

VALE COMMENT REPORT 59 MV *Yangtze Fortune* Cattle to China

Loading

IO SUMMARY: During the voyage, the observer noted that most pens could be seen to have all of the stock lying down.

VALE COMMENT: unusually generous

Feed and water

The observer noted that cattle knocking the feed troughs off the pen rails was an issue for calculating the daily fodder consumption. Adjustments were made to the troughs to prevent the problem this issue reoccurring, however, a small number of troughs were pushed off the rails on most days.

VALE COMMENT: problem noted previously on this vessel :on a high mortality voyage (FOI documents IO REPORT 12); still occurring

IO SUMMARY: Leaks from the water trough hoses and feed troughs being knocked off pen rails were ongoing maintenance issues for the crew.

VALE COMMENT: as per high mortality voyage (FOI documents IO REPORT 12)

Pen conditions

IO SUMMARY: The first deck wash resulted in a blocked drain on Deck 1 which caused the some pens to become flooded.

VALE COMMENT: repeated deck washing issues on this ship (see Report 12)

IO SUMMARY: water trough hoses were connected to the side of the troughs by a click on connection similar to a garden hose to tap connection. During the voyage some cattle were able to chew or push on these exposed plastic hoses to cause a breakage which resulted in some pens becoming wet.

VALE COMMENT: astounding that both AMSA and the Department of Agriculture find it acceptable to have domestic hose fittings on a livestock vessel especially after the damning criticism of this in IO Report 12 and the AMSA actions after that voyage.

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: The weather conditions varied from 20°C when departing Portland to a maximum of 32°C with 79% humidity at the Equator then falling to negative 10°C on arrival in Rongcheng, China.

VALE COMMENT: unacceptable temperature variation for stock as appears typical for the voyages to China in the northern hemisphere winter. Feedlot mortality would be interesting.

IO SUMMARY: Seas were moderate except for when the vessel approached tropical cyclone Penny on the east coast of Australia. Sea of up to four meter seas were encountered for 3 days. The voyage length was extended by two days as a result of the adverse sea conditions.

VALE COMMENT: rough seas noted repeatedly on China voyages

IO SUMMARY: No signs of heat stress were detected with the favourable weather conditions and northern winter after crossing the Equator.

VALE COMMENT: a rare voyage

IO SUMMARY: A significant number of cattle were treated (over 500 treatments were administered)

on the voyage with treatments administered mainly for lameness, respiratory disease and ocular disease. The AAV noted that rough sea conditions caused by the proximity of the cyclone for 3 days during the voyage contributed to the lameness issue. The cause of mortalities were mainly pneumonia and complications resulting from lameness.

VALE: rough seas again the cause for morbidity and mortality