

# 'Worlds Best Practice' in Live Export - just what does this statement mean?

'World's best practice', 'World class standards' are phrases invented by live export advocates to try to improve the public perception of live export. They are used by the Australian Federal Government and the live animal exporting industry to claim Australia is the very best in the world at sending live animals to other nations. We agree! Australia is probably the best only in that we send millions of animals overseas... but do not confuse this with good animal welfare!

**Let us be clear about these meaningless terms.**

1. There are **NO** 'world' standards which are independently or objectively defined in animal welfare to which the industry can correctly and accurately be accountable to or compared with. Some other countries have no standards at all!

The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) are the 'rules' the Australian Government and the live export industry have themselves established and so of course, claim they comply with.

2. Therefore any suggestion that there is a 'World best' standard is misleading, deceptive and lacks credibility. Any claim that the live export industry complies with own 'strict' standards within this country is also not to be believed as demonstrated clearly by footage and information obtained by [Animals Australia](#).
3. There are **NO** standards with which the importing countries such as those in Asia or the Middle East must meet. There is **NO** animal welfare legislation in the Middle East or Asia so regardless of any work Australia claims to do in these countries to create some sort of animal welfare, the animals continue to suffer abject cruelty.

Further, Australia has no jurisdiction to make the importing countries change and they are not willing to change. Why should they? So long as Australia continues to supply live animals we effectively condone their barbarity.

4. As we stated above, Australia has a set of 'internal' live animal export standards (ASEL) with which exporters are supposedly required to comply. The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) is the Government body with the legal power to police and enforce the standards - so to ensure all the requirements are met.

However, any set of 'rules' is only as good as the policing of those rules.

AQIS has not been given the resources or perhaps more importantly, lacks the 'will' to thoroughly inspect and enforce compliance with Australia live export regulations. This is evidenced by the Animals Australia revelations of the high death rates aboard live export ships. One shipment is of particular interest given many of the suffering and subsequent deaths occurred **BEFORE** the ship even sailed.

AQIS provides the public with very limited information (and this in itself raises questions of a transparency and accountability cover up, on voyages with a higher than 'accepted' death rate of animals. Animals Australia gained the reports into the following investigations

through Freedom of Information and as a result has since submitted official complaints alleging animal cruelty.

The shipments were from Australia last year:

- [Al Messilah 12/2/06 – Devonport to Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar:](#)  
71,309 sheep; 1683 deaths
  - [Al Messilah 10/2/06 – Portland to Kuwait and United Arab Emirates:](#)  
320 cattle; 6 deaths
  - [Maysora 12/10/06 – Fremantle to Israel and Jordan:](#)  
7,805 cattle; 247 deaths
  - [17/3/06 – Fremantle to South Korea:](#)  
851 cattle; 11 deaths
  - [Buffalo Express 4/1/06 – Geraldton to Malaysia:](#)  
1,675 goats; 87 deaths
5. Whilst it is true that Australia is the largest supplier of sentient beings for live animal export; it is not a claim to be proud of.
  6. It is also VERY true that Australia leads the world in causing massive suffering, cruelty and brutality to millions of animals every year.

The following links are to a brief on the voyages at the centre of cruelty complaints submitted by [Animals Australia](#):

- [Al Messilah voyage](#)
- [Maysora brief](#)

The photographs below have been taken by various animal welfare groups. They symbolise the very essence of live animal export- immense suffering and cruelty in every possible way.



loading at a Tasmanian port



dead sheep in a Bahrain feedlot





The photo at left says it all

A discarded cow is just left in the street as a little girl looks on (de-sensitised to the cruelty).

The Australian Government supports this abuse and cruelty by its continued involvement in this barbaric trade.

And by proxy it is also supporting a form of 'child abuse', the de-sensitising of children to violence, abuse and cruelty.