



<b>EXPORT ADVISORY NOTICE – 2016-12</b>		<b>20 April 2016</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>The export of cattle or buffalo weighing over 650 kilograms</b>	
<b>Species:</b>	<b>Cattle and buffalo</b>	
<b>Country:</b>	<b>All</b>	
<b>For information:</b>	<b>[1] Livestock Exporters, [2] Australian Government Accredited Veterinarians (AAV) [3] Livecorp [4] Department Officers</b>	

## **P u r p o s e**

To advise exporters of the conditions under which a “heavy cattle management plan” is required and the minimum requirements of such a plan.

## **B a c k g r o u n d**

The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) s1.9 (b) and S1.10 (b) requires that cattle and buffalo sourced for export by sea must not have an individual live weight in excess of 650 kilograms without prior written approval from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department).

In considering applications to export heavy cattle or buffalo exports, the department is very unlikely to approve the export of heavy cattle or buffalo on voyages of ten days or more.

Further, applications to export heavy cattle or buffalo by sea weighing 850 kilograms or more will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Australian Standards for the export of livestock (ASEL) 6.1.1(2)(m) requires exporters wishing to send cattle and buffalo weighing more than 650 kilograms by air to submit a detailed loading and management plan to the department.

## **I n s t r u c t i o n s**

Exporters seeking to export cattle or buffalo in excess of 650 kilograms must submit a heavy cattle or buffalo management plan to the department in order to manage the heightened risk of animal welfare issues with heavy cattle and buffalo.

### For exporters with an approved arrangement

Exporters will require an approved heavy cattle or buffalo management plan as part of their approved arrangement before they submit a Notice of Intention (NOI). Requirements for a heavy cattle or buffalo management plan are specified in the Guidelines for Approved Arrangements. Where heavy cattle or buffalo are to be exported, the management plan must be included as part of each relevant Consignment Specific Export Plan.

The management plan must only include cattle or buffalo weighing up to 850 kilograms. Applications to export heavy cattle or buffalo of 850 kilograms or more must be submitted separately to the department for consideration on a case by case basis.

### For exporters without an approved arrangement

Exporters will need to submit a heavy cattle or buffalo management plan with their NOI and Consignment Risk Management Plan.

The management plan must include details of how the exporter will address the following when exporting heavy cattle/buffalo:

- Pre-loading arrangements
  - Detail how the exporter will manage the identification and weighing of the cattle/buffalo
  - Detail how the exporter will manage the risk of aggression and dominance in the registered/approved premises and during loading (particularly for male animals), for example:
    - Penning together for an appropriate timeframe
    - Removal/isolation of aggressive cattle/buffalo
  - Detail the process for selecting appropriate crates (air only)
- Loading and Pen arrangements (sea only)
  - Detail how the exporter will manage the risk of injury due to movement throughout the vessel, for example:
    - Penning on the discharge deck
    - Minimising movement on internal ramps
    - Loading last and unloading first
  - Detail how the exporter will manage the risk of injury while penned, for example, the provision of additional bedding

- Details of how dominance and aggression issues will be managed on the vessel, for example having additional pen space available
- Additional veterinary arrangements (sea only)
  - Detail how the exporter will manage veterinary arrangements given the heightened risk of injury, for example:
    - Proposed additional medications on-board
    - Proposed additional pre-export treatments
- Monitoring and inspections (sea only)
  - Detail how the stockperson/on-board AAV will be advised of any additional requirements
  - Detail how the cattle/buffalo will be monitored to ensure management outcomes are being achieved, for example daily reporting

The department is prepared to consider management plans to meet alternative circumstances on a case by case basis. In these instances, any management plan submitted to the department would need to include sufficient evidence that the risks of exporting heavy cattle/buffalo have been managed.

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