



Dr Sue Foster BVSc MVClin Stud FACVSc
Spokesperson, Vets Against Live Export
c/- Lady Barron Post Office
FLINDERS ISLAND TAS 7255

Dear Dr Foster

Substitution of vets for accredited stockpersons on live export voyages

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2012 to Rebecca Irwin in which you requested further clarification of her correspondence regarding information about stockpersons and veterinarians on livestock export voyages. As this issue falls under my area of responsibility I have been asked to respond to you.

As outlined in the letter from Rebecca Irwin of 5 February 2013 to you, the department requires all exporters to submit an NOI with an appropriately qualified stockperson nominated for every voyage. The department does not approve NOIs unless this requirement has been met. On occasions where an exporter has submitted an NOI and requested that an AQIS Accredited Veterinarian (AAV) accompany the voyage, in place of an accredited stockperson, this has been refused. I can confirm that on a number of occasions a LiveCorp accredited stockperson, who is also an AAV, have been engaged by exporters as stockpersons.

The current export legislation does provide that the Secretary may grant an exemption from specified or all provisions of the Export Control Orders and sets out the requirements which must be met in order to do so.

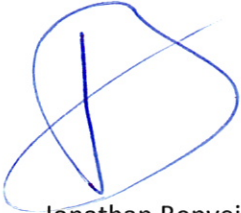
As per the recent letter to you the department now receives daily reports and end of voyage reports directly from the AAV. Stockpersons also provide end of voyage reports and in some circumstances daily reports. These are checked and provide the department with information as to the identity of the person accompanying the voyage.

DAFF regional staff have a key role in the final inspection process and loading prior to a vessel departing Australia. At this time the DAFF officer normally meets with the nominated AAV or stockperson. In addition it is usual practice for the DAFF officer to consult with the Stockperson and/or AAV as part of the final loading check in order to establish whether they have any concerns regarding the presentation of the stock and to relay any instructions regarding any issues that have been noticed during the DAFF inspection that may need addressing.

In regards to your further questions regarding the voyage of the Hereford Express, these issues are the subject of current litigation and we are not proposing to reply.

I would request that if you have information to substantiate your assertion that substitution of veterinarians for stockpersons has occurred in the past, and may still be occurring, I strongly urge you to provide this information to the department.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop with a vertical line through it, resembling the letter 'J'.

Jonathan Benyei
Assistant Secretary
Live Animal Exports Operations

28 March 2013