

20th of July 2023



To All Producers

Re: Fit for travel guidelines & TFI expectations.

AUSTRALIA
EUROPE | CHINA | USA | JAPAN

It is the policy of TFI to ensure that unloading, movement, handling, transport & welfare of animals intended for receipt are carried out to a standard not less than those prescribed in the Australian Standard for Animal Welfare & the fit to travel guidelines.

You as the owner or manager of the animal(s) is responsible for them until they are on the transport vehicle. Only animal(s) fit to travel should be selected & presented for transport.

Under the fit to load guidelines your animals must be assessed as fit for the intended journey & must:

- Be able to walk on its own by bearing weight on all four legs.
- See well enough to walk, load & travel without impairment or distress (not blind in both eyes)
- Be free from visible injury or distress
- Not be weak, skinny or dehydrated.
- Not be heavily pregnant.
- Animals should be prepared prior to loading. This includes spelling or resting livestock in yards following mustering & provide appropriate amounts of roughage & water.
- The provision of water is a key requirement for livestock welfare.
- Provide appropriate loading facilities that are fit for purpose.
- Ensure animals (Cattle, Sheep, Lambs & Goats) are correctly identified with an NLIS tag or device before loading & transport.
- Comply with the Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for the land transport of livestock & relevant state & territory legislation.
- Observe animals carefully before transport for health & injury which may render them unfit for journey. (*if in doubt leave it out*)
- You must adopt measures set out in the standards to deal appropriately with these animals & minimise risks to their welfare.
- Plan the journey with consideration given to the length of the journey & weather conditions.
- Complete required transport documentation prior to movement eg. NVD or waybill.

Ensure your transport drivers are aware of their responsibilities from the point of loading to unloading. They must be aware of things to consider:

- Making sure you plan your journey and take into consideration the condition, species & class of the livestock, nature of the journey and weather conditions.
- Drive in a manner that minimises impact on the welfare of the livestock, including appropriate driving techniques for the road conditions.
- Planned rest stops & spells
- The time that livestock are deprived of feed & water.
- Affective cleaning of livestock crates & containers.
- Vehicle gates & facilities should be sufficiently wide to ensure easy movement

We appreciate your continued support and understanding of the ever changing requirements within the industry.

Paul Leonard Livestock Manager.