



Timing of health status documentation for livestock exports

Live Animal Export

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide policy direction and clarity about the timing of issuance of state and territory government health status documentation held and presented by exporters for livestock consignments to demonstrate compliance with importing country requirements.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to exporters sending consignments of livestock by sea and air.
- 2.2 For the purposes of this policy, health status documentation includes documentation issued by state and territory governments for the purposes of demonstrating that states, regions, animal health zones and premises comply with the importing country requirements.
- 2.3 This policy does not relate to the timing of issuance of vendor declarations, National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) and Northern Territory Health Certificate and Waybills (NT Waybills).
- 2.4 This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant export legislation, standards and other information listed under [related material](#) and the importing country requirements for the relevant destination market(s).

3 Requirements

- 3.1 For the purposes of issuing government certificates and export permits, the department will only accept health status documentation issued by state and territory governments dated no earlier than 14 days prior to the start of any quarantine or the preparation period in the registered establishment or premises where the animals are held immediately prior to export.
 - a. For livestock consignments exported by sea, where there is no quarantine period, the preparation period is the minimum length of time that the animal(s) must remain in a registered establishment prior to export in accordance with ASEL.
 - b. For livestock consignments exported by air, where there is no quarantine period, the preparation period begins on the premises arrival date set out in the Notice of intention to export, and submitted to the department.

In each case, an authorised officer may seek to review NVDs/NT Waybills to confirm the date that the animals arrived at the preparation premises.

- 3.2 This policy must be complied with for all livestock consignments that start quarantine or the preparation period in the registered establishment or premises where the animals are held immediately prior to export on or after 1 October 2022.
- 3.3 Should the department become aware prior to export that the health status of a premises may have changed, then an exporter may be required to seek new documentation from a state or territory government or confirmation that the issued documentation remains valid and correct.

4 Background

- 4.1 For a livestock consignment to be exported, the department must issue a government certificate (i.e. a health certificate) and an export permit.
- 4.2 For a departmental veterinary officer to issue a government certificate and an export permit they must be satisfied, among other matters, that the livestock comply with the importing country requirements.
- 4.3 On a consignment-by-consignment basis, to demonstrate compliance with the importing country requirements, exporters must provide and/or hold, health status documentation issued by state and territory governments.
- 4.4 At any time during the export process or after, a trading partner may audit Australia's export certification system and/or Australia's animal health and surveillance system.

Health status documentation issued by state and territory governments are an essential aspect of Australia's export certification system.

Contemporaneously dated health status documentation, with respect to the commencement date of any quarantine or the preparation period prior to export would be expected to meet the expectations of Australia's trading partners and protect market access.

5 Related material

For more information see:

- Export Control Act 2020
- Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021
- Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)
- [Export Advisory Notice 2009-05 – Health status documentation / Export certification – November 2009](#)

6 Version control

Version	Date of issue	Author	Reason for change
1.0	August 2022	Live Animal Export Branch	New document
1.1	December 2023	Live Animal Export Branch	Minor change to clarify the definition of preparation period for air and sea consignments.