



Voyage length calculations under ASEL

Live Animal Export Branch

1 Purpose

To provide guidance on the process for calculating voyage length in accordance with the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL).

2 Scope

This policy applies to exporters sending livestock consignments by sea. It outlines the department's policy relating to determining a consignment's voyage length under ASEL.

This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant export legislation and standards listed under [related material](#).

3 Requirements

Voyage length

As defined in ASEL, voyage means the period from the time the first animal is loaded onto the vessel (the first day of the voyage) until the time the last animal is unloaded at the final port of disembarkation. A voyage day means each 24 hour period from the commencement of the voyage (or part thereof for the last day of unloading).

Voyage length is linked to several requirements within ASEL, including clear day requirements in a registered establishment, daily reporting requirements, and minimum onboard provisions of feed, water, bedding and veterinary supplies.

Exporters must determine an estimated voyage length that is as accurate as possible to enable compliance with relevant ASEL standards. The estimation should consider historic information and forecasting relating to factors such as voyage route, weather conditions, known port congestion, and reasonably foreseeable delays. This may require liaison with the vessel's master or shipping agent.

Unforeseeable delays do not need to be taken into account when estimating voyage length. Additional allowances in ASEL address unforeseeable delays and it is not expected that exporters attempt to also address such circumstances. For example, ASEL standard 5.1.15 requires that additional reserves of feed must be carried on a vessel to be used only in the event of delay.

Where a consignment's actual voyage length (calculated at the end of the voyage) vastly exceeds an exporter's estimated voyage length and there is no unforeseeable circumstances leading to this, or an exporter is consistently underestimating voyage length, the department may investigate and consider compliance action.

4 Instructions

Estimated voyage length

A consignment’s estimated voyage length must be calculated by the exporter prior to vessel departure. Estimates must take into account the anticipated duration of loading prior to vessel departure, the sea voyage including any planned stops, and the duration of unloading upon arrival in the importing country.

The estimated voyage length calculation must consider the number of 24 hour periods (or part thereof for the last day of unloading) that are expected to elapse onboard the vessel during a voyage. This is calculated from the time the first animal is loaded onto the vessel until the time the last animal is unloaded from the vessel at the final port of disembarkation.

When calculating estimated voyage length, 24 hour periods are to be counted in a single time standard — such as Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) or Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

On the final day of unloading, a part day must be recorded as a portion of a full 24 hour period, to two decimal places.

For example, in the Portland to Russia scenario in Table 1, using UTC time:

- the number of 24 hour periods between 13:00 on 24 August and 13:00 on 27 September is 34 (days)
- on the final day of unloading, the last animal is unloaded at 16:00 UTC, which is 3 hours into the next 24 hour period
- the value of this part day can be determined by dividing 3 hours into 24 hours, resulting in 0.13 days
- the estimated voyage length for this scenario would equal 34.13 days.

Table 1 Examples – estimating voyage length, using UTC time standard

Portland, Australia to Novorossiysk, Russia		
Voyage	Local Time	UTC
First animal loaded (Portland, Australia)	23:00 (AEST) 24 August	13:00 (UTC) 24 August
Last animal unloaded (Novorossiysk, Russia)	19:00 (MSK) 27 September	16:00 (UTC) 27 September
Estimated Voyage Length		34.13 days
Darwin, Australia to Haiphong, Vietnam		
Voyage	Local Time	UTC
First animal loaded (Darwin, Australia)	15:30 (ACST) 23 August	06:00 (UTC) 23 August
Last animal unloaded (Haiphong, Vietnam)	03:00 (ICT) 1 September	20:00 (UTC) 31 August
Estimated Voyage Length		8.58 days

Actual voyage length

On completion of the voyage, the actual voyage length must be reported in the consignment's end-of-voyage report.

The actual voyage length must be calculated using the same method as for estimated voyage length, taking into account the actual time the first animal was loaded onto the vessel until the actual time the last animal was unloaded at the final port of disembarkation. Part days must be recorded to two decimal places.

5 Related material

- [Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock \(ASEL\)](#)
- [Export Control Act 2020](#)
- [Export Control \(Animals\) Rules 2021](#)
- [Policy for Calculating onboard feed and water provisions under ASEL](#)
- [Policy for Voyage reporting requirements under ASEL](#)
- [Regulating live animal exports](#)
- [TRACE](#)

Version control

Version	Date of issue	Author	Reason for change
1.0	October 2020	Live Animal Export Branch	First publication
1.1	June 2023	Live Animal Export Branch	Updates to department branding and document formatting

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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