information:

- Generalised skin disease or infection can manifest in several conditions affecting the health and welfare of livestock. Conditions can include but are not limited to:
 - photosensitisation/facial eczema
 - dermatitis from lantana poisoning
 - digital/interdigital dermatitis
 - cellulitis.

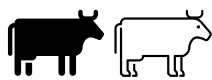
Reject if:

- The animal has skin disease or infection that extends over 80% of one region or extends this amount over multiple regions.
- The animal has chronic active skin disease e.g. photosensitisation with fibrosis.
- The animal has skin disease or infection that is likely to impact its health or welfare e.g.:
 - open lesions or lesions with exudate
 - evidence of pain or severe irritation
 - other signs of systemic illness e.g. loss of appetite, jaundice.



Classification of cattle body regions. 1=rump, 2=body and upper leg, 3=shoulders, 4=head, 5=belly, 6=lower leg and foot.

Credit: Adapted from [Pickering](#) et al. 2015



Generalised skin disease or infection

Rejection examples:



External symptoms of Lantana poisoning seen in the lower legs.



Animal displaying generalised skin disease around the rump and upper hind legs.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Generalised skin disease or infection

Rejection examples (cont.):



An animal displaying
photosensitisation
reactions across the back.



Abnormal skin reaction on
the flank.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



External skin cancer

Technical information:

- External skin cancers can be present on the upper or lower body and commonly form lesions of varying size, colour and texture in cattle. Some cystic lesions may affect the hoof wall resulting in lameness or deformity of the hoof. Squamous cell carcinomas are common in breeds with white hair and poorly pigmented skin and have been recorded in the horn core of aged bullocks.
- Lesions start as thickened areas of reddened, flaking skin that later become ulcerated, necrotic, bleeding masses. Animals with noticeable lesions should be excluded from the export process. Lesions may be missed when animals are grouped, hence a systematic inspection method is required.

Reject if:

- The animal has a lesion with appearance indicative of skin cancer.
- The animal has a visible tumour/lesion of any size or location that:
 - is open/exudating
 - is causing severe irritation and/or distress to the animal
 - could be damaged in the pen or during transport leading to an open wound.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
systemMusculoskeletal
system

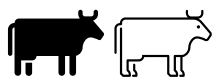
Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





External skin cancer

Rejection examples:



Abnormal tumours on the head.



Tumour of the right ear.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Lacerations that penetrate the full thickness of the dermis or are likely to affect the health or welfare of the animal

Technical information:

- Lacerations can be caused by sharp objects such as a sharp edge to a gate. They have the potential to become infected and treatment may be required to reduce animal pain and discomfort.

Reject if:

- The animal has a full thickness laceration that:
 - is unhealed
 - has exudate present
 - has fresh blood present or a newly developed scab that may be damaged in the pen or on transport.

Rejection examples:



Unhealed laceration of the front left leg.

Considerations:

- The location of the wound needs to be considered as it could lead to other problems such as lameness.
- When assessing any full thickness wound, also consider the presence of inflammation or cellulitis. Presence of additional issues could result in the animal being rejected for this reason despite a healed wound.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Discharging wounds or abscesses

Technical information:

- A discharging wound is one that secretes serous, sanguineous, serosanguineous or purulent discharge. The presence of serous fluid is normal in a healing wound; however these animals cannot join a consignment until the wound is completely healed to prevent re-injury or infection.
- Abscesses can occur on any part of the body and may not be visible, however the animal may display other clinical signs indicative of pain or irritation. E.g. for foot abscesses, lameness may be a clinical sign.

Reject if:

- The animal has a visible discharging wound or visible abscess.

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals.

Considerations:

- The environment on the vessel may lead to infection of open wounds therefore it is important to reject animals with open wounds.
- If treatment has been administered and the wound/abscess is fully healed without further discharge or signs of pain/irritation, the animal may be fit for export.
- Injection site reactions can produce firm, fibrous swellings of golf ball size or larger but should be clinically evaluated to differentiate from other conditions.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





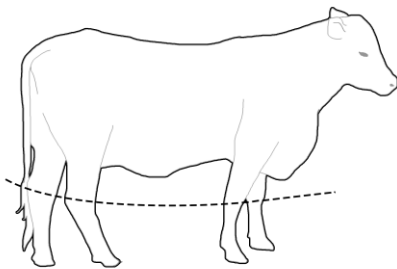
Balanitis

Technical information:

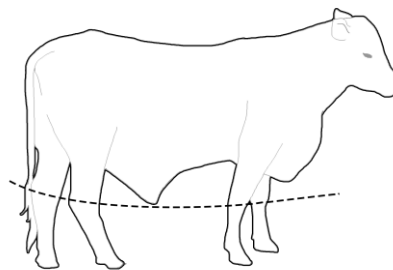
- Balanitis is the infection of the glans penis resulting in swelling, reddening and ulceration of the penis.
- Pendulous sheaths can increase the chance of traumatic injury or infection from the environment resulting in balanitis.

Reject if:

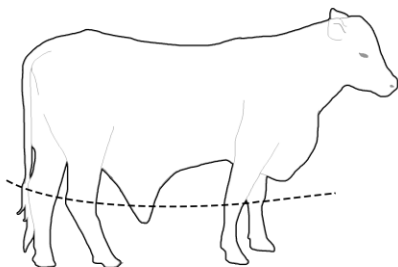
- The animal has any inflammation of the penis with or without discharge.
- The animal has any visible trauma.
- The animal has a penis or sheath that predisposes to trauma or infection including:
 - a sheath extending beyond the level of the hock and poses a welfare concern
 - a penis not functioning as normal and/ or unable to be retracted.



Sheath above the level of the hock.

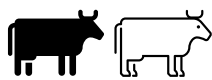


Sheath at the level of the hock requiring inspection.



Sheath below the level of the hock. Rejectable.





Balanitis

Rejection examples:



Bull with dysfunction to the retraction of the penis.



Pendulous sheath which could result in further damage or infection.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Balanitis

Rejection examples (cont.):



Pendulous sheath which could result in further damage or infection.

Considerations:

- Where the sheath is below the level of the hock, also consider preputial eversion and ability to retract penis into sheath.
- Professional discretion is required when evaluating this condition.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Blood/abnormal discharge from reproductive tract (vulva/prepuce)

Technical information:

- Clinical examination is important when discharge or blood is observed. Pregnancy status, use of prostaglandins, traumatic injury, lesions, disease, recent caesarean, retained placentae or abortion are some causes of abnormal discharge in livestock and should be clinically evaluated.

Reject if:

- The animal has any abnormal discharge from the reproductive tract.

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals.

Considerations:

- Differentiate between abnormal discharge and normal discharge in breeding animals or post-partum discharge.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Visible external parasites

Technical information:

- Cattle and buffalo may be infected by external parasites such as flies, lice, mites and ticks. Negative impacts on health and welfare can include blood loss, irritation and reduced grazing behaviour (fly worry).

Reject if:

- Any visible external parasites, including dead ticks.
- Other evidence of active external parasite infection.

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals.

Considerations:

- Rubbing is a common behavioural indicator for the presence of parasites but can occur after treatment due to lingering irritation to the skin.
- Livestock actively displaying signs of irritation or rubbing should be examined further to determine the cause.
- Evidence of external parasites may require treatment of all in-contact animals and/or environmental management procedures.
- Consider treating for external parasites prior to commencement of export preparation to decrease risk of spread and avoid dead ticks remaining attached to livestock at time of inspection.

General requirements
Systemic conditions
Gastrointestinal system
Musculoskeletal system
Nervous system
External/skin
Head
Other





Head



General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Blindness in 1 or both eyes

Technical information:

- Animals that are blind in one or both eyes may be disorientated and may not react to external visual stimuli consistent with their cohort. Care should be taken when approaching blind animals to minimise alarm.
- Signs of partial or full blindness may include, but are not limited to:
 - disorientation
 - non-reactive to external visual stimuli
 - standing separate from rest of herd/looking in different direction to herd
 - head raised above herd level
 - unusual eye colour e.g. uveitis (inflammation, redness), blue/opaque cornea
 - lower body condition score compared to cohort.
 - ocular discharge may or may not be present, depending on cause of blindness
- To assess for blindness, test reactions compared to cohort.

Reject if:

- The animal is visually impaired in one or both eyes to a degree that animal does not react to visual stimuli.
- The animal is constantly blinking or holding eye/s closed.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
systemMusculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Blindness in 1 or both eyes

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals

Considerations:

- Consideration should be given as to whether the blindness is an active process or because of scar tissue or prior damage to the eye. Active cases requiring treatment should be assessed for appropriate management.
- Severe pink eye (infectious keratoconjunctivitis) may lead to permanent blindness and veterinary advice should be sought if animals in a herd are displaying pink eye (also see section on [Keratoconjunctivitis](#)).
- Several infections and environmental factors (e.g. irritants such as dust, feed fines, grass seeds) can lead to an animal constantly blinking or holding its eye/s closed. In this case, the animal should be drafted and inspected to determine the underlying cause, and treatment provided as appropriate.
- Environmental factors, such as dust or feed fines, may result in irritation to the eye that can be transient when treated effectively.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Cancer eye

Technical information:

- Cancer eye is more common in animals which lack pigmentation in the tissue surrounding the eye, e.g. in breeds such as Hereford and Friesian. Lesions usually can begin as benign, smooth growths on the conjunctival surface, cornea or third eyelid and may progress to a papilloma or squamous cell carcinoma. Tumours can become large without invading the globe or remain small and spread to other areas such as lymph nodes.

Reject if:

- Presence of proliferative or ulcerative lesion on eye or surrounding structures.

Rejection examples:



Lesion on the globe.



Cancer eye

Rejection examples:



Lesions of the third eyelid and periorcular tissues.



Considerations:

- Complete resection of small (<2cm) masses restricted to the third eyelid or conjunctiva may be considered in the absence of clinical symptoms or signs of malignancy e.g. enlargement, asymmetry or hardening of the regional lymph nodes (glands).
- Allow time for adequate wound healing and compliance with relevant drug withholding periods prior to export.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye)

Alternative names: *pink eye*, *infectious keratoconjunctivitis*, *infectious ophthalmia*

Technical information:

- Keratoconjunctivitis (KCV) is inflammation of the cornea and conjunctiva. Signs of KCV can include:
 - blepharospasm (twitching, blinking or closure of eyelids)
 - epiphora (watery eyes, excessive tears) – staining of face is usually evident and a common indicator of active pink eye infection
 - conjunctivitis (inflammation of the white part of the eyeball)
 - hyperaemia (blood shot eyes).
- It may affect one or both eyes. Initially the cornea may be red and then progress through cloudy hues of red, blue, grey, and white during sequential stages of healing.
- The condition is painful, and animals may be left with corneal scarring or blindness.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
systemMusculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other

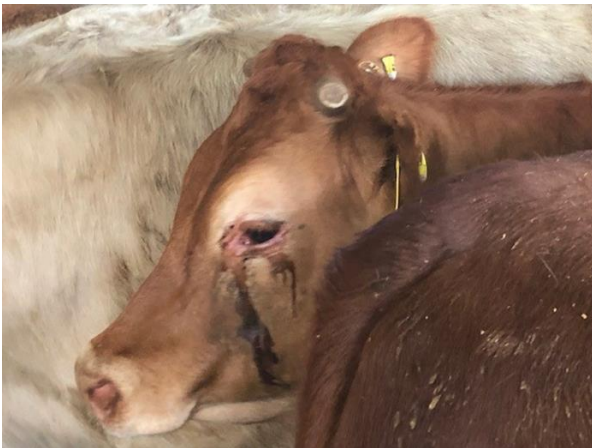


Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye)

Reject if:

- The animal has one or two eyes with KCV and signs of ulceration, neovascularisation and/or chronic eye damage.
- The animal has one or two eyes with mild KCV and has not been treated with an effective antibiotic under veterinary advice (see Considerations).

Rejection examples:



Livestock showing excessive epiphora and blepharospasm.



Animal showing oedema and ulceration.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

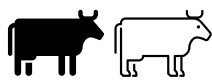
Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other

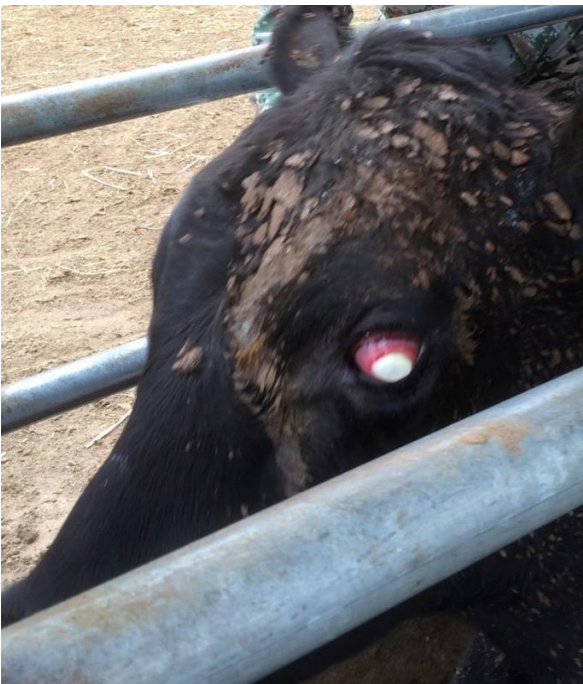


Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye)

Rejection examples (cont.):



Neovascularisation and inflammation of the cornea.



Chronic eye damage with severe inflammation and neovascularisation.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye)

Rejection examples (cont.):



Cloudy eye with discharge and epiphora.

Considerations:

- Treated animals should be identified (e.g. marked with coloured paint) and penned separately where possible. The animals should be managed during the journey in a way that allows them to be monitored and provided with additional effective antibiotics if they do not respond adequately to initial treatment.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Excessive salivation

Technical information:

- Hypersalivation is not an indicator of disease by itself, however, can be a clinical sign of a number of serious conditions such as, but not limited to:
 - foreign body or choke
 - bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD)
 - wooden tongue (actinobacillosis) and lumpy jaw (actinomycosis)
- Hypersalivation should be clinically investigated promptly to determine cause.
- The volume and viscosity of saliva should be evaluated to differentiate from other causes or recent drinking.

Reject if:

- Persistent excessive salivation and/or frothing from the mouth in addition to other clinical signs.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
systemMusculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Excessive salivation

Rejection examples:



Excessive salivation with viscosity not associated with recent drinking.

Considerations:

- Hypersalivation can also be as a result from injuries or blisters in the mouth, respiratory disease and pica (licking or chewing items with no nutritional value).
- Hypersalivation in cattle, unlike in sheep, can be a response to hot weather.
- Veterinary advice may need to be sought.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Nasal discharge consistent with signs of contagious or infectious disease

Technical information:

- Nasal discharge is excess fluid from the nasal cavity. It can be unilateral or bilateral, and:
 - serous (thin, clear, colourless)
 - catarrhal (grey)
 - Muroid (white)
 - purulent (thick, yellow)
 - haemorrhagic (red, bloody)
 or a combination.

Reject if:

- The animal has nasal discharge that cannot be attributed to transient environmental causes and is accompanied by another clinical sign of contagious disease.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Nasal discharge consistent with signs of contagious or infectious disease

Rejection examples:



Bilateral purulent discharge. Further examination of these animals is needed to determine underlying cause.

Considerations:

- Changes to environmental conditions, recent transport and post-vaccination reactions can cause transient nasal discharge but should be clinically evaluated for underlying cause.
- Control of flies and dust, and good ventilation in sheds, can decrease the incidence of nasal discharge due to environmental factors.
- Nasal discharge can be a result of a foreign body, therefore removing the foreign body can resolve the issue (but treatment still may be required).

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Coughing consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease and respiratory distress or difficulty breathing

Technical information:

- A cough is a sudden noisy expulsion of air from the lungs. Coughs may be:
 - dry: cough without expectoration (no material “coughed up”)
 - productive: cough with expectoration of material from the respiratory tract.
- Lungworm infection and pneumonia can result in coughing. Sometimes, drenching may cause irritation of the trachea leading to coughing.
- Clinical signs associated with respiratory disease include but are not limited to:
 - depression or dull demeanour
 - fever
 - coughing
 - reluctance to eat
 - wheezing
 - conjunctivitis
 - increased respiratory rate or effort
 - mucopurulent discharge
 - recumbency.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Coughing consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease and respiratory distress or difficulty breathing

Reject if:

- The animal has persistent coughing associated with signs of contagious or infectious disease.

Rejection examples:

Needed: photographs/video of rejectable animals

Considerations:

- Environmental factors such as dust and smoke inhalation can result in coughing. Inhalation of fodder fines can increase irritation to the respiratory system leading to coughing.
- Any animal with suspected respiratory disease should be drafted out and clinically examined.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Sharp horns, horns that could injure the animal or other animals, horns that could restrict access to feed or water, bleeding and/or not fully healed horn stumps, horns longer than 12cm

Reject if:

- The animal has horn/s that do not meet ASEL requirements (see Considerations).

Rejection examples:



Animal with longer and sharper horns than prescribed by ASEL.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Sharp horns, horns that could injure the animal or other animals, horns that could restrict access to feed or water, bleeding and/or not fully healed horn stumps, horns longer than 12cm

Rejection examples:



Long and pointed horns – rejection, tipping or export under an approved management plan are options



Livestock displaying hollowed and bleeding horn stumps increasing risk of infection.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Sharp horns, horns that could injure the animal or other animals, horns that could restrict access to feed or water, bleeding and/or not fully healed horn stumps, horns longer than 12cm

Rejection examples (cont.):



Severe horn piping (left) and poorly packed horn resulting in ruptured sinus abscess (right).

Considerations:

- Tipping should only be done to a length that avoids horn vasculature.
- Piped horns (hollowing) present a risk of infection to livestock and animals with piped horns should be rejected. Piped horns should not be packed to allow for transport.
- Horns that curl back towards the head of the animal may also pose a welfare issue and may need to be assessed.
- Any procedures performed on horns, e.g. tipping or dehorning, must be healed prior to delivery to the registered establishment.

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other





Sharp horns, horns that could injure the animal or other animals, horns that could restrict access to feed or water, bleeding and/or not fully healed horn stumps, horns longer than 12cm

Considerations (cont.):

Under ASEL:

- Buffalo with horns must only be sourced for export or exported if they have*:
 - ✓ blunt horns; and
 - ✓ horns that are less than the spread of the ears

*unless otherwise provided in a *long-horned livestock* management plan.

- Cattle with horns must only be sourced for export or exported if the*:
 - ✓ solid non-vascular tip has been removed to a diameter of 3cm (or less if the horn vasculature does not allow) and horns have a blunt horn end; and
 - ✓ horns are no longer than 12cm in length at the time of export

*unless otherwise provided in a *long-horned livestock* management plan.

- Animals under an approved *long-horned livestock* management plan cannot be mixed with animals that are not under the same plan.
- Under ASEL, if an animal has been dehorned or tipped, wounds must be fully healed prior to any transport. Broken horns or scurs must be fully healed.

General requirements
Systemic conditions
Gastrointestinal system
Musculoskeletal system
Nervous system
External/skin
Head
Other





Other

General
requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal
system

Musculoskeletal
system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other



Disparities in sex, weight or age that could cause an issue with the health or welfare of the animals (redraft animals in this case)

Technical information:

- Disparities in sex, size, weight, age or sexual maturity may lead to certain animals dominating access for food, water and space, and bullying of more submissive animals. This behaviour may be observed, or there may be signs such as evidence of back-rubbing/mounting injury or ill-thrift.

Reject if/redraft if:

- There is a disparity in sex, size, weight, age, and/or sexual maturity in a group of penned animals that is likely to cause negative welfare impacts, such as those described above. Animals should be redrafted, and then should be rejected from the consignment if:
 - a particular animal is dominating or bullying others and this cannot be resolved by redrafting the animal into another group
 - a particular animal is being dominated or bullied by others and this cannot be resolved by redrafting the animal into another group
 - it is not possible to redraft or separate the animal/s.

General requirements
Systemic conditions
Gastrointestinal system
Musculoskeletal system
Nervous system
External/skin
Head
Other





Disparities in sex, weight or age that could cause an issue with the health or welfare of the animals (redraft animals in this case)

Rejection/redrafting examples:



Disparities in size.

Considerations:

- In penned groups that have been well socialised with an established order, disparities in the group are less of an issue.
- If groups with disparities in sex, size, weight or age are mixed during transport to the port, they should be appropriately separated during loading onto the vessel to minimise issues arising on board in a penned group where it is more difficult to redraft animals.

General requirements

Systemic conditions

Gastrointestinal system

Musculoskeletal system

Nervous system

External/skin

Head

Other

