

# WELFARE STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS

## 1. Mustering of stock

This procedure causes stress to the animals and as such following conditions shall be fulfilled:

- yards shall be provided with troughs for drinking water
- if animals are kept in yards for more than 24 hours or traveled for more than 24 hours both feed and water should be provided at adequate intervals,
- they shall be sheltered from inclement weather conditions such as extreme heat, wind or cold.

## 2. Selection of stock

- only healthy and fit animals shall be transported and sick, injured, weak or animals in late pregnancy shall not be allowed to be transported.
- calves and adults shall be transported in separate vehicle or should be partitioned if transported in the same vehicle.

## 3. Standards for transport vehicles

- it should be clean and disinfected;
- no protrusions or sharp edges such as hinges/latches should be projected out;
- surfaces of vehicle coming in contact with animals should be smooth to reduce bruising;
- deck height should be sufficient for animals to avoid contacting overhead structures;
- flooring materials provided should be of non-slip material, easily repairable, and should not cause injury to hooves/legs
- the spacing of side rails should be such that it prevents trapping of heads or legs of animals;
- the height of the side walls of vehicle shall be high enough to prevent animals from jumping or escaping;.
- partitions and fittings provided shall be well secured;
- design of stock crate shall be such that it shall prevent over crowding and jolting
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## 4. Loading facilities

- ramp shall be large enough to allow hips of mature animals to pass easily;
- a flat area at the top of the ramp should be one metre in length should be at the level with the floor of vehicle for easy loading and unloading of animals;
- recommendation for a slope of permanent ramp shall be 1:3 (about 20 degrees);
- surfaces of ramp shall be of non-slip and grooved to provide good grip

## 5. Loading of animals

- during loading, animals of different species or of different age or sex shall not be mixed to prevent fights and injuries to each other;
- sheep, goats and calves below six months can be transported together;

- Bulls should not be carried together with other stock unless separated by strong partition;
- loading of animals shall be done the rear side of vehicle;
- during loading animals shall not be lifted by horns, ears, head, legs or wool;
- sufficient floor space shall be provided as per the requirement for different species of animals as specified under loading density;
- pigs should not be fed before transport as this can lead to death;
- flappers with a length of a cane stick with a short strap of leather or canvas attached it shall be used whereas use of sticks, metallic pipes, etc shall be prohibited.

## 6. Unloading of animals

- all requirements similar to loading of animals shall be applied for unloading of animals as well;
- as far as possible animals shall be allowed to walk quietly out of vehicle;
- adequate feed and water shall be made available if be kept in yards for 24 hours or more.

## 7. In-transit inspection

- animals should be observed at 30 minutes after the start of journey and thereafter at least every 2 hours during transportation;
- a suitable lighting sources shall be carried for observation of animal at night;
- leg of animals shall not be tied during transport in vehicle;
- prompt veterinary aid shall be made available if sickness or injury results during transportation.

## 8. Duration of journey

- a rest period from 12 to 24 hours shall be provided for immature ruminants and horses that traveled more than 24 hours;
- a rest period from 12 to 24 hours shall be provided for pigs traveled more than 36 hours. Adequate water shall be provided at frequent intervals during the journey.
- mature cattle, sheep or goats shall not be allowed to travel for than 36 hours at a stretch. They shall be offloaded after 24 hours r for feed and water if the journey is to continue for more than 24 hours.
- if the animals are to be walked on foot, a maximum distance for one day should not exceed 30 Km for cattle and 24 Km for sheep and goats.

*Unloading & reloading of pigs is undesirable*

## 9. Recommended loading density (during road transport)

Adequate floor space shall be provided such that an animal fallen or cast on the floor shall be able to get up comfortably.

### a. Approximate floor space for cattle

<u>Average weight (Kg)</u>	<u>Floor area (m<sup>2</sup>/head)</u>	<u>No. of head (per 12.2m)</u>
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250 (100)	0.70 (0.34)	42 (80)
400 (200)	0.87 (0.61)	34 (48)
650 (150)	1.35 (0.47)	22 (62)

*Note: Figure in bracket is for calves and  $1.0 \text{ m}^2 = 10.8 \text{ sq. ft.}$*

**b. Approximate floor space for sheep and goats**

<u>Average weight (Kg)</u>	<u>Floor area (m<sup>2</sup>/head)</u>	<u>No. of head (per 12.2m)</u>
30	0.17	170
60	0.29	100

**c. Approximate floor space for pigs**

<u>Average weight (Kg)</u>	<u>Floor area (m<sup>2</sup>/head)</u>	<u>No. of head (per 12.2m)</u>
50	0.22	132
100	0.35	83
150	0.48	60
200	0.61	48

**d. Approximate floor space for horses**

<u>Age</u>	<u>m<sup>2</sup>/head</u>
Adults	1.2
18-24 months	1.0
12-18 months	0.9
5-12 months	0.6

**e. Approximate floor space for poultry (live weight densities)**

**Growing/adults fowls**

Hot weather	-	55 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
Other times	-	60 kg/m <sup>2</sup>

**10. Food and water requirements**

<u>Species</u>	<u>Water (litre/head/day)</u>	<u>Food (kg/head/day)</u>
Horses	25	6

Cattle	45	5
Sheep & Goats	4	1
Pigs	5	2

**Note:** 1 litre = 0.22 gallon and 1 kg = 2.2 lb(pound)

Water : extreme hot weather (> 40°C) double the amount specified above

Feed : good quality hay for(ruminants & horses and grower ration for pigs

## 11. Specials requirements

***Following animals shall be transported separately wherever possible:***

- Calves
- Young piglets
- Cow with calf
- Sow with piglets
- Hornless cattle
- Adult bulls
- Adult boars
- Cattle with different sizes or belong to different herds
- Females in advanced pregnancy

**Pigs shall not be recommended for transport in** extreme heat (38°C or more) as they are highly susceptible to heat

**Chicks should be provided with adequate** ventilation but at the same time avoid effects of chilling weather or excessive heat.