



PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK



Livestock Production Assurance

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 180,000 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 ensure livestock are fit for transport and minimise the risk of stress and contamination of livestock during assembly and transport.

What?

As a livestock producer, you must guarantee that livestock are fit to load and that they are handled to minimise stress and potential contamination during assembly and transportation.

To demonstrate this you must:

- Document and file LPA NVDs and any Animal Health Declarations
- Document and file transport records
- Document outgoing livestock movement records, including animals exposed to physical or chemical contaminants
- Ensure specific requirements relating to the transportation for sale or slaughter of bobby calves have been met

For more information download the Is it fit to load? guide from the MLA website mla.com.au/isitfittoload or contact MLA on 1800 023 100 to order a copy.

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 responses to the checklist, and make them available should the property be subject to an LPA audit. Templates to assist you with your record keeping are available on the ISC website at www.integritysystems.com.au/recordkeeping/.

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 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. Any food safety issue of the meat has the potential to impact consumers and puts 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.

LPA REQUIREMENTS

- #1 PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT
- #2 SAFE & RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENTS
- #3 STOCK FOODS, FODDER CROPS, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS
- #4 **PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK**
- #5 LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS & MOVEMENTS
- #6 BIOSECURITY
- #7 ANIMAL WELFARE

Checklist:

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

Yes No Unsure

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?

Yes No Unsure

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

3. Do you inspect vehicles prior to livestock transportation?

Yes No Unsure

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?

Yes No Unsure

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?

Yes No Unsure

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?

Yes No Unsure

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.

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 ISC website (www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/preparation-for-dispatch-of-livestock/).

