



LPA Requirements: #4

Preparation for dispatch of livestock



LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTION
ASSURANCE

What?

As a livestock producer, you must guarantee that livestock are fit to transport and that they experience a minimum of stress and contamination during assembly and transport.

They must also meet the specific requirements relating to the transportation for sale or slaughter of bobby calves.

To demonstrate this you must:

- Document and file LPA NVDs
- Document and file transport records
- Document animals that may have been exposed to physical contaminants such as broken needles, buckshot or wire

How?

The preparation for dispatch of livestock checklist includes six questions to ensure a livestock producer is doing all they can to minimise livestock stress and contamination during assembly and transport.

It is recommended producers document and file their responses to the checklist and make this available should the property be subject to an LPA audit. A template to assist you with your record keeping is available on the LPA website at www.mla.com.au/lpa

Learn More

A dedicated module within LPA Learning explains what you need to know regarding LPA's requirements for on-farm risk assessment for preparation for dispatch of livestock. Information is also provided on the LPA website (www.mla.com.au/lpa).

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity. It is part of the integrity system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. Customer confidence in Australian red meat underpins the success and growth of Australia's livestock industry, and protects the livelihoods of more than 200,000 producers.

When producers become LPA-accredited, they are promising to meet LPA's requirements and fulfil their responsibility in the production of safe and ethical red meat. **Managing the preparation for dispatch of livestock** is just one of seven elements that farmers need to satisfy to become LPA-accredited.

Every LPA-accredited producer must undertake to ensure livestock are fit for transport and minimise the risk of stress and contamination of livestock during assembly and transport.

LPA requirements

- #1 Property risk assessment
- #2 Safe & responsible animal treatments
- #3 Safe livestock feed
- #4 Preparation for dispatch
- #5 Livestock transactions & movements
- #6 Biosecurity
- #7 Animal welfare



Checklist:

1 Do you record transport details, including vehicle registration and key times?

To ensure that transportation of livestock is carried out in a safe and humane manner, it is important to keep detailed records. This includes:

- Copies of the LPA NVD
- Name of transport operator and vehicle registration number
- Date and time of yarding and truck departure
- Records of feedback/complaints from processors or purchasers and any actions taken

2 Do you only select animals for transport that are fit for travel?

Livestock should not be transported if they are unwell or injured.

Animals that may have been exposed to physical contaminants such as broken needles, buckshot or wire need to be identified and the information shared with the buyer.

3 Do you inspect vehicles prior to livestock transportation?

Producers should check vehicles prior to loading to make sure they are as clean as is practical and to ensure that the construction of multi-level trucks minimises soiling of livestock on the lower deck, where waste from the top level is drained away from animals on the lower level. This minimises the risks of livestock being contaminated during transportation.

4 Are pre-consignment curfews enforced for livestock destined for slaughter?

It is important that producers do not feed or water livestock destined for slaughter during the minimum curfew period, unless specified otherwise by the customer.

For cattle the curfew is six hours and for sheep and goats 12 hours, unless specified otherwise (in writing) by the customer.

5 Do you choose transport operators that operate in accordance with a recognised quality assurance program?

By choosing transport companies that operate in accordance with a recognised quality assurance program, such as Truckcare, producers show they are acting to minimise stress during transport.

6 Do you prepare bobby calves for transport in accordance with the Bobby Calf NVD?

As well as ensuring bobby calves are fit and strong enough for transport, producers must also meet specific requirements set out on the Bobby Calf LPA NVDs. This stipulates that bobby calves must be:

- Between 5 and 30 days of age
- Protected from cold and heat
- In good health, alert and able to rise from a lying position
- Adequately fed milk or milk replacer on the farm within 6 hours of transport
- Prepared and transported to ensure delivery in less than 18 hours from last feed with no more than 12 hours spent on transport.

When?

Records must be updated every time livestock are transported.

Why?

Australia's food safety record is essential to consumers of red meat, both locally and in the 100-plus countries we export to. This means it's fundamental to the future of our red meat industry.

If livestock are not fit for transport and become stressed or contaminated during assembly and transport, they may become an animal welfare concern and also may be unsafe for human consumption. This will put the entire industry at risk.

At a producer level, repercussions may include failure to be paid for the livestock, and possible legal liability for the resulting costs faced by processors and the rest of the supply chain.