

VALE COMMENTS on Report 54 Anna Marra Darwin to Indonesia Dec 2018

Loading

IO SUMMARY: There were sufficient competent and experienced stockpersons and crew available to load the ship in a manner that minimised injury and minimised stress. However, two cattle escaped the loading ramp at the port and two others were injured and subsequently euthanised.

VALE COMMENT: given other reports, this seems to be a high rate of issues for a loading that minimized injury and stress.

Space allowance

IO SUMMARY: The pen density for the voyage met the ASEL requirements plus an extra 20% space. In approximately 95% of pens, 50% of the cattle were able to lie down at any one time.

VALE COMMENT: with 20% extra space only 50% of cattle could lie down and then not in all pens. ASEL space allowances inadequate.

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: "On day two of the voyage, it was noted that some of the heavy bulls could not access the feed and water troughs because of their size. Feed and water troughs were hung inside the pens in addition to the troughs outside the pen as remedial action. One tall, horned steer also was unable access water in the troughs outside the pens. The remedial action was to provide a water trough on the inside the pen that held the steer. "

VALE COMMENT: whilst it is commendable that the problem is fixed, it does suggest a design fault on this vessel

IO SUMMARY: "One calf was born to a heifer on day 7 of the voyage despite the female cattle being identified as not pregnant. "

VALE COMMENT: that a live calf (ie likely full term) was born to a heifer on Day 7 indicates that a heavily pregnant cow was loaded. This indicates poor inspection before loading (it should have been obvious for experienced veterinarians and stockpersons) and a problem with pregnancy testing also. It is also in contravention to ASEL however the IO still concluded that in general practices conformed to ASEL.

Discharge

IO SUMMARY: "The voyage route was altered by switching the order of last two discharge ports whilst the voyage was underway. Unloading was delayed for a day in Cilicap and a further day at Panjang. "

VALE COMMENT: this highlights the uncertainties of the live export trade