



Dr Sue Foster BVSc MVClin Stud FACVSc
Spokesperson, Vets Against Live Export
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FLINDERS ISLAND TAS 7255

Dear Dr Foster

Substitution of vets for accredited stockpersons on live export voyages

I refer to your letter of 30 April 2013 to Mr Jonathan Benyei in which you again requested further clarification of correspondence regarding information about stockpersons and veterinarians on livestock export voyages. Mr Benyei has changed roles within the department so I am responding on his behalf. My apologies for the late reply.

As outlined in my letter of 5 February 2013 to you and the letter of 28 March 2013 to you from Jonathan Benyei, then Assistant Secretary of the Animal Export Operations Branch, the department now requires all exporters to submit an NOI with an appropriately qualified stockperson nominated for every voyage.

Exemptions granted by the Secretary

The department is able to make orders and directions under section 17 of the *Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Act 1997 (Act)*. The Secretary may give those directions on a wide range of matters to licence holders under this Act, including directions related to accredited stockpersons. However, our current policy is to refuse a proposed NOI where the exporter has requested that an Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian (AAV) accompany the voyage in place of an accredited stockperson.

Substitution of stockpersons

We are not aware of the number of occasions an exporter has completed a voyage without an accredited stockperson. If that waiver was granted in the past, it was not in accordance with our current practice. Due to the sheer number of live animal export voyages that take place, we have no way of gathering that specific information. We are grateful that you have identified specific voyages which you believe may be a concern. As outlined in my letter of 5 February 2013, we encourage all members of the public to provide any information you may have to substantiate your assertion that substitution for veterinarians for stockpersons has occurred in the past.

I understand in your email dated 3 July 2013 that you are of the view that one person is not able to fulfil the role of AAV and accredited stockperson. I disagree with that interpretation, and in my view, a dual qualification is acceptable for the purposes of ASEL requirements.

I confirm that on a number of occasions a LiveCorp accredited stockperson, who is also an AAV, has been engaged by exporters as a stockperson. This includes the October 2012 voyage of the Barkly Pearl to Mauritius which you have referenced in your letter.

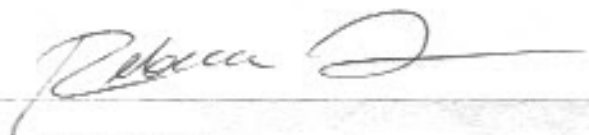
The requirement for exporters to notify the department about proposed accredited stockperson

After a review of our records I can advise that only an AAV accompanied the consignment of livestock exported to Madagascar in December 2007 referenced in your letter. As far as is recorded, the export proceeded without a formal exemption. The body corporate which exported that particular consignment no longer holds a licence to export livestock and consequently any regulatory action against that body corporate is no longer possible. The department's processes were improved following the export of this consignment to require exporters to nominate an accredited stockperson in their NOI submission in addition to that included in their Application for a Health Certificate and Permission to Leave for Loading.

I reiterate that the department now receives end of voyage reports directly from the AAV. Stockpersons also provide end of voyage reports. These are checked and provide the department with information as to the identity of the person accompanying the voyage.

I trust this information will be of use to you and your organisation. I look forward to continued engagement with you on live animal export matters.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Irwin
First Assistant Secretary
Live Animal Export Division

| 2 December 2013