

VALE COMMENT ON IO 148 Gloucester Express Darwin to Jakarta, June 2019

Loading

IO SUMMARY: The observer reported that the vessel was not strictly loaded in accordance with the load plan.

VALE COMMENT: almost no voyage loaded in accordance with load plan.

IO SUMMARY: There were some pens that were overstocked and understocked and 24 pens configured as long pens which contravened the load plan and ..ASEL. Over the course of the voyage, several pens were adjusted and the cattle were observed to be comfortable with room to move and rest. While some animals were initially impacted by tight penning, the observer noted there were no adverse animal health or welfare effects.

VALE COMMENT: this is ASEL non-compliance.

IO SUMMARY: The observer commented that cattle condition was varied with a number of poor condition heifers included in the consignment.

VALE COMMENT: only healthy cattle should be loaded so loading animals in poor condition is also an ASEL non-compliance.

Feed and water

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that most of the cattle were unfamiliar with the operation of water bowls and that the water troughs were essential. As each pen had a finite amount of rail space, the provision of water troughs competed with space for fodder troughs. There were several pens, in the centre line of the vessel, which only had one side available for troughs. In those pens, only one water and fodder trough could be deployed. This required extra vigilance by crew to ensure fodder and water was adequate. The observer noted that the efforts of the crew, to maintain an adequate supply of water, ensured that there were no adverse impacts on welfare.

VALE COMMENT: this could have been a significant issue given the stocking density issues and poor condition of some cattle.

IO SUMMARY: Mesh covered openings in the passageways known as hay chutes allowed vertical movement of fodder, equipment and carcasses between decks. Faeces would fall from deck to deck through these mesh openings and contaminated water and fodder troughs on the decks below. It was noted that within minutes of feeding times that troughs on decks below were untouched due to faecal contamination. The department has raised this matter with the exporter.

VALE COMMENT: has anything been done? Unlikely, the issue has been noted repeatedly by Dr Lynn Simpson and featured in her ASEL Submission.

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: Ventilation was observed to be strong and effective with no ... heat stress

VALE COMMENT: no WBT provided.

IO SUMMARY: Temperature readings were taken each day at around 9:00 am. A supplementary reading was taken around 3:00 pm on Day 2 and found to be consistent with the morning reading. Internal hold temperatures remained at around 30°C. Humidity reached a maximum of 80%.

VALE COMMENT: commendable that twice daily readings performed

Pen conditions

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that the crew servicing the water troughs and nose bowls emptied the contents into pens which added to wetting issues. This practice was in contravention of the

exporters Approved Export Plan (AEP). The department has requested that the exporter address this issue on future voyages.

VALE COMMENT: but did the Dept check that this issue was fixed? Probably not.

Discharge

IO SUMMARY: Discharge was very slow due to the trucks that could only carry 13-14 animals at a time. There were long periods of inactivity during discharge whilst waiting for trucks.

VALE COMMENT: yet another slow discharge in Indonesia.

Conclusion

The exporter arrangements were observed to be implemented during the voyage and to be compliant with ASEL requirements, with minor exceptions such as the initial pen densities and the contamination of some feed troughs.

VALE COMMENT: oh and the water issue contravening the AEP.

Representative photographs of the voyage

VALE COMMENT: if some animals in poor condition, then these photographs are not representative apart from possibly the Day 4 photo which has a caption "no issues"

Day 4 Cattle in pen—no issues

VALE COMMENT: some cattle appear to be in poorer body condition