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Further submission on Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals **LAND TRANSPORT OF LIVESTOCK**

These are comments received from Australian Veterinary Association members following the release for public comment ending 27th May 2008:-

Summary of responses is as follows;

1. Section GA2.2. ; refers to "evidence of competency" for those involved with livestock transportation and contains a list of 5 items which all must be satisfied. Although commendable perhaps, I believe that this is unworkable. I would substitute a qualifier such as "satisfy as many of these criteria as feasible" or something similar.
2. Under the cattle section (which seems to be mostly OK) there is quite a lot of detail on the transport of young calves, including those < 5 days of age. This is a more sensible approach rather than mandating a minimal age of (12d) for transport.
3. The main concern I had was transport of heavily pregnant cattle.

It looks like the following STANDARDS applies;

- a) not known, or visually assessed to be within 2 weeks of parturition (all species) except if journey is <4hrs
- b) cattle known or assessed to be within 4 weeks of calving must only travel 'under veterinary advice'
- c) cattle in last trimester must have no more than 24hrs water deprivation before spelling, and requires further 12 hrs rest before re-commencing journey

Then the GUIDELINES get a bit confusing;

- a) cattle in 6th and 7th month should not be deprived of water more than 12hrs and not re-commence journey without 12 hrs spell
- b) cattle 8-8.5 months should not be deprived of water more than 4 hrs, and should travel only 'under veterinary advice'

So it's a bit confusing, but it does at least offer some reasonably practicable requirements for transport of heavily pregnant cattle

4. Generally happy with the changes to use of the cattle prodder and the inclusion of the suggested wording from the first submission.
5. Members happy with the clarification of the water deprivation time in relation to properly conducted spells.

This is the final summary of comments received during the public consultation process.

