



June 2023

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

Penning requirements for horned sheep

Standard 1 relates to the sourcing and preparation of livestock for export by sea.

Standard 5 relates to the loading onto vessels and onboard management of livestock for export by sea.

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

Sheep sourcing and export criteria

1.7.7 Sheep with horns must only be sourced for export or exported if the horns:

- a) would not cause damage to the head or eyes of the animal or other animals during the export process; and
- b) would not endanger the animal or other animals ~~during transport~~ during the export process; and
- c) would not restrict access to feed or water ~~during transport~~ during the export process; and
- d) are no more than 1 full curl, unless otherwise provided for in a *long-horned livestock management plan* approved in writing by the department and do not show signs consistent with the rejection criteria specified in Table 1.

Sheep loading and management requirements

5.5.1 The minimum pen space allocation for sheep is contained in Table 19. These penning criteria also apply ~~to this allocation~~:

- a) where a curfew of more than 12 hours will be undertaken at the registered establishment prior to transport to the port of embarkation, a curfew factor of an additional 5% must be applied when calculating liveweight (cumulative with other additional space requirements and must be calculated first); and
- b) for weights between those shown in Table 19 the minimum pen area per head must be calculated by linear interpolation; and
- c) [deleted]
- d) sheep without horns may be mixed with sheep with horns up to 1 full curl in length; and
- e) sheep exported in accordance with a long-horned livestock management plan approved in writing by the department under Standard 1.7.7 d) must be allocated an additional 10% space.

Table 1 Rejection criteria for all species by sea

Head:

- Sharp horns
- Horns that would cause damage to the head or eyes of the animal or other animals
- Horns that would restrict access to feed or water
- Horns that would endanger the animal or other animals
- Bleeding or not fully healed horn stumps or broken antlers
- Horns longer than appropriate for export.

Rationale

The animal welfare risks associated with export of sheep with horns include:

- damage to the head or eyes of the animal or other animals during the export process,
- access to feed or water during the export process,
- endangering the animal or other animals during the export process.

The proposed changes to standards 1.7.7 and 5.5.1 manage animal welfare risks and clarify the horn specifications and penning arrangements for sheep.

Standard 1.7.7 - The change clarifies that the above 3 risks must be addressed during the entire export process, not just 'during transport' and the horns do not show signs consistent with the rejection criteria specified in Table 1.

Standard 5.5.1 – The change inserts the word 'full' (curl) to provide consistency with current sourcing requirements (S 1.7.7).

In 2019, Recommendation # 33 of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock: Sea Transport Final Report advised that any horned sheep (not only rams) with horns longer than one full curl require 10% additional pen space. As such, the proposed changes to Standard 5.5.1(e) state that sheep with horns greater than one full curl that are exported under an approved long-horned livestock management plan, must receive an additional 10% pen space.

Exporters may need to update their approved arrangements with regards to the above changes, as well as submitting a long-horned livestock management plan for approval by the department.

The proposed changes to Table 1 Rejection criteria for livestock exported by sea specifically address the animal welfare risks listed above.

More information

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

Read more about the [Technical Advisory Committee \(TAC\) Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock](#)

Web 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

Email 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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