



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Transport Regulations for sheep and cattle



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Western Australia.*

The Animal Welfare (Transport, Saleyards and Depots) (Cattle and Sheep) Regulations 2020 (Transport Regulations) have been introduced in Western Australia, setting minimum requirements for the welfare of sheep and cattle during transport and in saleyards and depots.

The Transport Regulations apply to sheep and cattle at all stages of the transport process, and implement the standards set out in the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines (Standards and Guidelines) for Land Transport of Livestock and for Saleyards and Depots.

The Standards and Guidelines for Land Transport were published in 2012 and for Saleyards and Depots in 2018. They have been agreed to by Agriculture Ministers in all States and Territories.

Why have the Transport Regulations been introduced?

The Transport Regulations have been introduced to provide for the Standards and Guidelines for Land Transport and for Saleyards and Depots to be implemented in Western Australia. All other jurisdictions have implemented the Land Transport Standards and Guidelines, while WA is the first to introduce those for Saleyards and Depots.

Unlike the *Animal Welfare Act 2002* (the Act), which sets out to prohibit cruelty by reference to broadly defined cruelty offences, the Transport Regulations clearly provide and promote minimum animal welfare standards.



What is the ‘transport process’?

The ‘transport process’ starts when sheep or cattle intended for transport are mustered in WA, or outside WA if the animal is to be transported to WA. It ends when transported animals are given reasonable access to water and feed at a final destination, such as a farm or a feedlot, or are slaughtered.

The transport process includes mustering, assembling, holding at a livestock handling facility (e.g. yards, saleyards, depots), selecting, loading, holding on a vehicle while the vehicle is stationary, transporting, unloading and spelling.



I'm involved in the transport process – will I need to change what I do?

Many of the requirements in the Transport Regulations are similar to the recommendations in existing Western Australian codes of practice relevant to transport and saleyards, and the Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) publication 'Is the Animal Fit to Load?' (revised 2019).



However, under the Transport Regulations, animal welfare inspectors will have new options for response to non-compliance.

Until now, allegations of non-compliance with the Act were addressed through charges for cruelty, which were decided by the courts. In contrast, non-compliance with the Transport Regulations can be dealt with by an infringement notice with fines ranging from \$500 to \$750. If non-compliance with the Transport Regulations is referred to the courts, penalties of up to \$15,000 will apply.

More serious incidents that affect the welfare of animals may still be the subject of a prosecution for cruelty under the Act.

For more information about the Transport Regulations

Visit **agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare**

Current at September 2020

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