



June 2023

## ***Australian Standards for Export of Livestock (ASEL) – Update 3.3***

# **Livestock marking and isolation practices in Registered Establishments**

Standard 3 relates to the management of livestock in registered establishments for exports by sea. Requirements for livestock in the registered establishment are applicable once livestock have been sourced for export.

The proposed amendments to the standard/s appear below in tracked changes. Text proposed to be deleted will appear struck out.

### **General and all species requirements**

3.1.15 Livestock must be individually inspected at unloading, and inspected at least daily, to determine whether they are suitable for preparation for export. Any livestock animal must be rejected from the consignment if they:

- a) are, identified as being distressed, or injured, or
- b) have a condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease, or
- c) have a condition where the animal's health or welfare could decline, or
- a)d) could suffer distress during the export process, or are otherwise unsuitable for export (including the rejection criteria outlined in Standard 1 Table 1), ~~or must be rejected from the consignment, marked by a semi-permanent or permanent method and isolated from the rest of the consignment. Any other condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease, or would mean that the animal's health or welfare could decline or that the animal would suffer distress during transport, also requires the animal's rejection from export preparation.~~
- e) do not meet importing country requirements.

All rejected animals must be individually visually marked upon identification, by a semi-permanent or permanent method.

Where a rejected animal is injured or suffering distress, the animal must be isolated from the consignment upon identification.

Where a rejected animal has an infectious or contagious disease, the animal must be isolated from the consignment upon identification where possible or otherwise at the first reasonable opportunity.

Where an animal is not suffering distress or does not have an infectious or contagious disease, the animal should be isolated upon identification or at the first reasonable opportunity.

All rejected animals must be removed from the consignment prior to being loaded for departure from the registered establishment to the port.

~~For any livestock found unsuitable~~ Arrangements must be made for the prompt and humane handling, treatment and care of rejected livestock, including:

- ~~a)-e)~~ provision of treatment to all sick or injured livestock; and
- ~~b)-f)~~ provision of veterinary advice if the cause of a sickness or injury is not obvious, or if action taken to prevent or treat the problem is ineffective; and
- ~~c)-g)~~ where required euthanasia and/or disposal, in compliance with all relevant and applicable legislation.

## Add to definitions

'At the first reasonable opportunity' means within the timeframe that would be expected by a reasonable person with the relevant knowledge, skills and experience in the management of livestock given the urgency of the situation in relation to the welfare of the livestock.

## Rationale

Recommendations from multiple reviews of the Fremantle model, including an Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports (IGLAE) review in 2021, indicate that changes are required to improve animal welfare outcomes and to promote compliance with ASEL.

The proposed changes to standard 3.1.15 capture the contents of the Export Advisory Notice regarding Management and Removal of Rejects (2016-16). The amended standard broadly differentiates between categories of rejected livestock in relation to the urgency of the situation to ensure animal welfare is not further compromised:

- animals that are injured or suffering distress,
- animals that have a condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease, and
- all other rejected animals.

The department considers that visually marking rejected animals is of key importance to ensure rejected animals are easily identified for subsequent removal and to ensure they do not inadvertently re-join the export consignment. The requirement to individually visually mark rejects is therefore recommended.

Animals that are injured or suffering distress must be isolated from the consignment upon identification.

Animals that have a condition that could be defined as an infectious or contagious disease must be isolated from the consignment upon identification where possible or otherwise at the first reasonable opportunity.

All other rejected animals should be isolated upon identification or at the first reasonable opportunity.

The proposed amendments to this standard allow for greater flexibility regarding timing of removal of rejected livestock, balancing the best animal health and welfare outcomes with the management practices and infrastructure constraints at some registered establishments. It also addresses stakeholder concerns that repeated handling and disturbance of livestock to remove a reject (that is not injured or suffering distress), may cause increased stress and have adverse animal welfare outcomes for the rest of the mob.

The department considers that all rejected animals identified at the registered establishment must be removed from the consignment prior to being loaded for departure to the port to minimise the risk of rejected animals being loaded onto the vessel.

The definition of ‘at the first reasonable opportunity’ aligns with Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep and the Western Australian Animal Welfare (Transport, Saleyards and Depots) (Cattle and Sheep) Regulations 2020. An example of the ‘first reasonable opportunity’ is at the next management procedure, such as shearing.

## More information

Learn more about [Australian Standards for Export of Livestock - Update 3.3](#)

Read more about [Export Advisory Notices](#)

Learn more about the [Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports](#)

Read more about [Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines](#)

Web [agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/animal-welfare/asel-updates](http://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/animal-welfare/asel-updates)

Have Your Say [haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/australian-standards-for-the-export-of-livestock-asel-2023-update](http://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/australian-standards-for-the-export-of-livestock-asel-2023-update)

Email [aselreview@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:aselreview@agriculture.gov.au)

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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