

VALE COMMENTS ON IO 171: Shorthorn Express Darwin to Indonesia August 2019

Loading

IO SUMMARY: The observer reported overcrowding in some pens especially on decks 4 and 5 that was in excess of the vessel space capacity according to the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock 2011 (version 2.3) (ASEL) requirements. On departure from Darwin, the cattle were adjusted over the next 2 days and some placed in a vacant hospital pen to give more space.

VALE SUMMARY: space allowance was non-compliant with ASEL for up to 1/3 of the voyage for some cattle.

IO SUMMARY: the stockperson noted a few minor incidents of cattle piling down the ramps, and due to the design of the vessel, some cattle received knocked hips on corners at loading.

VALE SUMMARY: were these stockperson observations or IO observations or was the IO a stockperson? Importantly issues of loading were noted both with ramps and vessel design.

Ventilation

IO SUMMARY: The ventilation system worked wellThe observer reported there were some hot spots on the vessel but there were no symptoms of heat stress observed.

VALE COMMENT: conditions were mild.

IO SUMMARY: Temperatures were recorded prior to the daily meeting using a hand held whirling hygrometer. The temperatures were recorded on three different points on each deck and the conditions were relatively consistent throughout the voyage at 28.7 – 30.7°C dry bulb, 25.3 – 27.7°C wet bulb and 77 – 78% humidity.

VALE COMMENT: only once daily readings and prior to 10am.

Pen conditions

IO SUMMARY: No bedding was laid in the pens before loading.

VALE COMMENT: standard for voyages above the 26th parallel where cattle apparently don't need comfort.