

# B4 Specific requirements for the land transport of cattle

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## 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:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Maximum time off water (hours)</b>
Cattle over 6 months old	48
Calves 30 days to 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 have a mandatory spell 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 have a mandatory spell 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 Bobby calves less than 5 days old travelling without mothers must only be transported directly to a calf-rearing facility and must:

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

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

- i) be protected from cold and heat
- ii) be in good health, alert and able to rise from a lying position
- iii) have been adequately fed milk or milk replacer on the farm within 6 hours of transport
- iv) be prepared and transported to ensure delivery in less than 18 hours from last feed with no more than 12 hours spent on transports
- v) have an auditable and accessible record system that identifies the calves were last fed within 6 hours of transport unless the journey is between rearing properties and is less than 6 hours' duration.

SB4.6 Bobby calves less than 30 days old travelling without mothers must not be consigned

across Bass Strait.

- SB4.7 Bobby calves born earlier than a normal pregnancy term (including induced calves) must be at an equivalent stage of fitness when transported, compared with normal, full-term calves.
- SB4.8 Bobby calves under 30 days old must all have sufficient space in the livestock crate to lie down on their sternums.
- SB4.9 Dogs must not be used to move bobby calves less than 30 days 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 bobby 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.
- Note*  
Refer to GB4.10 for additional calf fitness guidelines.
- GB4.4 Bobby calves less than 30 days old to be transported should:
- be of minimum liveweight of 23 kg
  - have hooves that are firm and worn flat, and that are not bulbous with soft unworn tissue

- have a navel cord that is wrinkled, withered and shrivelled and not pink or red coloured, raw or fleshy.
- GB4.5 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.
- GB4.6 Cows in their eighth month of pregnancy or later, 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 on unloading
  - additional space should be provided on the vehicle
  - they should be segregated from other classes of cattle
  - veterinary advice should be sought.

### **Food and water**

- GB4.7 Cattle should be fed and watered as soon as possible after unloading.
- GB4.8 Calves between 5 and 30 days old travelling without mothers should be given a liquid feed as soon as possible after unloading, unless they are slaughtered within 18 hours of commencing transport.

### **Loading density**

GB4.9 The following space allowances should be provided:

Mean liveweight (kg)	Minimum floor area (m <sup>2</sup> /head) standing	Number of head per 12.25 m x 2.4 m deck
100	0.31	94
150	0.42	70
200	0.53	55
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

### **Vehicle and facilities**

- GB4.10 Bobby calves less than 30 days old to be transported should:
- have protection from excess heat, sun, wind and rain, in a vehicle that has an enclosed front and that provides effective airflow
  - be kept clean and dry

- have bedding.

GB4.11 During cold weather, additional actions should be taken to protect calves from cold stress and windchill during transport.

GB4.12 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**

GB4.13 All calves under 30 days old should be unloaded with care as they may not have developed following behaviours and may also become easily fatigued.

GB4.14 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.

GB4.15 Horned bulls should have the nonvascular horn tip removed to a diameter of 3 cm.

GB4.16 Dogs should not be used on bobby calves under 6 months old.

### **Humane destruction**

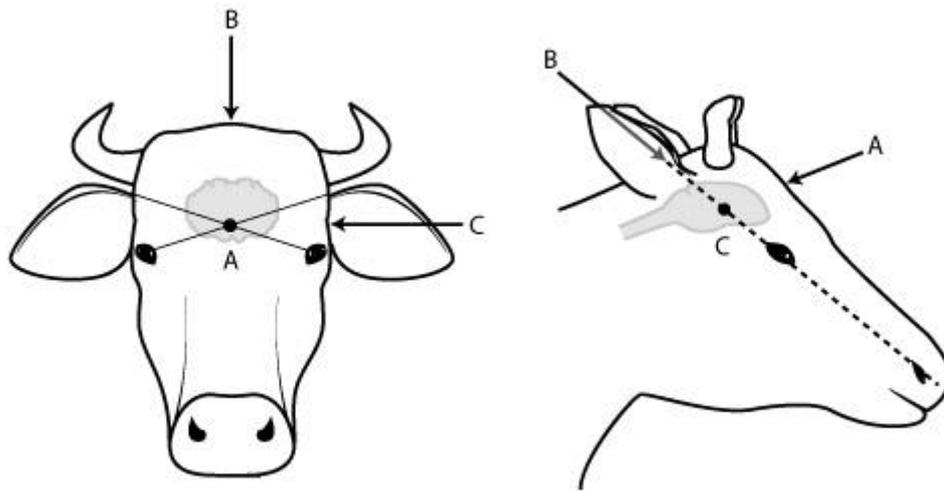
GB4.17 Recommended methods of humane destruction include:

- i) for adult cattle — firearms (including the temporal position) or captive bolt
- ii) for calves — firearms, captive bolt, or blunt trauma; however, blunt trauma should only be used when there is no other recommended option for humane destruction, and can only be used on calves that are less than 24 hours old.

GB4.18 The preferred option for humane destruction is a firearm in the frontal position. For adult cattle, a rifle should deliver at least the muzzle energy 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 the muzzle energy of a standard 0.22-long rifle cartridge.

GB4.19 If necessary, use of blunt trauma on newborn young of cattle less than 24 hours old should be followed by bleeding-out or another technique while the animal is unconscious, to ensure death.

GB4.20 Cattle should be bled out using the chest stick method in preference to slitting the throat (neck cut).



**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 indicate the direction of aim for the positions. Position A and B for firearms and captive bolt, position C for firearms only.