

Explanatory Notes for Veterinary Certification of Cattle for Transport Under Veterinary Advice

The purpose of a Veterinary Certificate of Cattle Under Veterinary Advice is for the veterinarian to use their professional judgment in a range of individual circumstances to allow an animal, or multiple animals, to be transported that may not meet, or be marginal in meeting, the requirements of transport legislation of the relevant jurisdiction.

This veterinary right comes under Standard 4.2 of the AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES Land Transport of Livestock Edition One Version 1.1 21 September 2012

As detailed below under Part A, Section 4 Pre-transport selection of livestock:

SA4.1 Livestock must be assessed as fit for the intended journey at every loading by a person in charge. An animal is not fit for a journey if it is:

- i) unable to walk on its own by bearing weight on all legs; or*
- ii) severely emaciated; or*
- iii) visibly dehydrated; or*
- iv) showing visible signs of severe injury or distress; or*
- v) suffering from conditions that are likely to cause increased pain or distress during transport; or*
- vi) blind in both eyes; or*
- vii) known to be, or visually assessed to be near (within two weeks) parturition, as specified in the species requirements, unless time off water and journey is less than four hours duration to another property.*

SA4.2 Any animal assessed to be not fit for the intended journey must only be transported under veterinary advice.

The issuing veterinarian is responsible for understanding how these Standards are incorporated into the issuing veterinarian's state regulations.

When certifying an animal for transport under veterinary advice, the veterinarian must document the individual and/or generalised exceptional circumstances that were considered in their judgement.

The animal must be ambulatory and capable of negotiating yards and handling facilities, and the transportation of the animal should not incur additional risk to its welfare.

Special conditions of transport may need to be made to minimise animal welfare risk and must be included on the certificate. These may include but are not limited to:

- The time frame in which the animal is transported
- That there is no worsening of the condition (since examination) prior to transport
- The animal is handled with appropriate care
- The transporter is aware of the animal's condition
- The animal is transported directly to the destination
- The duration of the transport
- The animal is penned in the truck at reduced density
- If transported direct to slaughter, the receiver is aware of the animal's condition and provisions for emergency slaughter are in place if required

Relevant links as of September 2023:

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Land Transport of Livestock
[Land Transport – Australian Animal Welfare \(animalwelfarestandards.net.au\)](https://animalwelfarestandards.net.au)

STATE & TERRITORY INFORMATION

ACT

[Land Transport of Livestock - PDF Download](#)

NSW

[Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(Land Transport of Livestock\) Standards 2013 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

NT

[Livestock welfare and land transport standards | NT.GOV.AU](#)

QLD

[Animal welfare during transport | Business Queensland](#)

SA

[Animal Welfare Regulations 2012 | South Australian Legislation](#)

TAS

[Animal Welfare Guidelines - Land Transport of Livestock | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania \(nre.tas.gov.au\)](#)

VIC

[Transport and care of livestock | Livestock health and welfare | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](#)

WA

[WA Animal Welfare \(Transport, Saleyards and Depots\) \(Cattle and Sheep\) Regulations 2020](#)