



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Investigation into reportable cattle mortality level on the voyage from Karumba to Amamapare May 2007

1. Purpose

To report on the investigation into the cause of the mortalities in cattle and to make recommendations with the objective of reducing the likelihood of a recurrence.

2. Summary

Four cattle out of 724 died on a voyage from Karumba to Indonesia which equates to a voyage mortality rate of 0.55%. The cause of the mortalities was investigated and found the cattle were euthanased due to injuries sustained on the voyage. A contributing factor to the cause of the injuries was the slippery floors.

3. Background

The investigation into the mortality was carried out by reviewing the following information:

1. Stockman's end of voyage report.
2. Stockman's Daily Reports
3. Report from the exporter.
4. Records from the registered premises.
5. Report from the AQIS certifying veterinarian.

Table 1: Chronology of events

Action	Date
724 cattle loaded in Karumba	1 May 2007
Unloaded 720 cattle Amamapare. 4 deaths during unloading from Deck 2	6 May 2007

4. Findings

4.1 Events in Registered Premises

The cattle exported from Karumba were received at the registered premises between 26 and 29 April 2007. The records of the registered premises indicated no mortalities or abnormal circumstances over the preparation period. 1 cow was rejected from the consignment due to a laceration on the shoulder, sustained prior to arrival in the registered premises. The 724 cattle were loaded on 1 May 2007. The cattle were Brahman and Brahman cross.

4.2 Journey

The climatic condition for the cattle decks were as follows

Table 2: Climatic conditions

Day of voyage	Dry bulb	Wet bulb	Humidity	Deaths	Daily water consumption	Comments from daily reports
1	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	0	20.7	Loading went smoothly.
2	30.6	27.3	78	0	29	Cattle travelling, eating and drinking well. Ventilation and stocking density good.
3	29.1	26.5	81	0	27.6	Cattle have settled, but consumption only fair due to rough seas and constant ship movement. Ventilation and stocking density good.
4	29.3	26.5	82	0	33.1	Cattle eating more now that seas are calmer and less movement on decks. Ventilation and stocking density good
5	29.7	26.1	83	0	35.91	Cattle eating better today, as conditions much calmer now. Arrivals settled and healthy. Ventilation and stocking density good.
6	29	N/A*	78	4	N/A*	Mortalities occurred due to injuries incurred during discharge.

* Data not available. The figures quoted are the averages across the four decks.

The reportable mortality trigger for a short haul cattle voyage is 0.5 per cent. The reportable mortality level was triggered on 6 May.

5. AMSA Evaluation of the vessel on return to Australia

Livestock were permitted to load for the next voyage.

6. Conclusion

The factors contributing to the cattle mortalities was slippery conditions on deck 2 during discharge, causing injury during discharge, which then required humane destruction.

Recommendations

- . That AQIS request AMSA consider the stockman's report that the cause of the injuries as the slippery flooring.
- . AQIS officers inspect older cows and reject any cows with problems because of their susceptibility to injuries- recumbency.
- . AQIS places an AQIS accredited veterinarian on the next voyage undertaken by this exporter to monitor the cattle and provide accurate diagnosis in the event of a problem.
- . AQIS write to the exporter to notify that they did not notify AQIS of a reportable mortality level in accordance with ASEL.

- . AQIS places an AQIS accredited veterinarian on the next voyage of this vessel to monitor the cattle and provide accurate diagnosis in the event of a problem. The next consignment prepared by this exporter spends 3 days in the registered premises before export.
- . Exporters using this vessel consider using sawdust to manage the potential risk of slipping.

Actions

The next consignment of cattle exported by the licenced exporter had additional conditions as follows:

1. A minimum of 3 days in the registered premises before export
2. An AQIS accredited veterinarian accompanied the next consignment to investigate mortalities.

The result of the next consignment exported was as follows:

mortalities	Number loaded	Mortality rate
0	1080	0%