

## **VALE COMMENTS Report 4 Yangtze Fortune Fremantle to Oman May 2018**

VALE COMMENT: The IO Summary appears to be representative of the IO Report obtained under FOI.

### **General**

It is May and there is heat stress. The temperatures were only taken once daily at 10am. The report provides a voyage temperature range and it seems to be an average across the ship which would likely not reflect the situation accurately on all decks. Regardless - the report states the average temp was 31°C, with average humidity 78% (which is 28° WBT). The highest temp was 34°C with 80% humidity (30°C WBT).

### **Mortality**

VALE COMMENT: Sheep mortality much lower than historic average

### **Feed and Water**

VALE COMMENT: Sheep were deprived of water overnight for 12 hours from Day 1 contrary to OIE guidelines. Once the temperature increased on day 5, the water was then turned off in two hourly cycles.

### **Ventilation**

VALE COMMENT: no mention in the IO summary that there were issues with the ventilation and that the AMSA generator was required.

VALE COMMENT: heat stress documented from day 5 with most sheep fast panting in morning increasing to 1-2 sheep in every other pen open mouth breathing. The IO noted that as humidity increased the sheep became more affected by the heat.

IO SUMMARY The range of temperatures was 21-34°C with the average temperature of 31°C and humidities that ranged from 74-80% with an average of 80% [VALE COMMENT: 33° at 80% humidity is equivalent to a 30°WBT].

IO ACTUAL REPORT: also includes the WBT of 18-31°C with the average WBT being 28°C.

VALE COMMENT: This is a May voyage which is, according to the Australian government appropriate for transport of sheep to the Middle East due to the low risk of heat stress. Heat stress is evident based on WBT, sheep responses and the included photos. The description "heat stress" is not included in the IO SUMMARY.

### **Health and Welfare**

VALE COMMENT: deaths due to shearing cut injuries were noted in the IO Report and not mentioned in the summary. This indicates that some sheep had been loaded that were not fit to load contrary to ASEL.

IO SUMMARY: One ewe lambled twins. They were euthanased humanely as agreed by exporter and AAV...based on the high temperatures expected in the feedlot post-discharge.

VALE COMMENT: loading late pregnant ewes is not compliant with ASEL. The decision to euthanase whilst commendable, acknowledges the unsatisfactory heat conditions in the feedlot in Oman in May.

**Conclusion**

Loading of a pregnant ewe and sheep with shearing cuts would not be consistent with ASEL despite the final conclusion in the IO summary.

**Representative Photos**

VALE COMMENT: Photos had one showing a panting sheep (photo on Day 12) - pens looked crowded on Day 12 and Day 13