

Standard 3 — Management of livestock in registered premises

Guiding principle

Livestock are assembled at registered premises, where the husbandry and management practices ensure that the livestock are adequately prepared for the export voyage.

Required outcomes

- Premises' facilities are appropriate for the type and species of livestock to be held.
- The physical needs of the livestock are appropriately catered for in a secure environment.
- Livestock leaving the premises are fit for the export voyage and meet importing country requirements.
- Livestock rejected for export are managed humanely.

Overview

The assembly of livestock for export commences with the unloading of the first animal into the premises, and ends with the departure of the last animal from the premises, whether or not passed as fit for export. Livestock must be held in secure premises for a sufficient period of time to enable recovery from land transportation and to meet importing country requirements. Preparation of livestock must comply with this standard. Livestock must also be inspected and deemed fit to travel before leaving the premises.

Where premises are used for holding and assembling livestock for export, such premises must be registered in accordance with the legislation. Registered premises operators are responsible for the design, maintenance, security and operation of the premises, including the provision of appropriate shelter, feed and water supply systems, animal husbandry and care by competent animal handlers.

The exporter must be able to demonstrate to the Australian Government that the management of the livestock at the registered premises accords with the specifications set out in the risk management plan for the consignment, and the importing country requirements for registered premises.

Linkages to other parts of the export chain

Only fit livestock accompanied by appropriate documentation can be accepted into the registered premises.

Only livestock fit to travel, which meet importing country requirements, can be loaded for transport to the port of embarkation. Land transport arrangements to the port of embarkation must be consistent with the requirements specified under *Standard 2 — Land transport of livestock*.

Definitions

Registered premises are premises intended to be used for holding and assembling of livestock for export or the pre-export quarantine or isolation of livestock for export.

Version 1 — Standard for management of livestock in registered premises

- Standards S3.0–S3.7 cover registration of premises
- Standards S3.8–S3.17 cover management of livestock.

| Number | Standard |
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| S3.0 | The location of the registered premises, used for inspection for 'leave for loading', must not be more than eight (8) hours journey time from the port of embarkation, with the exception of camels for export through northern ports. |
| S3.1 | The operator of registered premises must employ sufficient appropriately trained staff for the effective day-to-day operation of the premises and management of the livestock. |
| S3.2 | <p>Livestock handling facilities and sheds at registered premises must comply with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sheds must be constructed with sufficient drainage and ventilation to ensure that the shed is free draining. b) Sheds with slatted or mesh floors must be designed and maintained to prevent entrapment of feet. c) Livestock handling facilities must be constructed to handle the number of livestock (ie the number of stock at the premises, whatever that may be, depending on the consignment size) with a minimum of stress and injury. d) Floors of yards, sheds, pens and loading ramps must have non-slip surfaces. |
| S3.3 | <p>Isolation of livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Where a period of pre-export quarantine or isolation is required by the importing country, animals forming the consignment must at all times be physically isolated from all other animals (whether for an alternative export market or domestic use) to prevent contact. b) Where handling facilities used for loading, holding, treating or inspecting livestock (including roadway and lanes) are to be used for both domestic and export livestock (including livestock of differing export status), the operator of the premises must have procedures in place to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. handling facilities are not used simultaneously by livestock of differing pre-export quarantine or isolation status; ii. a minimum livestock traffic separation of two (2) metres is maintained at all times, or livestock are separated by a physical barrier such as a fenced road or lane or a fully fenced empty paddock, unless specified otherwise by the importing country; and iii. handling facilities and equipment used by different consignments of animals are managed in accordance with the pre-export quarantine or isolation requirements of each importing country. |

| Number | Standard |
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| S3.4 | <p>To control drainage, surface water, groundwater and effluent run-off, the premises must be located or constructed in such a manner that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) surface water and livestock effluent are directed away from laneways, livestock handling areas, livestock confinement areas and feed storage areas; b) the livestock confinement area of the registered premises is free draining and remains firm under foot; and c) the surfaces around feeders and water troughs are evenly graded and compacted to form a hard, durable surface that readily sheds surface water. |
| S3.5 | <p>The registered premises must be either constructed or located in such a manner as to provide animals with protection from extreme climatic conditions by means of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) shade; b) windbreaks; c) shelter; or d) other means approved by the registration authority. <p>Note: Specific requirements may vary according to the type of registered premises, taking into account the species, class and maximum number of animals to be held at the premises and the types of operations to be carried out.</p> |
| S3.6 | <p>Fencing at registered premises must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) meet the minimum requirements for the specified species [<i>under development</i>] appropriate to hold livestock and to prevent the entry of livestock; b) be maintained in a good state of repair; c) be inspected before the entry of each consignment and twice a week while livestock are in the registered premises; d) be consistent with the importing country requirements; and e) for camels, be at least 1.7 m in height. |

| Number | Standard |
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| S3.7 | <p>To ensure adequate supply of feed and water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Where feeders, self-feeders and water troughs are used, they must be of a design that allows for complete cleaning of all surfaces, prevents spoilage of feed during inclement weather, and minimises faecal contamination and injuries. b) All livestock feed for use at the registered premises must be stored in a manner that maintains the integrity and nutritional value of the feed, and protects it from weather, pests and external contaminants (including chemical spray drift) and from direct access by animals. c) Where feeders and self-feeders are used, the feed trough allowance for sheep and goats held in paddocks at the registered premises is to be calculated on a paddock-by-paddock basis and must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. during any or all of May, June, July, August, September and October no less than five (5) cm of fully sheltered feed trough per head; ii. during any or all of November, December, January, February, March and April no less than three (3) cm of feed trough per head. d) Where feeders and self-feeders are used, the trough allowance for cattle/buffalo held in paddocks at the premises is to be calculated on a paddock-by-paddock basis and must be no less than fifteen (15) cm of feed trough per head. e) The quantity of feed available should meet at least minimum feed requirements, which are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. cattle/buffalo — two point five (2.5) per cent of their bodyweight, of a quality feed able to meet daily maintenance requirements; ii. sheep and goats — three (3) per cent of their bodyweight per day for sheep younger than four (4) tooth and two (2) per cent of their bodyweight per day for four (4) tooth or older, of a quality feed able to meet daily maintenance requirements; and iii. deer — two (2) per cent of their bodyweight per day of a quality feed able to meet daily maintenance requirements. f) All livestock in the registered premises must have access to drinking water at all times (unless under curfew). g) Water troughs must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. positioned apart from hay and feed sources to prevent fouling; and ii. kept clean. h) The water quality must be suitable for the livestock and there must be sufficient backup storage or a contingency plan to ensure continuity of supply at peak demand for two (2) days. |

| Number | Standard |
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| S3.8 | <p>For preparation of sheep and goats in premises south of latitude 26 degrees south that are held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in paddocks during any or all of May, June, July, August, September and October, premises must have procedures to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. sheep and goats to be exported by sea are held at the premises for five (5) clear days (excluding the days of arrival and departure) before export; ii. livestock are fed <i>ad libitum</i> during that period; and iii. during the last three (3) days of that period, livestock are fed <i>ad libitum</i>, but only on pelletised feed equivalent to that normally used during an export journey. b) in paddocks during any or all of November, December, January, February, March and April, premises must have procedures to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. sheep and goats to be exported by sea are held at the premises for three (3) clear days (excluding the days of arrival and departure) before export; and ii. livestock are fed <i>ad libitum</i> during that period and only on pelletised feed equivalent to that normally used during an export journey. c) in sheds during any or all months of the year, premises must have procedures to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. sheep and goats to be exported by sea are held at the premises for three (3) clear days (excluding the days of arrival and departure) before export; and ii. livestock are fed <i>ad libitum</i> during that period and only on pelletised feed equivalent to that normally used during an export journey. |

| Number | Standard |
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| S3.9 | <p>Export to the Middle East</p> <p>a) The operator of pre-embarkation registered premises must not prepare the following classes of sheep for export to the Middle East by sea during the period from May to October, unless the sheep are part of an agreed trial, because these classes pose higher risks of inanition and/or salmonellosis:</p> <p>i. For livestock held in paddocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pastoral and station sheep; - lambs (no permanent incisors); and - sheep and goats that have been transported more than 800 km or held on trucks for more than eighteen (18) hours. <p>ii. For livestock held in paddocks or sheds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - full-mouth wethers with a fat score greater than 4; - broken-mouth sheep; and - pregnant ewes. <p>b) All sheep for export to the Middle East by ship during the period from May to October held in paddocks in the pre-embarkation registered premises must have wool length not more than 2.5 cm and must be at least ten (10) days off shears on arrival at the premises.</p> |
| S3.10 | <p>The operator of the registered premises must have arrangements in place at the premises to prevent unauthorised entry and access to the feed when livestock are being prepared for export. Access to the premises must be controlled at all times, with:</p> <p>a) all entry points to premises for pre-export isolation being clearly signed;</p> <p>b) only those persons necessary for the day-to-day operation of the premises having direct access to the area of the premises; and</p> <p>c) all non-employees reporting to reception for appropriate biosecurity checks relevant to the requirements of the facility.</p> |

| Number | Standard |
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| S3.11 | <p>Stocking density at registered premises must provide at least the following minimum space per head (cattle with horns must be provided with additional space), unless a variation is required and approved by the relevant Australian Government agency, based on a livestock heat-stress risk assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) for cattle held for thirty (30) days or more, a minimum of 9 m², based on an individual liveweight of 500 kg (this allowance can be varied by 0.09 m² for each 5 kg change in individual liveweight) b) for cattle held for less than thirty (30) days, a minimum of 4 m², based on an individual liveweight of 500 kilograms (this allowance can be varied by 0.04 m² for each 5 kg change in individual liveweight) c) for sheep and goats held in sheds for ten (10) days or more, based on an individual liveweight of 54 kg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. penned in groups of less than eight (8) animals, a minimum of 0.9 m² ii. penned in groups of 9–15 animals, a minimum of 0.8 m² iii. penned in groups of 16–30 animals, a minimum of 0.6 m² iv. penned in groups of thirty-one (31) or more animals, a minimum of 0.5 m² d) for sheep and goats held in sheds for less than ten (10) days, based on an individual liveweight of 54 kg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. penned in groups of less than eight (8) animals, a minimum of 0.6 m² ii. penned in groups of 9–15 animals, a minimum of 0.53 m² iii. penned in groups of 16–30 animals, a minimum of 0.4 m² iv. penned in groups of thirty-one (31) or more animals, a minimum of 0.33 m². <p>Note: Standard under development for deer, camels, alpacas, buffalo.</p> |
| S3.12 | <p>When receiving and identifying livestock, the operator must obtain a copy of the vendor declarations regarding the property of source and health status of the livestock before accepting the livestock for the purpose of preparation for export.</p> |
| S3.13 | <p>Unloading and inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Livestock must be unloaded as soon as possible after arrival at the registered premises. Facilities must enable safe and efficient unloading of livestock. b) Livestock must be individually inspected at unloading to determine whether they are suitable for preparation for export. c) Livestock for export must be held and assembled at the premises in accordance with the relevant approved NOI and CRMP. |
| S3.14 | <p>All livestock accepted into the premises must be offered water and feed as soon as possible after arrival.</p> |

| Number | Standard |
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| S3.15 | <p>Livestock must be penned in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) livestock of similar species, classes, ages and weights are to be kept in groups; and b) livestock with horns are to be separated from livestock lacking horns. |
| S3.16 | <p>Daily monitoring of health and mortality must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All livestock must be inspected daily by a competent stock person. b) All sick or injured livestock must be given immediate treatment, and veterinary advice must be sought if the cause of a sickness or injury is not obvious, or if action taken to prevent or treat the problem is ineffective. c) Post-mortem examination by a registered veterinarian must be conducted if mortalities in any one paddock or shed exceed zero point one (0.1) per cent or 3 deaths, whichever is the greater, on any one day for cattle and buffalo, or zero point five (0.5) per cent or 3 deaths, whichever is the greater, on any one day for any other species of livestock. Dead livestock must be collected and disposed of on a daily basis. Animals must not be able to access the area for disposal of carcasses. d) Records of each consignment must be kept for at least two (2) years after the date of export. |
| S3.17 | <p>Any livestock identified at unloading as being distressed, injured or otherwise unsuitable for export must be marked by a permanent method and isolated from the rest of the consignment. A record must be kept that details identity and method of disposal of all rejected animals. Criteria for rejection are outlined in Appendix 3.1.</p> |

CRMP = consignment risk management plan; NOI = notice of intention

Appendix 3.1 — Rejection criteria

Cattle and buffalo rejection criteria

Cattle or buffalo found with any of the signs shown in Table A3.1.1 must be rejected from the proposed export consignment. Any other condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease, or would mean that the animal's health would decline or that the animal would suffer significant distress during transport, also requires the animal's rejection from export.

Note: These criteria should not be confined to authorised officers only. As outlined in standard S1.7 of *Standard 1 — Sourcing and on-farm preparation of livestock*, everyone involved in the export process (operators, exporters etc) should apply these criteria.

Table A3.1.1 Cattle and buffalo rejection criteria

| Category | Criteria |
|-------------------------|--|
| General requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fail to meet requirements of import permit, such as sex, type, breed, tag number • Lactating animals with calves at foot • Lactating dairy cows |
| Systemic conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emaciated or overfat • Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak • Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated |
| Musculoskeletal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lameness or abnormal gait • Soft tissue or bony swellings |
| Gastrointestinal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea • Bloat |
| Nervous system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nervous symptoms (head tilt, circling, incoordination) • Abnormal or aggressive behaviour / intractable or violent |
| External / skin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalised papillomatosis or generalised ringworm, dermatophilosis • Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions • External parasites • Large lacerations • Discharging wounds or abscesses |
| Head | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blindness in one or both eyes • Cancer eye • Keratoconjunctivitis • Excessive salivation • Nasal discharge • Severe coughing • Respiratory distress — difficulty breathing • Untipped sharp horns • Cattle: horns longer than 12 cm • Buffalo: horns longer than the spread of the ears • Bleeding horn stumps |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobs with unusual mortalities or mortalities of more than zero point five (0.5) per cent over the whole period of pre-export isolation |

Sheep and goat rejection criteria

Sheep or goats found with any of the signs shown in Table A3.1.2 must be rejected from the proposed export consignment. Any other condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease, or would mean that the animal's health would decline or that the animal would suffer significant distress during transport, also requires the animal's rejection from export.

Table A3.1.2 Sheep and goat rejection criteria

| Category | Criteria |
|-------------------------|---|
| General requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lethargic, unwell• Weakness• Anorexia — inappetence |
| Systemic conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emaciated or overfat |
| Musculoskeletal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lameness — footrot, foot abscess, arthritis, fractures etc• Soft tissue or bony swellings |
| Gastrointestinal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scouring |
| Nervous system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nervous signs (eg head tilt, circling, incoordination) |
| External / skin | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visible external parasites• Cutaneous myiasis• Significant lacerations• Discharging wounds or abscesses• Wool longer than 25 mm, unless included in approved NOI and CRMP |
| Head | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pink eye (active inflammation of one or both eyes)• Blindness in one or both eyes• Long horns greater than one curl, except in approved NOI and CRMP• Horns causing damage to head or eyes• Coughing or respiratory distress• Scabby mouth |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large disparities in size or age (redraft animals in this case)• Animals not identified according to protocol/import permit (tag number, sex, breed etc)• Evidence of unusual mortalities, scouring, ill thrift or undiagnosed disease |

CRMP = consignment risk management plan; NOI = notice of intention

Camel rejection criteria

Camels found with any of the signs shown in Table A3.1.3 must be rejected from the proposed export consignment. Any other condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease, or would mean that the camel's health would decline or that the camel would suffer significant distress during transport, also requires the animal's rejection from export.

Table A3.1.3 Camel rejection criteria

| Category | Criteria |
|-------------------------|--|
| General requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fail to meet requirements of import permit, such as sex, type, breed, tag number• Lactating animals with calves at foot• Lactating cows• Excessively fat cows |
| Systemic conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emaciated or overfat• Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak• Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated |
| Musculoskeletal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lameness or abnormal gait• Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings |
| Gastrointestinal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea• Bloat |
| Nervous system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nervous symptoms (head tilt, circling, incoordination)• Abnormal or aggressive behaviour / intractable or violent |
| External / skin | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generalised papillomatosis or generalised ringworm, dermatophilosis• Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions• External parasites• Large lacerations• Discharging wounds or abscesses |
| Head | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blindness in one or both eyes• Keratoconjunctivitis• Excessive salivation• Nasal discharge• Severe coughing• Respiratory distress — difficulty breathing |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobs with unusual mortalities over the whole period of pre-export isolation |

Deer rejection criteria

Deer found with any of the signs shown in Table A3.1.4 must be rejected from the proposed export consignment. Any other condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease, or would mean that the deer's health would decline or that the animal would suffer significant distress during transport, also requires the animal's rejection from export.

Table A3.1.4 Deer rejection criteria

| Category | Criteria |
|-------------------------|---|
| General requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fail to meet requirements of import permit, such as sex, type, breed, tag number• Lactating does |
| Systemic conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emaciated or overfat• Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak• Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated |
| Musculoskeletal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lameness or abnormal gait• Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings |
| Gastrointestinal system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea• Bloat |
| Nervous system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nervous symptoms (head tilt, circling, incoordination)• Abnormal or aggressive behaviour / intractable or violent |
| External / skin | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generalised skin disease• Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions• External parasites• Large lacerations• Discharging wounds or abscesses |
| Head | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blindness in one or both eyes• Keratoconjunctivitis• Excessive salivation• Nasal discharge• Severe coughing• Respiratory distress — difficulty breathing• In velvet• Bleeding antler stubs• Broken antlers• Antlers longer than 5 cm |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobs with unusual mortalities over the whole period of pre-export isolation |