

VALE COMMENTS on Report 22 Gloucester Express, September 2018 Indonesia August 2018

Loading

Some but not all nose bowls had water at the time of loading. The observer raised the ASEL requirement to feed and water cattle within 12 hours of loading with the Livecorp Accredited stockperson (stockperson) and this requirement was met within the specified time.

VALE COMMENT: would the cattle have had water in a timely fashion if an independent observer, a veterinarian, not been present?

Daily routine

IO SUMMARY: Once daily from 11:00am, a crew member moved through each deck with a whirling hygrometer to obtain an average daily wet and dry bulb temperature reading for each hold and to determine the relative humidity for each.

VALE COMMENT: once daily readings are not necessarily representative. Actual details are not provided but given the deteriorating condition of the pad with increasing humidity, it is highly likely that some heat stress was present.

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: "The operation of the ventilation system led to exhaust fumes from the vessel engine being drawn into Hold 3. Temporary measures were taken by the crew to minimise the intake of exhaust fumes and the CO advised the observer that permanent modifications would be undertaken to raise the exhaust funnel using a large diameter length of piping stowed on the upper deck. Modification works to rectify the problem were subsequently undertaken in January 2019. "

VALE COMMENT: this ship has been used for exporting cattle for many years usually on voyages with no veterinarian present. It would appear that this problem has only become evident once an independent veterinarian was present to identify the problem.

Pen conditions

IO SUMMARY: The pad The texture was initially crumbly but progressed to variably tacky to sloppy mud by Day 7. The stockperson provided instructions on day 9, 10, 11 and 12 for crew to spread sawdust on wet pens. The observer recorded that there were a number of pens where this instruction could apply however the availability of sawdust and capacity of crew to competently evaluate the pens eroded the effectiveness of this direction.

VALE SUMMARY: heat stress likely. Inability to deal with conditions concerning

IO SUMMARY: Deck washing was considered however the stockperson was concerned over the mess from washing, physical effort required by the crew, associated cattle stress and the replacement of a cushioning, if variable pad with a denuded wet floor. The pad dried out when the humidity dropped toward the end of the voyage.

VALE SUMMARY: it is not usual to have a 14 day voyage with no deck washing. If not enough bedding is provided to give a cushioning pad, then ASEL is clearly deficient (as noted in many submissions to the ASEL review).

Discharge

IO SUMMARY: An excess of on-shore personnel with sticks were stationed along the discharge ramp

which hampered the movement of the cattle. The observer noted that the frequent interjection from the stockperson prevented the situation from developing into a possible welfare incident.

VALE COMMENT: this highlights the difficulty in ensuring good animal welfare at end destination.

Representative Photos

VALE COMMENT: inadequate space for all cattle to lie at one time.