

VALE COMMENT ON IO 47 Al Messilah to Kuwait, Oman and UAE.

IO SUMMARY: During the voyage, all pens were seen to allow most if not all the animals to lie down simultaneously.

VALE COMMENT: with 17.5% extra space allowance for sheep, this is not surprising. It is more unusual for cattle. However, the photographs show that for all sheep to lie down, which they have chosen to do, there is inadequate space for each animal to have its own space (some part of their body has to lie on that of another animal eg head).

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: The dry and wet bulb temperature were taken daily

VALE COMMENT: no mention of time of taking temperature. Readings taken less frequently than on other ships to ME.

IO SUMMARY: The observer's temperature recordings were in line with the vessel measurements. The maximum temperatures were recorded on days 7, 8 and 9 and were around 32°C and 86% humidity.

VALE COMMENT: this equates to a WBT of 30°C (ie above average HST for merino sheep).

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: As the temperature and humidity increased in the early part of the voyage, the respiratory rate increased for most animals however no open mouth panting was observed. From day 10 the respiratory character appeared normal. At all times, the sheep had excellent appetites.

As the wet bulb temperature increased during the early part of the voyage, the respiratory rate increased for most animals. Maximum panting score was assessed as between normal with elevated respiratory rates to mild panting on days 7, 8 and 9. The wet bulb temperature decreased from Day 10 and pant scores reverted to normal.

VALE SUMMARY: appears to have been two rewrites of the same information. No panting scores are provided but mild panting for 3 days would consider what the AVA considers acceptable.

IO SUMMARY: None of the animals subjected to post mortem examination were seen to have signs consistent with heat stress.

VALE COMMENT: how many were recorded as being too autolysed for post-mortem?

Representative photographs of the voyage

Days 6 and 13: Sheep in pen – no issues identified

VALE COMMENT: not much room for 3 weeks accommodation. Standing sheep in Day 6 (expected to be as far away from photographer as possible) are jammed into a corner near the photographer. All sheep can lie down as per Day 13, but only by lying with heads resting on each other. There is still inadequate space to lie down as evident in these photos.

Day 6 Sheep in pen - no issues identified



Day 13 Sheep in pen – no issues identified

