



June 2023

## Australian Standards for Export of Livestock – Update 3.2

### Rejection criteria table - Sea

Standard 1 covers the standards that relate to the sourcing and preparation 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.

#### General and all species requirements

**Table 1 Rejection criteria for all species by sea**

Category	Rejection criteria
General requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Failure to meet importing country requirements including sex or breed if specified</li><li>• Pregnancy status not confirmed as appropriate for export</li><li>• Lactating animals/lactating animals with young at foot</li><li>• Viral diseases such as scabby mouth or infectious bovine rhinotracheitis</li><li>• Animals displaying clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease or external parasites</li><li>• Animals showing signs of injury such as but not limited to fractures or swelling</li></ul>
Systemic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Body condition score not appropriate for export (such as emaciated or over-fat)</li><li>• Anorexia (inappetence or 'shy feeders')</li><li>• Uncoordinated, collapsed, weak</li><li>• Unwell, lethargic, dehydrated</li><li>• Ill-thrift</li></ul>
Gastrointestinal system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dysentery or profuse diarrhoea</li><li>• Bloat</li></ul>
Musculoskeletal system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Abnormal gait or lameness of any kind</li><li>• Abnormal soft tissue or bony swellings</li></ul>
Nervous system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nervous symptoms such as head tilt, circling, incoordination</li><li>• Abnormal or aggressive behaviour/intractable or violent</li></ul>
External/skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Sheep wool or hair longer than 25mm</u></li><li>• Generalised papillomatosis or generalised ringworm or dermatophilosis</li><li>• Generalised and extensive buffalo fly lesions</li><li>• Generalised skin disease or infection</li><li>• External skin cancer</li><li>• Lacerations that penetrate the full thickness of the dermis or are likely to affect the health or welfare of the animal</li></ul>

Category	Rejection criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discharging wounds or abscesses</li> <li>Cutaneous myiasis (flystrike)</li> <li>Balanitis (pizzle rot in sheep)</li> <li>Blood/abnormal discharge from reproductive tract (vulva/prepuce)</li> <li>Visible external parasites</li> </ul>
Head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blindness in 1 or both eyes</li> <li>Cancer eye</li> <li>Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye)</li> <li>Excessive salivation</li> <li>Nasal discharge consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease</li> <li>Coughing consistent with signs of a contagious or infectious disease</li> <li>Respiratory distress or difficulty breathing</li> <li>Sharp horns</li> <li>Horns <del>that would cause-causing</del> damage to the head or eyes <u>of the animal or other animals</u></li> <li><u>Horns that would endanger the animal or other animals</u></li> <li><u>Horns that would restrict access to feed or water</u></li> <li>Bleeding <u>and/or not fully healed</u> horn stumps or broken antlers</li> <li>Horns longer than appropriate for export</li> <li>Scabby mouth</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups of animals with unusual mortalities</li> <li>Disparities in sex, size, weight or age that could cause an issue with the health or welfare of the animals (redraft animals in this case)</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups of animals with unusual mortalities</li> <li>Disparities in sex, size, weight or age that could cause an issue with the health or welfare of the animals (redraft animals in this case)</li> </ul>

## Rationale

### Rejection criteria for all species by sea

The proposed change to Table 1 Rejection criteria for all species by sea reflects the updated ASEL standard 3.7.3 (see below) and the contents of EAN 2022-20 regarding the ASEL amendment - sheep management plans.

3.7.3 Sheep sourced for export must have wool or hair no longer than 25mm in length at the time of loading for transport to the port of embarkation, unless otherwise provided in a Northern Hemisphere winter sheep shearing management plan approved in writing by the department.

The rejection criteria specifies that sheep with wool or hair that is longer than 25mm in length are not suitable for export by sea.

Other proposed changes to Table 1 also include the proposed changes as outlined in the 'Penning requirements for horned cattle and sheep' papers.

The animal welfare risks that the proposed changes to Table 1 attempt to manage are:

- the export of sheep with inappropriate wool length
- damage to the head or eyes of the animal or other animals
- restricted access to feed or water

- endangering the animal or other animals, and
- export of livestock with horns that are not fully healed (for example, are scabby and bleeding).

## More information

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

Read more about the [Export Advisory Notices](#)

Read more about the [Policy on AAVs and stockpersons on sea voyages](#)

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