

Standard 1 — Sourcing and on-farm preparation of livestock

Guiding principle

Sourcing of appropriately prepared livestock is critical to successful health and welfare outcomes during export.

Required outcomes

- Livestock sourced for export must meet any requirement under a law of a state or territory relating to the sourcing of livestock. State and territory governments are responsible for ensuring that these requirements are met.
- Livestock sourced for export must meet these standards and importing country requirements. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) must be satisfied that these standards and importing country requirements are met before issuing a health certificate and export permit.

Overview

This part of the export chain encompasses the sourcing of livestock for export by sea and their on-farm preparation, up to the point of loading and transport to registered premises. The sourcing of livestock for export by air and their on-farm preparation is addressed in the *Standard for the air transport of livestock*.

Livestock sourced for export must meet the standards in the table below. These standards cover relevant state and territory animal health and welfare requirements and importing country requirements. They also reflect relevant aspects of the national Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals for various species of livestock.

Exporters must source suitable livestock that meet consignment specifications, such as species, class, condition, animal health status and number of livestock. Animal health and production records may be required to confirm the eligibility of proposed consignments of livestock for export.

Linkages to other parts of the export chain

In the planning phase, the exporter must specify the livestock to be sourced for export in the consignment risk management plan. Only livestock sourced and prepared according to the approved consignment risk management plan should be presented for transport to registered premises.

Definitions

For the purpose of these Standards, a reference to the **Middle East** is a reference to the following countries:

- (a) Algeria
- (b) Bahrain
- (c) Egypt
- (d) Israel
- (e) Jordan
- (f) Kuwait
- (g) Lebanon
- (h) Libya
- (i) Oman
- (j) Palestine
- (k) Qatar
- (l) Saudi Arabia
- (m) United Arab Emirates
- (n) Yemen

Initial standards — Standards for the sourcing and on-farm preparation of livestock

- Standards S1.1–S1.22 cover sourcing of livestock for export
- Standards S1.23–S1.25 cover on-farm preparation of livestock for export.

Number	Standard
S1.1	<p>Livestock sourced for export must meet any relevant animal health and welfare requirements under state and territory legislation and relevant requirements under national Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) feed and water requirements; b) livestock management and husbandry practices; c) protection from and control of disease; d) protection from climatic extremes, predation, natural disasters; e) handling facilities; and f) intensive production system requirements.
S1.2	<p>Livestock sourced for export must meet importing country requirements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) residence in the geographic region free from the diseases for a period as may be specified; b) property(s) of origin disease status as may be specified; and c) on-farm preparation.
S1.3	<p>Livestock sourced for export must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identified to the property of source; b) accompanied by a correctly completed and signed declaration as to the identification of the livestock and property of source; and c) individually identified where testing is required during preparation.
S1.4	<p>Livestock sourced for export and intended for human consumption must comply with Australian food safety requirements, including standards for chemical residues or environmental contaminants.</p>
S1.5	<p>Pregnant <i>Bos taurus</i> cattle bred in an area of Australia south of latitude 26 degrees south must not be sourced for export to the Middle East from May to October.</p>
S1.6	<p>Sheep must not be sourced for export from the ports of Darwin, Weipa or Wyndham from 1 November in any year to 31 May in the following year (inclusive).</p>
S1.7	<p>Livestock sourced for export must be fit to travel. Consistent with the rejection criteria for livestock at the point of export, livestock sourced for export must not present with any condition that could cause the animal's health to decline during transport or export preparation. Such conditions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lethargy, weakness, ill-thrift, dehydration • anorexia (inappetance) • lameness or abnormal gait • abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scouring, dysentery, profuse diarrhoea • bloat • nervous signs (eg head tilt, circling, incoordination) • abnormal or aggressive behaviour / intractable or violent • external parasites • cutaneous myiasis (fly strike) • significant lacerations • discharging wounds or abscesses • generalised papillomatosis, ringworm or dermatophilosis • generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions • pink eye/keratoconjunctivitis (active inflammation of one or both eyes) • cancer eye • blind in one or both eyes • abnormal nasal discharge • coughing or respiratory distress • scabby mouth • excessive salivation • bleeding horn stumps • ballanitis (pizzle rot in sheep).
S1.8	<p>Livestock must not be sourced for export if they are in an emaciated or overfat body condition. That is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) cattle and buffalo must be from condition scores 2 to 6 on a scale of 1 to 7; b) pregnant cattle must be from condition scores 3 to 6 on a scale of 1 to 7; c) sheep, goats and deer must be from condition scores 2 to 4 on a scale of 1 to 5; and d) camels must be from condition scores 2 to 4 on a scale of 1 to 5. <p><i>[See Appendix 1.1]</i></p>
S1.9	<p>Cattle and buffalo sourced for export as slaughter and feeder animals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) must have been weaned at least fourteen (14) days before sourcing for export; b) must have an individual liveweight of more than 200 kg and less than 550 kg for cattle and a maximum weight of 650kg for buffalo or, if outside these weights, have written prior approval from the relevant Australian Government agency; c) must have been determined not to be pregnant, using the following criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. have been pregnancy tested during the thirty-day period before export and certified as not detectably pregnant; or

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. be accompanied by a vendor declaration that certifies that they have been spayed using the Willis dropped ovary technique not less than thirty (30) days before export; or iii. be accompanied by a vendor declaration that certifies that they have been spayed not less than two hundred and eighty (280) days before export; and d) where they are being exported during May through to October and have been bred in an area of Australia south of latitude 26 degrees south, must have an individual liveweight of more than 200 kg and less than 500 kg for cattle at the time of shipment, unless approved by the relevant Australian Government agency. <p>Note: A declaration must be made in writing by a veterinarian who is a member of the Australian Association of Cattle Veterinarians and an accredited tester under the National Cattle Pregnancy Diagnosis Scheme, or a person able to demonstrate an equivalent level of experience and skill.</p>
S1.10	<p>Cattle and buffalo must only be sourced for export for breeding if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have been weaned at least fourteen (14) days before sourcing for export; b) have an individual liveweight of more than 200 kg or less than 550 kg for cattle and a maximum weight of 650 kg for buffalo or, if outside these weights, have written prior approval from the relevant Australian Government agency; and c) can be shipped so as to arrive at their final destination before the start of the last trimester of pregnancy d) where they are being exported during May through to October and have been bred in an area of Australia south of latitude 26 degrees south, an individual liveweight of more than 200 kg and less than 500 kg for cattle at the time of shipment, unless approved by the relevant Australian Government agency.
S1.11	<p>Ewes and does with two (2) or more permanent incisor teeth must only be sourced for export as slaughter and feeder animals if they have been pregnancy tested within thirty (30) days of export and certified not to be pregnant by a veterinarian or other person able to demonstrate an equivalent level of experience and skill.</p>
S1.12	<p>Unless approved by the relevant Australian Government agency, lambs and goat kids must only be sourced for export if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) they have been weaned at least fourteen (14) days before sourcing for export; b) lambs have a liveweight of more than 28 kg; and c) goat kids have a liveweight of more than 22 kg. <p>[Note: Information on camelids under development]</p>
S1.13	<p>Pregnant sheep and goats must only be sourced for export for breeding purposes if they can be shipped by sea so as to arrive at their final destination before the start of the last trimester of pregnancy.</p> <p>[Note: Information on alpacas under development]</p>
S1.14	<p>Pregnant deer must only be sourced for export for breeding purposes if they can be</p>

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	shipped so as to arrive at their final destination before the start of the last trimester of pregnancy.
S1.15	<p>Horned cattle and buffalo must only be sourced for export as slaughter and feeder animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) for cattle, if the horns are 12 cm or less in length and blunt; b) for buffalo, if the horns are no longer than the spread of the ears and are blunt; and c) if de-horned, wounds are healed. <p>Otherwise, horned cattle and buffalo must only be sourced for export with the approval of the relevant Australian Government agency.</p>
S1.16	<p>Horned sheep or goats must only be sourced for export as slaughter and feeder animals if the horns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are not turned in so as to cause damage to the head or eyes; b) would not endanger other animals during transport; and c) would not restrict access to feed or water during transport. <p>Otherwise, horned sheep or goats must only be sourced for export with the approval of the relevant Australian Government agency.</p>
S1.17	<p>Horned rams must only be sourced for export as slaughter and feeder animals if the horns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are one full curl or less, or are tipped back to one full curl or less; b) would not endanger other animals during transport; and c) would not restrict access to feed or water during transport. <p>Otherwise, horned rams must only be sourced for export with the approval of the relevant Australian Government agency.</p>
S1.18	<p>Horned rams must only be sourced for export as breeding rams if the horns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are not turned in so as to cause damage to the head or eyes; b) would not endanger other animals during transport; and c) would not restrict access to feed or water during transport. <p>Otherwise, horned rams must only be sourced for export with the approval of the relevant Australian Government agency.</p>
S1.19	<p>Sheep must only be sourced for export if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have wool less than 25 mm in length, unless approved by the relevant Australian Government agency; and b) are ten (10) days or more off shears; or c) are to be shorn during the ten-day period before export, in which case they must be accommodated in sheds on the pre-embarkation registered premises.
S1.20	<p>Captured feral goats must not be sourced for export unless they have become accustomed to being handled and to eating and drinking from troughs for a minimum of fourteen (14) days before transfer to pre-embarkation registered</p>

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	premises.
S1.21	<p>Deer must only be sourced for export if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) are at least six (6) months old; b) have been weaned for at least two (2) months before sourcing for export; and c) have become accustomed to being handled and to eating and drinking from troughs for a minimum of fourteen (14) days.
S1.22	<p>Male deer must only be sourced for export if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) they are not in velvet or hard antler; b) they are not in the first week after velveting; c) velveting wounds have healed; and d) they are outside the roar and rut periods (1 February to 30 June) if they are over one (1) year of age.
S1.23	<p>Camels, including wild-caught camels, must only be sourced for export if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) have become accustomed to being handled and to eating and drinking from troughs for a minimum of fourteen (14) days; and b) meet transport and shipping height requirements of the intended transport (ie camels standing in their natural position do not touch any overhead structures).
S1.24	<p>The on-farm preparation of livestock sourced for export must be performed by a veterinarian or a person able to demonstrate an equivalent level of experience and skill and with the minimum restraint necessary to carry out any required procedures.</p>
S1.25	<p>Livestock sourced for export that require vaccination or treatment must be vaccinated or treated in accordance with state and territory legislation and the importing country's requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) where scabby mouth vaccination is required sheep must not be sourced for export unless vaccinated on two (2) separate occasions, at least fourteen (14) days apart and the second vaccination is applied at least eight (8) days but not more than fifty-six (56) days prior to the planned date of export; b) a record of all vaccines, veterinary medicines and agricultural chemicals used to vaccinate or treat livestock sourced for export must be kept for at least two (2) years after the date of export; c) all vaccines, veterinary medicines and agricultural chemicals used to vaccinate or treat livestock sourced for export must be stored and used in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations; d) any slaughter or feeder livestock treated with a drug for which the withholding period exceeds the anticipated date of arrival at the overseas destination, must not be sourced for export, except where treatment with that type of drug is specified in the importing country's protocol; and e) female livestock must not be treated with a prostaglandin drug within fourteen (14) days of export, and not during the sixty-day period before

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	export unless they have been pregnancy tested immediately before prostaglandin treatment and declared to be in the first trimester of pregnancy.
S1.26	Livestock sourced for export that become sick or injured during on-farm preparation must be excluded from export, and arrangements must be made for their prompt and humane handling and care.

Appendix 1.1 — Body condition score for livestock

Sheep and goats

Table A1.1.1 Condition scores 1–5 for sheep and goats

Score	Backbone	Short ribs	Eye muscle
1	Prominent and sharp	Ends are sharp and easy to press between, over and around	Thin, the surface tending to feel hollow
2	Prominent but smooth	Smooth, well-rounded ends — can feel between, over and around each smoothly	Reasonable depth with the surface tending to feel flat
3	Can be felt, but smooth and rounded	Ends are smooth and well covered — firm pressure necessary to feel under and between short ribs	Full and rounded
4	Detectable with pressure on the thumb	Individual short ribs can only be felt with firm pressure	Full with a covering layer of fat
5	Can be felt with firm pressure	Cannot be felt even with firm pressure	Muscle cannot be felt due to a thick layer of fat

Cattle

Table A1.1.2 Condition score of cattle

Standard		Optional	
Scores	Fat depth (mm) at P8 site	Scores	Fat depth (mm) at P8 site
1	0–2		
2	3–6	2 Low (L) 2 High (H)	3–4 5–6
3	7–12	3L 3H	7–9 10–12
4	13–22	4L 4H	13–17 18–22
5	23–32	5L 5H	23–27 28–32
6	33–42	6L 6H	33–37 38–42
7	Over 42	7L 7H	over 42

Deer¹

These charts have been cooperatively developed for the Australian deer industry by project funding from the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC), the South Australian Department of Primary Industries and Resources, and the University of Western Sydney. They are intended as a guide and may be amended in the future if new information becomes available. The charts have been developed to help Australian deer farmers and processors to objectively assess the body condition of deer. Body condition may influence many aspects of deer production and profitability, including reproductive performance, susceptibility to disease and returns from processed animals.

Body condition scoring is based on palpation of the spine, pelvis and rump of live animals. The simple scoring system varies from score 1 (emaciated) to 5 (overfat) and relates directly to carcass condition scores.

Table A1.1.3 Condition scores for deer

Score	Description	Pelvis, ribs and spine	Rump area
1	Emaciated — no fat cover	Prominent	Concave
2	Lean — minimal fat cover	Prominent but appear rounded rather than sharp	
3	Prime — ideal fat cover	Not readily distinguished	Flat
4	Fat — fat (some trimming necessary)	Pelvis rounded, spine covered by fat	Rounded
5	Overfat — overfat (excessive trimming required)	Pelvis concealed by fat, spine hard to palpate	Very convex

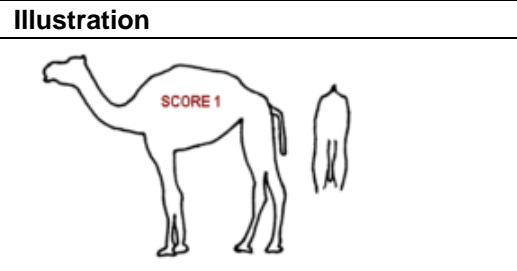
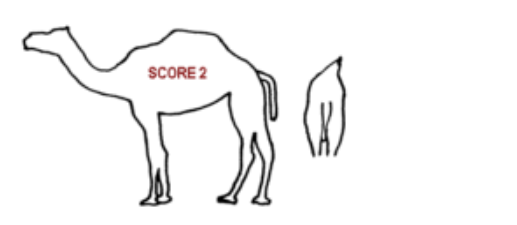
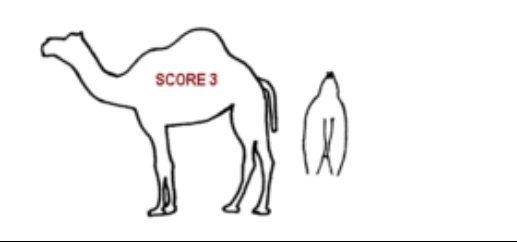

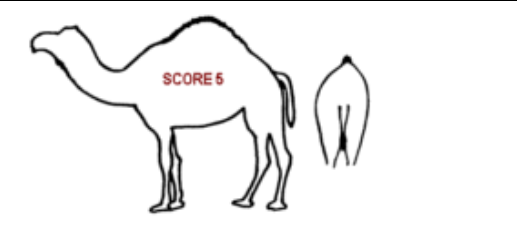
Camels²

The condition of a camel is estimated by looking at the store of body fat (ie the hump). This reflects the internal fat reserves and provides a good correlation with total body fat. The camel deposits excess energy as fat into the hump sac and into some internal linings. This contrasts with the energy reserves of other species, in which fat is deposited into the subcutaneous tissues and internal linings and within the muscles.

¹ <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/DEE/conditionscores>

² <http://www.camelsaust.com.au/livebodycond.htm>

Table A1.1.4 Condition scores for camels (range 1–5, based on the amount of fat in the hump)

Score	Description	Illustration
1	Little or no fat in the hump sac; hump hairy and may be leaning to one side.	 The illustration shows a camel in profile with a very small, thin hump. The hump is labeled 'SCORE 1'. To the right of the camel is a diagram of the hump sac, which is a narrow, elongated shape.
2	Hump with moderate development rising 5% higher than chest depth, but may also be leaning to one side.	 The illustration shows a camel in profile with a slightly larger hump than score 1. The hump is labeled 'SCORE 2'. To the right is a diagram of the hump sac, which is wider and more rounded than the score 1 diagram.
3	Hump with good development and rising to 10% higher than chest depth. Hump is still sculptured inwards on both sides and still fits over the chest and abdominal area.	 The illustration shows a camel in profile with a hump that is more pronounced. The hump is labeled 'SCORE 3'. To the right is a diagram of the hump sac, which is wider and more rounded than the score 2 diagram.
4	Hump fully developed and rising to 15% higher than chest depth. Hump rounded outwards on both sides and runs from the shoulder to the rump.	 The illustration shows a camel in profile with a well-developed, rounded hump. The hump is labeled 'SCORE 4'. To the right is a diagram of the hump sac, which is wider and more rounded than the score 3 diagram.
5	Hump over-extended and rising more than 15% higher than chest, or so full that it is rounded on the sides like a semicircle.	 The illustration shows a camel in profile with a very large, rounded hump that appears to be over-extended. The hump is labeled 'SCORE 5'. To the right is a diagram of the hump sac, which is the widest and most rounded of all the diagrams.

Buffalo

[under development]