

VALE COMMENTS on Report 15; MV Gudali Express Broome to Indonesia, August 2018

Low mortality voyage

Daily routine

The IO was occasionally not made aware of the meeting time and therefore was not present for all of the meetings.

VALE COMMENT: it is concerning that the IO was not at each daily meeting especially with the industry under scrutiny

Trained crew performed the daily temperature and humidity readings, recording both dry and wet bulb readings on each deck, along with the ambient temperature reading from on deck. Daily readings were provided to the IO.

VALE COMMENT: no mention of frequency or times of monitoring.

Lights were left on at all times on deck with no period of darkness.

VALE COMMENT: this is standard and likely necessary but is potentially in itself an animal welfare issue especially on long haul voyages.

Pen conditions

“Pad conditions were wet and sloppy for the first two days with a very slight smell of ammonia present. After two days, faeces had built up and with leftover or contaminated fodder being emptied into the pens, a slight covering was observed and no ammonia smell was present. As the voyage progressed all pads had started to build-up, however hooves could easily penetrate the pad to the flooring. Prior to the first port of discharge, pens had built-up much more. Pens on decks which were emptied at Panjang were allowed to dry out a little before cattle remaining on board were spread out into them, and they held up quite well. Pens on lower decks, especially towards the front of vessel, were the thickest and wettest, with hooves still being able to penetrate the floor up to discharge at Belawan.”

VALE COMMENT: no bedding is required under ASEL and it is evident from this IO summary that the faecal pad itself is insufficient to prevent the hooves contacting the flooring. This has long been an animal welfare issue on voyages north of the 26th parallel.

Other

Language barriers presented some difficulties, however all crew had a basic understanding of English and higher ranking crew were required to possess a higher standard of English.

VALE COMMENT: this is likely to be standard