

B4 Specific requirements for the land transport of cattle

Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risks to the welfare of cattle during transport.

SB4.1 Time off water must not exceed the time periods given below:

Class	Maximum time off water (hours)
Cattle over 6 months old	48
Calves 1–6 months old	24
Lactating cows with calves at foot	24
Calves 5–30 days old travelling without mothers	18
Cattle known to be more than 6 months pregnant excluding the last 4 weeks	24

SB4.2 If cattle over 6 months old have been off water for 48 hours, they must be spelled for 36 hours before starting another journey.

If cows known to be more than 6 months pregnant excluding the last 4 weeks, lactating cows with calves at foot or calves 1–6 months old have been off water for 24 hours, they must be spelled for 12 hours before starting another journey.

SB4.3 Cattle known to be in the last 4 weeks of pregnancy must be transported under veterinary advice unless the journey is less than 4 hours duration.

SB4.4 Calves less than 5 days old travelling without mothers must only be transported directly to a calf-rearing facility and must:

- i) be fed colostrum on the property of origin
- ii) be fed a liquid feed within 6 hours before loading
- iii) be provided with thick bedding and room to lie down
- iv) be protected from cold and heat
- v) not be consigned through saleyards
- vi) not be transported for longer than 6 hours.

SB4.5 Calves between 5 and 30 days old travelling without mothers must:

- i) be protected from cold and heat
- ii) be prepared and transported to ensure not more than 18 hours since last feed
- iii) have an auditable and accessible record that identifies the date and time that the calves were last fed, unless the journey is between rearing properties and is less than 6 hours duration.

SB4.6 Calves less than 30 days old travelling without mothers must not be consigned across Bass Strait.

SB4.7 Dogs must not be used to move bobby calves less than 30 days old.

- SB4.8 Approved methods of humane destruction for:
- i) *adult cattle* are firearms (including the temporal position) captive bolt or lethal injection
 - ii) *calves* are firearms, captive bolt, lethal injection or blunt trauma; blunt trauma must only be used when there is no other approved option for humane destruction, and only on calves that are less than 24 hours old.

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of cattle during transport.

Fitness

GB4.1 Additional considerations for cattle welfare should be made for long distance travel:

- for cattle over 6 months old after 36 hours off water
- for calves, lactating cows and cows in the third trimester of pregnancy after 12 hours off water.

These considerations should include:

- i) that the cattle are considered fit for the remainder of the intended journey
- ii) adverse weather conditions are not prevailing or predicted
- iii) additional spell times during the journey
- iv) a longer spell time at the end of the journey
- v) the recent management of the cattle before first loading.

GB4.2 A decision to transport cattle with one of the following conditions should be made after considering the welfare of the animal concerned and the treatment and management options. The conditions include lethargy, profuse diarrhoea, disease, wounds or abscesses.

GB4.3 Calves should be transported for the shortest time possible. Efficient aggregation practices for calves between 5 and 30 days old should be used to reduce journey times to final destinations. Direct marketing should be used when possible. Calves should not be consigned through saleyards that do not have holding facilities suitable for calves. They should not be transported for a time exceeding 10 hours, or a distance exceeding 500 kilometres — whichever comes first — from loading to the destination, unless the calves are intended for slaughter and exceeding this time and distance is necessary to reach the nearest available, operating, livestock-processing establishment.

GB4.4 Calves between 5 and 30 days old travelling without mothers should have dry, withered navel cords and hooves that are not soft and bulbous. They should not travel until they are 8 days old for journeys approaching 24 hours.

GB4.5 Calves born earlier than a normal pregnancy term (including induced calves) should be at an equivalent stage of fitness when transported, compared with normal, full-term calves.

GB4.6 Cows in the sixth and seventh month of pregnancy should not be deprived of water for more than 12 hours and they should be spelled for 12 hours before reloading.

GB4.7 Cows more than 8 months pregnant, excluding the last two weeks of pregnancy, should be transported under the following provisions:

- water deprivation time should not exceed 4 hours
- feed and water should be provided immediately before loading and upon unloading
- additional space should be provided on the vehicle
- cattle should be segregated from other classes of cattle
- veterinary advice should be sought.

Food and water

GB4.8 Cattle should be fed and watered as soon as possible after unloading.

GB4.9 Calves between 5 and 30 days old travelling without mothers should have a liquid feed every 12 hours.

Loading density

GB4.10 The following space allowances should be provided:

Mean liveweight (kg)	Minimum floor area (m ² /head)	Number of head per 12.2 m bottom deck
100		
150		
200		
250	0.77	38
300	0.86	34
350	0.98	30
400	1.05	28
450	1.13	26
500	1.23	24
550	1.34	22
600	1.47	20
650	1.63	18

GB4.11 Calves under one month old should have sufficient space to lie down on their sternum.

Vehicle and facilities

GB4.12 Calves less than 30 days old should have:

- protection from excess heat, sun, wind and rain in a vehicle with an enclosed front and that provides effective ventilation.

GB4.13 During cold weather, additional actions should be taken to protect calves from cold stress and windchill during transport.

GB4.14 Ramps for adult cattle and calves should be designed so that animal welfare is not compromised. Ramp slopes for adult cattle should be 20 degrees and for calves should be 12 degrees.

Handling

GB4.15 Calves between 5 and 30 days old travelling to livestock processing plants should be delivered within 10 hours of leaving the property of origin.

GB4.16 Calves under 30 days old should be unloaded with care as they may not have developed following behaviours and may also become easily fatigued.

GB4.17 Cattle have a high level of herding instinct; therefore, handling techniques should use strategies to make best use of this fact for low-stress stock handling.

GB4.18 Horned bulls should have the nonvascular horn tip removed to a diameter of 3 cm.

Humane destruction

GB4.19 The preferred option for humane destruction is a firearm in the frontal position. For adult cattle, a rifle should deliver at least the power of a standard 0.22 magnum cartridge. For larger animals and bulls, 0.30-calibre high-power cartridges are recommended. For calves, a rifle should deliver at least at least the power of a standard 0.22-long rifle cartridge.

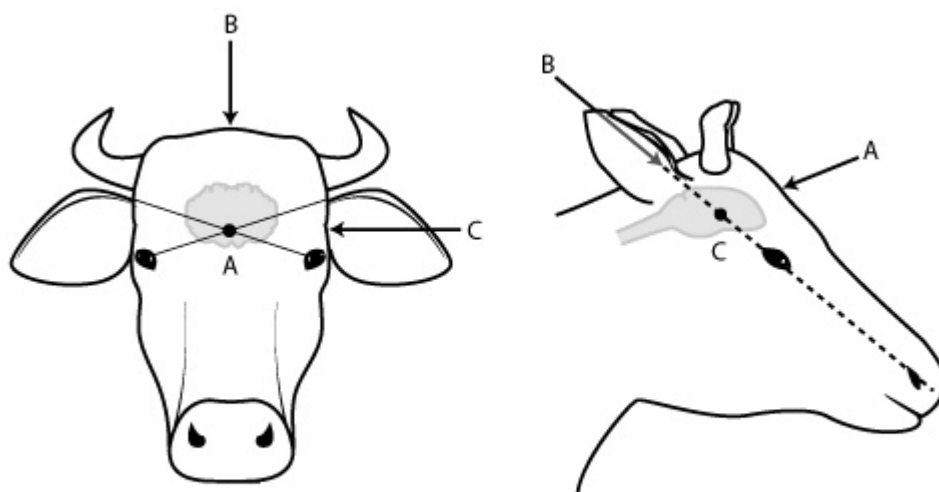


Figure B4.1 Humane destruction of cattle

Note: (A) indicates the frontal method, (B) indicates the poll method and (C) indicates the temporal method. The dots indicate the point of aim and the arrows indicates the direction of aim for the positions.