

VALE COMMENT ON REPORT 19 *Ocean Swagman* Portland to China, September 2018

Loading

IO SUMMARY: the vessel was not being loaded to capacity. There were spare pens once the loading was complete. The stocking density was such that most, if not all animals, could lay [the usual poor IO summary report grammar] down at once.

VALE COMMENT: even with the vessel not loaded to capacity not all cattle can lie down at the same time (crowding evident in the photos).

Personnel

VALE COMMENT: no AAV required despite the fact that this was a 20 day voyage.

Daily routine

IO SUMMARY: Temperature and humidity readings were recorded at 8:30 am each day by the CO and entered into the daily report.

VALE COMMENT: as per usual with no AAV on board, temperatures only taken once daily, with 830 unlikely to be representative on some voyages (despite IO comment to the contrary on this voyage: "The IO recorded temperatures most mornings at around 6.30am and afternoons before 5pm. There was not much difference in the afternoon readings. ")

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: Deck 5 had consistently lower temperature and humidity readings because the thermometer was directly opposite a ventilation shaft. The back of deck 4 was generally the hottest and most humid deck. The thermometers on this deck were nearest the access ramp on the port side, so the temperatures on the starboard side of the deck were likely higher than what was recorded.

VALE COMMENT: lack of representative deck temperatures depending on location of the thermometer noted on this and other ships

Pen conditions

There were two deck washes on the voyage. The first wash was on Day 8 and 9. A light cover of sawdust was then applied to the pens. The second washing was done over a two day period, a few days from arrival into China. A thick cover of sawdust was spread across the pens.

VALE COMMENT: "lightly stocked" dairy cows with their bony frames were only given light sawdust for bedding on a 20 day voyage. However, near China, a thick cover was used, presumably to show to the Chinese authorities that Australia had high welfare standards. One wonders what the IO really thought about this – the IO daily report would make interesting reading.