

# Livestock Standards - Land Transport Standards

S. Fitzpatrick, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare, Darwin

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## WHAT ARE THE LAND TRANSPORT STANDARDS (LTSs)?

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock, commonly known as LTSs are a set of nationally agreed standards and guidelines developed to ensure appropriate livestock welfare during the transport process.

LTSs are based on the revised Model Codes of Practice for Welfare for the transport of various livestock species and were developed cooperatively by the livestock industries and government in consultation with other stakeholders.

LTSs cover the transport of livestock by road. A separate set of standards known as the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock covers the requirements for export of livestock by ship.

## WHY ARE LTSs BEING INTRODUCED?

- To provide guidance for people responsible for the care and management of livestock during transport.
- To provide one set of standards which are implemented and regulated across Australia.
- To ensure appropriate welfare is provided for livestock during transport.

## WHO DO LTSs APPLY TO?

LTSs apply to all people responsible for the management of livestock at all stages in the livestock transport process. The chain of responsibility for livestock welfare in the transport process consists of:

### The consignor:

- Mustering and assembling of livestock in yards.
- Preparation of livestock and selection as 'fit for the intended journey'.
- Feed and water provision prior to transport.
- Holding periods before loading.

### The transporter:

- Final inspection as 'fit for the intended journey'.
- Loading and loading density.
- Inspections during transport.
- Spelling periods during the journey.
- Unloading.

### The receiver:

- Management after unloading.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'STANDARDS' AND 'GUIDELINES'?

**Standards** are the **MUST DO** minimum management practices required for proper livestock welfare.

**Guidelines** are recommended practices to achieve desirable welfare outcomes. Guidelines are the **SHOULD DO** management practices and complement the standards.

## LTSS AND GUIDELINES

Land Transport Standards are divided into two sections:

Part A - General standards and guidelines that apply to all livestock species.

Part B - Specific standards and guidelines for each livestock species.

### Part A: General standards and guidelines

There are six sections of 'general' standards in Part A of the LTSS, which apply to all livestock species, each of which contains one or more standards and a number of guidelines. The sections include:

1. Responsibilities and planning.
2. Stock-handling competency.
3. Transport vehicles and facilities for livestock.
4. Pre-transport selection of livestock - MLA Guide: Is it fit to load?
5. Loading, transporting and unloading livestock.
6. Humane destruction.

### Part B: Species specific requirements

This section of the LTSS specifies the specific requirements for the transport of the various livestock species.

Each species section details standards and guidelines for:

- The maximum permitted time off water period for the particular classes of stock (adults, weaners, pregnant or lactating females etc.).
- Minimum spell period (water, food and rest) once livestock reach the maximum permitted time off water period.
- Any permitted extension of journey time where feed and water are provided in-transit.
- Restrictions on the use of electric prodders in certain species/class of animals.
- Restrictions on the use of dogs in certain species/class of animals.
- Segregation of certain classes of stock.

The species-specific guidelines give recommendations on such details as:

- Considerations for long distance travel and fitness.
- Food and water.
- Loading density.
- Vehicles and facilities.
- Handling.
- Humane destruction methods.

**Table 1.** Maximum time off water and minimum spelling periods

<b>Species</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Maximum time off water (hours)</b>	<b>Mandatory spell period (hours)</b>
<b>Cattle</b>	Cattle over 6 months old	48	36
	Calves 1–6 months old	24	12
	Lactating cows with calves at foot	24	12
	Cows known to more than 6 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	24	12
<b>Buffalo</b>	Adult buffalo over 6 months old	36	24
	Buffalo 1–6 months old	24	12
	Lactating buffalo with calves at foot and buffalo known to more than 7 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	24	12
<b>Camels</b>	Camels over 6 months old	48	36
	Camels 1–6 months old	24	12
	Lactating camels with calves at foot	24	12
	Camels known to more than 9 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	24	12
<b>Horses</b>	Horses over 6 months old	24	12
	Lactating mares	12	12
	Foals less than 6 months old	12	12
	Mares known to be more than 7.5 months pregnant, excluding the last 4 weeks	12	12
<b>Goats</b>	Goats over 6 months old	48	36
	Kids under 6 months	28	12
	Goats known to be more than 14 weeks pregnant, excluding the last 2 weeks	24	12
<b>Sheep</b>	Sheep over 4 months old	48	36
	Lambs under 4 months old	28	12
	Ewes known to be more than 14 weeks pregnant, excluding the last 2 weeks	24	12
<b>Pigs</b>	Pigs	24	12
	Lactating sows and piglets	12	12
	Weaners	12	12

## HOW WILL LTSs BE ENFORCED?

LTSs have been adopted under the Livestock Regulations in the Northern Territory. Compliance and enforcement activity will be undertaken by Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries' Veterinary Officers and Livestock Biosecurity Officers. In other states, LTS will be regulated by government agencies responsible for animal welfare legislation.

## CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### Sue Fitzpatrick – Principal Veterinary Officer

Phone: 08 8999 2123

Mob: 0407 498 003

Fax: 08 8999 2146

E-mail: susanne.fitzpatrick@nt.gov.au

Website: [www.dpif.nt.gov.au/animalhealth](http://www.dpif.nt.gov.au/animalhealth)

For further assistance please contact the Livestock Biosecurity Officer in your Region:

### Darwin Region

Fax: 08 8999 2146

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

Ph: 08 8999 2030

M: 0439 270 039

Livestock Biosecurity Officer

Ph: 08 8999 2034

M: 0401 115 802

### Katherine Region

Fax: 08 8973 9759

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

Ph: 08 8973 9767

M: 0467 740 233

Livestock Biosecurity Officer

Ph: 08 8973 9765

M: 0427 604 002

### Tennant Creek Region

Fax: 08 8962 4480

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

Ph: 08 8962 4458

M: 0401 113 445

Livestock Biosecurity Officer

Ph: 08 8962 4492

M: 0457 517 347

### Alice Springs Region

Fax: 08 8951 8123

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer

Ph: 08 8951 8125

M: 0401 118 125

### Animal Biosecurity Branch

### Livestock Standards

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