Agnote

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| Livestock Standards - Land Transport Standards |
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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

| **Species** | **Class** | **Maximum time off water (hours)** | **Mandatory spell period (hours)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cattle** | 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 |
| **Buffalo** | 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 |
| **Camels** | 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 |
| **Horses** | 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 |
| **Goats** | 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 |
| **Sheep** | 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 |
| **Pigs** | 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

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

| **Darwin Region** | Fax: 08 8999 2146 | **Katherine Region** | Fax: 08 8973 9759 |
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| **Animal Biosecurity Branch** | www.dpif.nt.gov.au/animalhealth |
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| **Livestock Standards** | www.dpif.nt.gov.au/livestockstandards |
| **NT Property Identification Code Search Database**  | http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/ |
| **NT Brands Register Search Database** | http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/ |

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