# Penning of immature bulls and steers under ASEL

**Live Animal Export Branch**

## Purpose

* 1. To clarify when immature bulls and steers can be penned together under the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) 3.2, standard 3.1.16 c).

## Scope

* 1. This policy applies to the management of immature bulls and steers in the registered establishment for export by sea. It outlines when immature bulls and steers can be penned together under ASEL 3.2, standard 3.1.16 c).
  2. This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant export legislation, standards and guidebooks listed under [related material](#_Related_material).

## Requirements

* 1. Under ASEL 3.2, standard 3.1.16 c), immature bulls and steers which have been socialised in the source mob may be penned together in the registered establishment (and on the vessel as per standard 5.1.1 b)).
* Requirements for livestock in the registered establishment are applicable once livestock have been sourced for export (as defined in ASEL).
  1. Immature is defined in ASEL as:
* An animal that has not reached sexual maturity and is not displaying secondary sexual characteristics typical for the species such as descended testes, signs of being in heat (oestrous), udder maturity or antlers. Typically, an immature animal is yet to exhibit behavioural changes such as dominance, riding, or aggression.
  1. To clarify this standard further:
* Immature bulls are male cattle whose testes are not visible in the scrotum i.e. still tight and tucked up. If the animal has testes that have descended to a point that they can be seen when they are standing, these animals are not considered immature bulls.
* Where immature bulls and steers are penned together, these must be from the same source property, which may be verified by Regional Veterinary Officers.
* Socialised in the source mob means the animals have been run together and have established a social hierarchy. Socialisation assists in reducing the occurrence of aggressive behaviour.
* An animal that demonstrates aggressive behaviour is to be rejected from the consignment as per ASEL.

## Related material

For more information see:

* [Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/livestock/australian-standards-livestock)
* *[Export Control Act 2020](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00141)*
* [Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2021L00319)
* [ASEL Rejection Criteria Guidebooks](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/livestock/australian-standards-livestock/rejection-criteria-guidebooks)

**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.

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