



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Investigation into reportable mortality level in a goat consignment on an export flight, from Tullamarine, Melbourne, to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 2007.

1. Purpose

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

2. Summary

20 goats out of 325 died on a flight from Melbourne, Australia to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which equates to a voyage mortality rate of 6.15%. The cause of the reportable number of mortalities was investigated.

The cause was trauma due to a collapse of one wooden transport crate.

3. Background

The investigation into the cause of the mortalities was completed by reviewing the following information:

1. Exporters end of voyage report.
2. Report from the exporter.
3. AQIS audit of the consignment.

Table 1: Chronology of events

Action	Date
NOI and CRMP submitted and processed	16 May 2007
NOI and CRMP approved	27 Sept 2007
325 goats loaded in Melbourne	2 Oct 2007
Notice of a notifiable incident received by AQIS	5 Oct 2007

4. Findings

4.1 Registered Premises

The goats exported from Melbourne were received at the premise on 23 September 2007. No health problems noted at pre-export premises. The 325 goats were loaded onto their export flight on 2 October 2007.

4.2 Loading

The position of the goats loaded is outlined below:

Table 2: Loading details of collapsed crate.

Crate tier	Animal Type	# of Head	# of Mortalities
Top tier	Goat	35	0
Middle tier	Goat	39	20
Bottom tier	Goat	37	0
TOTALS		111	20

* The remaining 214 goats were loaded in another 2 crates.

4.3 Journey

The goats were loaded on 2 October 2007 in Melbourne and arrived on 2 October 2007 in Kuala Lumpur. On arrival in Kuala Lumpur it was found that one of the crates had collapsed. 13 goats were found dead and a further 7 required euthanasia.

5. Conclusion

The reportable mortality trigger for goats is 2%.

The End of Voyage (EOV) report confirms these findings:

- 1 crate out of 3 crates collapsed between Australia and Malaysia.
- Collapse resulted in 20 goat mortalities.

6. Recommendations

AQIS inspect crates used for carrying stock, with rejection and or adequate repairs made before exporting.

Ensure that accurate goat weights are obtained to ensure that crates are not over loaded beyond their structural design capacity.

Currently, crates must comply with the requirements of the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) Live Animals Regulations. However specific details as to the structural requirements of the crate are found in a separate IATA manual – the IATA ULD technical manual. AQIS recommends that standards for construction of air transport crates are formulated based on the specifications in the IATA ULD technical manual and included in the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL).

7. Actions

The investigation report was forwarded to the Livestock Export Standards Advisory Committee.

AQIS suspended the export license until the investigation was completed. Additional conditions were applied to consignments including

- The exporter must supply a report from a structural engineer on the capacity of the proposed transport crate.
- The crate is constructed in accordance with the engineer's report.
- AQIS officer to supervise the weighing of all animals in the consignment.

The result of the export consignments with the additional conditions were as follows:

Number loaded	Crate type	Number mortalities	Mortality rate
400 sheep	3 tier	0	0
300 goats	3 tier	0	0