

Independent Observer summary report on *MV Ganado Express*

Cattle exported to Vietnam in August 2019

Report 172, January 2020

Voyage summary

A consignment of 2,629 head of cattle were loaded onto the *MV Ganado Express* at the Port of Darwin between 13 and 14 August 2019. The vessel departed on 14 August 2019. The cattle were discharged at the Port of Haiphong, Vietnam, between 21 and 22 August 2019, making this a 10 day voyage.

An Independent Observer (observer) boarded the vessel in Darwin and remained on board until completion of discharge.

The mortality rate for the cattle was 0.19% (5 mortalities). This does not exceed the reportable mortality rate. The causes of these mortalities were not considered to be linked to any systemic failure by the exporter.

The following comments represent a summary of key observations and has been approved by the observer who accompanied this voyage.

Independent observations of the implementation of procedures to ensure health and welfare of livestock

Exporter documentation

Exporter arrangements were available to address procedures relating to livestock management from loading through to discharge and contingencies.

Loading

The load plan was followed closely and cattle were loaded in accordance with *Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock 2011 (version 2.3)* (ASEL) requirements. The observer did not note any issues during loading.

Personnel

The LiveCorp Accredited Stockperson (stockperson) was responsible for the health and welfare of the cattle on the voyage and acted in compliance with the ASEL requirements and exporter documentation.

The Chief Officer (CO) and bosun supervised the crew carrying out animal husbandry tasks.

Daily routine

A meeting was held at 6:45am each morning and was attended by the CO, bosun, crew, stockperson and observer. Cattle were fed at least twice daily with some lines of cattle receiving an additional chaff feed.

Crew members were rostered to night watch in 4 – four hour shifts.

Feed and water

Cattle were fed pelleted feed at 7:00am and 3:30pm each day. Chaff was provided to certain lines of cattle at 10:30am each day. Pellets and chaff were distributed manually by crew. Troughs were cleared of contaminants prior to feeding.

Water was available through an automatic nose bowl water system. Water was tested for salinity daily and water bowls were cleaned and refilled by crew to encourage water intake.

Ventilation

The observer did not note any issues with ventilation. Ventilation systems worked continuously throughout the voyage and discharge. No hot spots were observed on the vessel.

Pen conditions

Pen density allowed for 70% of cattle to lie down at any one time. Pad conditions remained dry to crumbly throughout the voyage. Sawdust was used to manage pad conditions. No deck washing was required due to the short duration of the voyage.

Health and welfare

During health and welfare checks the cattle were encouraged to rise in order to observe their movement. The observer noted some lines of cattle took several days to settle while others remained reactive for the duration of the voyage, however commented that this did not impact animal welfare.

During the voyage, cattle with minor leg injuries were treated in the pens. Cattle exhibiting more severe conditions such as shy feeders and those unable to rise, were moved to hospital pens.

There were 5 mortalities during the voyage and the cause of the death was not determined.

No animal welfare issues were observed and cattle were handled in accordance with the ASEL requirements.

Discharge

The observer did not note any issues during discharge. The cattle were discharged successfully and no incidents were observed.

Conclusion

The exporter arrangements were observed to be implemented during the voyage and to be compliant with ASEL requirements.

Representative photographs of the voyage

Day 3 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 4 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 8 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 8 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 8 Cattle in pen—no issues identified



Day 9 Cattle in pen—no issues identified

