

VALE COMMENT ON IO 89 Dareen Port Alma to Vietnam Feb 2019

Loading

IO SUMMARY: The observer noted that approximately 70% of pens had more space per head that required in the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (Version 2.3) 2011 (ASEL) requirements. Approximately 30% of the pens had stocking density above the ASEL minimum requirements. Some pens were adjusted to provide the minimum space in accordance with ASEL requirements however, at the end of the voyage some of the pens with higher stocking density had not been adjusted.

VALE COMMENT: this is a major issue of ASEL non-compliance. Only 20% of cattle could lie down at one time for a voyage of 15 days. Personnel

Feed and water

IO SUMMARY: During the voyage, a handful of water troughs were observed empty at various times usually intentionally turned off for repair by the vessel's fitter. The repair was usually completed within 2 hours.

VALE COMMENT: "usually"....what was the range of water deprivation?

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: The enclosed below Decks 1 to 5 were well ventilated by ducted air and industrial fans. The open Decks 6 to 9 were ventilated by ducted air, industrial fans and natural airflow. There was one fixed thermometer per deck which were read three times a day. The lower decks (1 -5) reached a maximum temperature of 30°C to 32°C and 79% humidity during the voyage. However, one area on Deck 4 was hotter and was observed to have a constant temperature of 33°C (dry bulb) and 30°C (wet bulb). Additional ventilation was added to Deck 4 because of the adjacent heat-producing engine funnel.

The upper decks (6-9) recorded maximum temperatures of 26 -29°C and 78% humidity.

Heat stress was not observed in the cattle.

VALE COMMENT: lucky they were *Bos indicus*. This ship not be used for *Bos taurus*

Pen conditions

IO SUMMARY: Regular trough leaks made some pens on Deck 2 sloppy. Repairs were normally done within a couple of hours. Sawdust was applied to the worst of the pens.

The upper open decks maintained a dryer more friable pad during the voyage.

VALE COMMENT: better ventilation on open decks.

Health and welfare

IO SUMMARY: There were 20 mortalities during the voyage. The cause of the mortalities was not definitively confirmed but most were attributed to respiratory disease, bloat or trauma.

VALE COMMENT: this is actually quite a high number of mortalities compared to other voyages. With no vet on board, cause of mortalities not established. Unacceptable and should be a vet on every voyage.

IO SUMMARY: In the pens with the lower stocking densities, nearly all cattle were observed to be able to lay down at any one time. In the pens with stocking densities which met the ASEL standards, approximately 50% of cattle were observed laying down at any one time. In the pens with higher stocking densities, only 20% or less were observed laying down at any one time.

VALE COMMENT: ASEL non compliant.

IO SUMMARY: Written records of the numbers and treatments administered were not kept by the stockperson. The stockpersons daily report did not include details of numbers in hospital pens, nature of illness, and treatments

VALE COMMENT: not compliant with ASEL

Conclusion

IO SUMMARY: Apart from some stocking density issues which were not compliant with the ASEL requirements, the crew and the stockpersons provided adequate fodder and water to the cattle, pens were well ventilated, drained and cleaned. The cattle were carefully and appropriately handled during the voyage.

VALE COMMENT: there are still 2 major non-compliance issues – did the Dept address these?

Representative photographs of the voyage

Day 4 Cattle in pen - higher stocking density

Day 6 Cattle in pen - higher stocking density

VALE COMMENT: marked overcrowding in Day 6 photo especially