

## GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. 6400

11 July 2025

### ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962)

#### REGULATIONS FOR THE EXPORTATION OF LIVE ANIMALS BY SEA

The Minister of Agriculture, in terms of section 10 of the Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962), to make the regulations set out in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to send written comments on the proposed regulations within 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice to the Minister, for the attention of the Director-General: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, 20 Steve Biko Street, Pretoria, 0001. E-mail: [VPH@Dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:VPH@Dalrrd.gov.za).

#### SCHEDULE

##### PART 1

##### DEFINITIONS

1. In these regulations, any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have that meaning, and unless the context indicates otherwise—

“**Act**” means the Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962)

“**adverse weather**” means weather and climatic conditions (such as rain, hail, snow, wind, humidity, heat, storms, cyclones, heat waves and drought) that either individually or in combination, are likely to expose animals to stress, cause injury or result in other unfavourable animal health or welfare outcomes.

“**animal handler**” means a person who looks after animals.

“**animal welfare**” means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

“**assignee**” means an individual who is assigned by the competent authority, to accompany and monitor the health and welfare of the animals from the point of loading until disembarkation at the final destination.

“**competent authority**” means the national authority responsible for control measures related to animal health, animal welfare and the safety of products of animal origin.

“**disembarkation**” means the offloading of animals from a vessel at any port and commences with the first until the last animal is offloaded.

“**downer**” means an animal that is lying down and is unable to stand up.

“**embarkation**” means the loading of animals onto a vessel at a seaport and commences with the first until the last animal has been loaded.

**“exporter”** means any person who exports an animal in accordance with the provisions of these regulations and who is regarded as the owner of the animal to be exported.

**“euthanasia”** means the act of inducing death of an animal in a humane manner that causes immediate loss of consciousness and then rapid death.

**“heat stress threshold”** means the maximum ambient wet bulb temperatures at which heat balance of the deep body temperature can be controlled using available mechanisms of heat loss.

**“holding facility”** means a facility at which animals are held and processed before transportation to the vessel, to prepare them for the voyage.

**“isolation pen”** means a designated area reserved for the sole purpose of special care of weak, sick or injured animals.

**“lairages”** means pens, yards and other holding areas for animals.

**“master of the ship”** means the commander of a ship or a captain.

**“monitoring”** means the intermittent performance and analysis of routine measurements and observations, aimed at detecting changes in the environment or health and welfare status of a population.

**“official veterinarian”** means a registered veterinarian under the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982) employed in government to perform veterinary services.

**“on-board veterinarian”** means a veterinarian registered with a veterinary statutory body, who is in the employment or contracted by the person exporting animals or owner of a vessel transporting animals, to take care of the health and welfare of the animals from the point of loading until disembarkation at the final destination.

**“pre-journey period”** means the period during which animals are identified, sourced, assembled, prepared and conditioned for loading onto a vessel and transportation.

**“stress”** means conditions where the environmental demand exceeds the internal regulatory capacity of the animal, resulting in a set of physiological and behavioural changes.

### **Accountability for the assurance of animal welfare**

2. (1) The competent authority of South Africa may enter into bilateral agreements with the competent authorities of the receiving countries regarding the handling of animals at sea and at the country of destination.
- (2) Animals exported from South Africa may only be offloaded at a country of destination as agreed to by the competent authority and any deviation must be approved in writing by the competent authority.
- (3) The competent authority of South Africa may conduct an inspection visit prior to the facilitation of exports to ensure that the facilities and procedures for the handling of the animals comply with these regulations.
- (4) The country of final destination of the animals must be informed, prior to loading, of any disease outbreaks or other incidents which may impact waterways including acts of war or other that may result in the animals being refused disembarkation.

## ANIMAL WELFARE REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMALS

3. Animal welfare must be measured in terms of the following criteria:

- (1) **Nutrition:** Animals have access to clean water and enough food in a balanced diet. Available food is nutritious, appropriate for the species and individual animal.
- (2) **Physical environment:** Animals are comfortable, safe and protected from adverse environmental conditions.
- (3) **Health:** Animals are fit and healthy and injuries and illnesses are prevented or immediately and appropriately treated.
- (4) **Behaviour:** Animals are provided with opportunities and choices to engage in natural behaviour.

## PART 2

### REQUIREMENTS FOR FACILITIES

#### General

4. Transportation of animals from the source farm to the holding facility, and from the holding facility to the harbour must be such that there is avoidance and reduction of stress or harm to the animals, such as injuries or sudden physiological changes.

#### Vehicle used for the transport of animals

5.
  - (1) All vehicles and trailers used to transport animals must be well maintained, roadworthy and in good working condition.
  - (2) The vehicles and trailers used must be designed or suited for the transportation of that specific type and class of animal.
  - (3) Materials used in the construction of partitions, side-rails, sidewalls, gates and ramps must be sturdy and not be liable to breakage, splintering or present any surfaces liable to cause injury or bruising to the animals.
  - (4) The vehicles and trailers must have the following provisions:
    - (a) A suitable non-slip solid impervious floor, which must not impede the cleaning of the floor of the vehicle and allow for proper drainage, hinged or removable battens or steel grids are permissible.
    - (b) Adequate ventilation to meet variations in climate and the thermo-regulatory needs of the animal species being transported, the ventilation system (natural or mechanical) must be effective when the vehicle is stationary and the loading compartment must not be completely enclosed.
    - (c) Adequate protection from exhaust gases.
    - (d) No projections from the floor, sides or roof unless they are adequately rounded and smoothed to prevent injury to animals.
    - (e) Adequate provision for inspection of all the animals being transported at floor

level.

- (f) Sides and partitions high enough to prevent animals from escaping or falling out of the vehicle and the sides and partitions, when used in a vehicle to separate animals carried therein must be of a height not lower than the shoulder joint of the largest animal being transported.
  - (g) In multi-tier vehicles, heights between decks must be adequate, and in the case of sheep/goats, not less than 1000mm, to enable the largest animals to stand naturally, freely and fully erect and to allow adequate space for the free flow of air above the animals.
  - (h) Sufficient portioning must be available to compartmentalize the animals in groups small enough to prevent injuries during transportation.
  - (i) Gates must be of a design and construction strong enough and suitable for the conveyance of the intended animals.
  - (j) Gates must open and close freely and as well as partitions, must be able to be well secured.
  - (k) If feeding or watering while the vehicle is moving is required, adequate facilities on the vehicle must be available.
- (5) To minimize the likelihood of the spread of infectious disease during transport, vehicles and containers must be designed to permit thorough cleaning and disinfection, and the containment of faeces and urine during transportation between properties and loads.

#### **Vessel used for the transportation of animals**

6. (1) The vessel to be used must be registered with the applicable regulatory authority as may be determined by the South African Maritime Safety Authority.
- (2) The vessels must be designed, constructed, and fitted in a manner that is appropriate for the species, size, and weight of the animals to be transported.
- (3) Materials used in the construction of partitions, side-rails, sidewalls, gates and ramps must be sturdy and not be liable to breakage, splintering or present any surfaces liable to cause injury or bruising to the animals.
- (4) Lairages must be designed to enable each animal to be observed during regular safety, health, and welfare checks.
- (5) Fittings on the vessel must be smooth and rounded (free from sharp protrusions or loose objects that could cause injury)
- (6) Floors must have proper drainage to prevent urine, faeces, and water build-up and the veterinarian in charge must continuously make decisions regarding this aspect during the voyage.
- (7) Suitable clean and dust free bedding may be added to the flooring to assist with absorption of urine and faeces and provide a softer surface for the animals to lie on and the bedding must not be used if it negatively affects the cleaning of the pens and the operations of discharge pumps.
- (8) The design of the drainage system must allow for the efficient removal of waste materials without cross-contamination of lairages and risk of injury and disease transmission to the animals.

- (9) The vessel must have sufficient isolation facilities where sick or injured animals can be placed and treated while on board and these must be located and constructed in a manner in which they do not pose any risk to healthy animals.
- (10) Equipment must be available to move sick animals to the isolation facilities.
- (11) Equipment must be available to remove carcasses from lairages for disposal.
- (12) Lairages for each individual species must be designed in such a way that they do not trap animals' limbs, horns, heads or any other body part in between rails nor allow animals to climb over or under rails.
- (13) Sufficient lighting must be available in all places and conform to the following requirements:
  - (a) Uniform indirect light must be provided at approaches to sorting pens, chutes, loading and offloading ramps, as well as entry into vessels and compartments within the vessel.
  - (b) Light intensity must be adequate for the specific operational area on the vessel.
  - (c) In case of failure of the main lighting system, back-up lighting must be available and immediately activated upon instruction of the on-board veterinarian.
  - (d) Light fittings must be placed in such a way that they cannot be damaged by the animals and must be waterproof.
  - (e) Equipment such as portable lights or flashlights must be available for night inspections or whenever the area to be inspected has inadequate light.
- (14) Adequate ventilation is required to meet variations in the climate and the thermo-regulatory needs of specific animal species to be transported and ventilation must be available when the vessel is stationary.
- (15) A secondary power supply, capable of supplying power for the entire duration of the journey, must be available in case of breakdowns and the following requirements must be met:
  - (a) Ventilation during loading and the journey must be adequate to provide for fresh air, and the removal of excessive heat, humidity and noxious fumes.
  - (b) Ventilation systems must be checked regularly (at least once during the day and at night) at several points on the vessel where animals are kept to ascertain they function adequately.
  - (c) If animals are loaded onto enclosed decks, the ventilation system must run continuously from loading to offloading.
  - (d) Spare parts must be kept for the repair of mechanical ventilation systems when required.
  - (e) A back-up power supply for the ventilation system must activate automatically if the main power supply fails.
  - (f) Wet bulb temperature must be kept within the normal limits where specific animals can thermoregulate efficiently.
- (16) Lairages on exposed decks must be provided with adequate overhead protection from the weather, whilst allowing sufficient overhead clearance for animals.
- (17) Automatic ambient wet bulb temperature readers or thermo-loggers must be installed

on all decks and systems must be in place for accessing these records.

- (18) The sides of the lairages on exposed decks must be fitted with durable, waterproof covers that can be closed when necessary, in the event of bad weather conditions and rolled for ventilation.
- (19) Animals must not be housed in close proximity to the engine room bulkhead, boiler room or heated fuel tanks which cause an undesirable rise in temperature, unless the temperature in these areas is maintained within the heat stress threshold.
- (20) Troughs must be designed in such a manner as to permit adequate access by all animals in the lairage to feed and water and must be appropriate for the species, size and weight of the animals in transport.
- (21) Troughs must be designed or located to prevent urine and faecal contamination.
- (22) The vessel must be equipped with all necessary firefighting equipment, which must be inspected and certified to be fully functional before each voyage is undertaken.
- (23) Feed and bedding storage must be designed to avoid moisture build up to minimize the risk of mould growth.
- (24) Clean feed and bedding must be kept in separate rooms, away from the animals and dirty bedding that has been removed.
- (25) Electricity points must be waterproof.
- (26) Each lairage must have a sign that states lairage number, what species is loaded, and how many animals are loaded in the lairage.
- (27) Provision must be made on the vessel for private accommodation and facilities to work for the assignee and any other person approved by the competent authority of South Africa to be on the vessel. A functional internet facility must be made available for work and communication for the persons as contemplated in this regulation.

#### **Holding facilities for the animals before loading onto the vessel**

7. (1) The holding facilities must:
  - (a) allow for sufficient space to prevent overcrowding.
  - (b) have barriers which are designed to prevent animals from escaping and to prevent access by predators.
  - (c) allow for separation and grouping of animals according to categories such as species, age, size and sex.
  - (d) provide the animals with protection from severe weather.
  - (e) have enough potable water and feed for the duration of the holding period.
  - (f) allow animals to move and be handled with minimum stress.
  - (g) be easy to clean and disinfect.
  - (h) be maintained and designed to eliminate injuries or harm to the animals.
- (2) The lairages must have non-slip, permanent, solid floors with adequate drainage.
- (3) Isolation facilities must be available for sick or injured animals.

### **Loading and offloading passageways**

8. (1) The passageways and walkways must be free from distractions, dead-ends or darkness and must be designed to allow, encourage and ensure safe and easy flow of movement of animals according to species requirements.
- (2) There must not be any sharp and loose objects and protrusions that could injure animals.
- (3) Loading and offloading ramps must have solid side barriers which must be designed to prevent animals from escaping.
- (4) Materials used in the construction of partitions, side-rails, sidewalls, gates and ramps must be sturdy and not be liable to breakage, splintering or present any surfaces liable to cause injury or bruising to the animals.
- (5) Ramps must be height and angle adjustable to assist with the loading of animals.
- (6) Gates must be appropriately designed and positioned, with secure latches.
- (7) Passageways must have easy-to-clean and disinfect, non-slippery, solid floors with drainage.
- (8) Loading and offloading passageways must be constructed to ensure that there are no gaps on the floors that could injure the animals or force the animals to jump over.

## **PART 3**

### **PRE-JOURNEY PLANNING AND OPERATIONS**

#### **General**

9. (1) Any person intending to export live animals by sea for the first time, or utilizing a vessel, sea route, or implementing any measures not previously approved by the competent authority of South Africa, must apply to the competent authority of South Africa for permission to export the animals.
- (2) The application must be submitted to the competent authority at least three months prior to the intended voyage.
- (3) The competent authority of South Africa must evaluate the application and provide the applicant with feedback within 21 days to enable them to commence with the preparations for the exportation.
- (4) In cases where the exporter has previously received approval to export animals under the same conditions and utilizing the same vessel, the application to export must be submitted to the competent authority as well as the relevant provincial veterinary authority at least two months prior to the date of intended voyage.
- (5) In the event that non-compliances have been identified on the vessel to be utilized, as reflected in the report by the assignee, or any other inspection report of the vessel, the vessel may be subject to reinspection prior to approval of the export by the competent authority.
- (6) The competent authority of South Africa must inspect the vessel to be used for the exportation of animals prior to its voyage to South Africa.



- (7) Regulation (6) may not apply to a vessel that has already been approved for transportation of animals by the competent authority of South Africa, unless non-compliances have been identified on the vessel and its operations as reflected in the report by the assignee, or any other inspection report of the vessel.
- (8) The person intending to export must submit the following documents relating to the vessel to the competent authority of South Africa with the application to export animals:
  - (a) Floor plans for each deck, to include the following:
    - i. Location of boilers.
    - ii. Location and capacity of feed stores.
    - iii. Layout of lairage facilities.
    - iv. Location of fuel.
    - v. Layout of feeding and drinking troughs in each pen.
    - vi. Light intensity on each deck where there are pens.
    - vii. Presence of ammonia gas meters for monitoring of ammonia levels.
    - viii. Systems in place for measuring humidity.
    - ix. Location of isolation pens.
    - x. Ventilation systems.
    - xi. Location of emergency exits and fire extinguishers.
  - (b) Technical details regarding the ventilation system, including back-up system.
  - (c) Details of planned journey including ports of disembarkation or stoppage.
  - (d) Last 3 reports by the veterinarian on-board and assignees.
  - (e) Contingency plans for emergencies including:
    - i. Mechanical breakdown at sea
    - ii. Refusal of passage
    - iii. Fire on board
    - iv. On-board veterinarian and/or animal handlers becoming indisposed
    - v. Shortage of feed, water and medication
    - vi. Unexpected delays at any point prior, during the voyage and at disembarkation
    - vii. Refusals of entry at final destination
    - viii. Disease outbreaks.
  - (f) Water quality monitoring system
  - (g) Standard operating procedures for the following:
    - i. administration of medication to sick animals and the assignment of responsibilities
    - ii. Cleaning and sanitizing of the vessel before loading and after loading
    - iii. Stunning and euthanasia
    - iv. Feeding of the animals
    - v. Water desalination
    - vi. Maintenance of the captive bolt.
    - vii. Sanitation and cleaning of the lairages and the vessel before loading, during transport at sea and at offloading at importing country.
    - viii. Disposal of dead and euthanized animals.
    - ix. Disposal of faeces, urine and used bedding.
    - x. Control of ventilation, temperature, ammonia and humidity levels.



- (9) After evaluation of the documentation, the competent authority may arrange for an inspection of the vessel, prior to the arrival of the vessel in South Africa.
- (10) Once the vessel is approved, the following additional documentation will be required before the export can be approved:
  - i. Details of the on-board veterinarian including details of registration as a veterinarian
  - ii. Records of training of animal handlers
  - iii. Inventory of veterinary equipment kept on board including register of drugs used by veterinarian and justification, register for euthanasias and service history of captive bolt
- (11) Animals must be kept in a quarantine facility for at least 15 days prior to loading onto a vessel to ensure that all requirements of the importing country, animal welfare and health considerations are implemented.
- (12) Animals must be identified in terms of the Animal Identification Act, 2002(Act No.6 of 2002)
- (13) Exportation of animals must comply with the provisions of the Animal Improvement Act, 1998 (Act No. 62 of 1998).
- (14) Except where the vessel can regulate the on-board temperature and humidity requirements to ensure the animals are comfortable and do not experience heat stress or welfare compromise, the period between Mid-May and the end of August must be avoided when transporting animals by sea to the Middle East and any other country which experiences very high summer temperatures, or a journey that passes through areas which experience very high temperatures.

#### **Minimum requirements for equipment and medication inventory**

10. (1) Sufficient equipment needed for various operations on board must be readily available and be easily accessible for use when needed.
- (2) Equipment for veterinary care and post-mortems must be available and accessible when needed.
- (3) A well-maintained captive bolt with sufficient cartridges, suitable to the species of animal on the vessel must be available as well as a stand-by, well-maintained captive bolt in case the one captive bolt malfunctions and the captive bolt must be used to humanely euthanize any animal(s) which according to the on-board veterinarian, require euthanasia.
- (4) On-board veterinary medicines must be stored in locations under the control of, and accessible only to the on-board veterinarian.
- (5) An inventory of all the scheduled medicines must be kept and signed off by the on-board veterinarian.
- (6) Carcass handling and storage equipment must be provided on-board for use when needed. Carcass disposal must be described through a standard operating procedure in line with applicable international and local legislations and approved by the on-board veterinarian.

### **Feed and water stocking**

11. (1) A species appropriate diet intended for use on the vessel must be introduced to the animals at the holding facility at least seven days prior to loading onto the vessel.
- (2) Adequate amounts of feed and potable water must be stocked for the journey for all the animals being transported, with reserves enough for at least an additional 7 days for unforeseen circumstances and if the ship does not have sufficient potable water storage capacity, it must have an adequate and functional desalination system.
- (3) Contingency plans must be prepared in advance for instances where additional feed and water beyond what is available on-board is needed.
- (4) Feed must be kept fresh, dry and mould-free, and in a specifically allocated room and spoilt or contaminated feed must be detected and discarded in a suitable manner, in line with applicable international and local legislations.
- (5) Water hoses must be checked before departure and recorded that they are in working condition.
- (6) Feed and water supply systems must be checked daily during the day and night to ensure they are functional.
- (7) Where automated systems are used, back-up plans must be available in case of a malfunction of the automatic feeding or watering systems.

### **Selection of animals at feedlot of origin and during loading**

12. (1) The health statuses and records, which are not older than 1 month, of the animals must be kept and made available to the certifying official veterinarian prior to introduction into the holding facilities.
- (2) The records to be kept must include:
  - (a) Animal identification
  - (b) Pregnancy statuses
  - (c) Vaccination records
  - (d) Endoparasites control records
  - (e) Ectoparasites control records
- (3) Animals must be sorted into appropriate compatible groups based on species, farm or feedlot of origin, horned or de-horned, age, size and sex.
- (4) The wool of sheep must be of a length that allows for adequate thermoregulation and wool that is long and may compromise the welfare of the animal must be shorn at least 10 days before being loaded onto a vessel.
- (5) Animals must be examined or screened by a veterinarian at least 10 days before loading to determine if they are healthy, well-nourished and fit for transportation.
- (6) Animals must be in healthy condition which includes but not limited to:
  - (a) Bright, alert and responsive;
  - (b) A shiny and dry coat for cattle;
  - (c) A minimum body condition score of 3 on the 5-point scale;
  - (d) Eating and drinking well;

- (e) Walking comfortably, distributing weight evenly on all four limbs and showing no signs of pain and lameness;
- (f) Showing no ocular pathological or infectious abnormalities that may affect their welfare;
- (g) Not showing any signs of fever and temperature recorded within a week prior to departure must be within the normal body temperature;
- (h) Not coughing, panting without being exposed to physical exertion such as running around, or excessive sneezing;
- (i) No visible evidence of parasites;
- (j) Not exhibiting any nervous signs;
- (k) No nasal, buccal, lingual and feet lesions;
- (l) No pathological or infectious skin abnormalities;
- (m) No palpable enlarged superficial lymph nodes.
- (n) No visible injuries
- (o) No visible signs of disease
- (7) Animals under the following classification must not be loaded onto a vessel:
  - (a) Younger than four months or above 8 years of age;
  - (b) Young animals which have not been weaned
  - (c) Horns that are sharp or protrude beyond the widest part of the animal;
  - (d) Excitable, wild or aggressive;
  - (e) Known pregnant animals or heavily lactating dam with offspring;
  - (f) With unhealed wounds from recent treatment procedures, branding, dehorning or injuries;
  - (g) Those with diarrhoea;
  - (h) Bilateral blindness;
  - (i) Body condition score below 3 on the 5-point scale;
  - (j) Showing clinical signs of diseases which may not be successfully treated immediately and may negatively affect the animal during the voyage;
  - (k) Showing clinical signs of an infectious disease which may spread to other animals during the voyage
- (8) Animals must be vaccinated in accordance with the requirements of South Africa and the importing country.
- (9) No animals must be sourced from a controlled disease area in contravention of the requirements of both South Africa and the importing country.

**Loading and transportation between farm or feedlot of origin, holding facilities and the vessel.**

13. (1) Loading must be carefully planned as it has potential to cause poor welfare in transported animals and loading may only commence with sufficient lighting allowing thorough examination of animals.
- (2) The distance or duration of the journey and description of the route to be taken must be planned and provided to the competent authority of South Africa and the certifying

official veterinarian before the start of the journey.

- (3) Loading densities for vehicles and containers must be calculated according to available floor space and floor space per animal must be 1.5 square metres per each adult cattle; 0,3 square metres per small calf; and 0,4 square metres per sheep and goat.
- (4) Loading and offloading of animals must be conducted by trained personnel and assistants in a humane manner conducive to the species' natural behaviour of movement.
- (5) No goads must be used on animals and prodders may be used on cattle only if absolutely necessary and not excessively, such prodders must not be placed on any sensitive part of the animal and fleece pulling, tail twisting, dragging by horns, pulling sheep by one leg, genital twisting and use of ears to pull sheep is prohibited.
- (6) Special attention must be paid to avoid injury to animals using secure smooth fittings free from sharp protrusions and avoidance of injury while carrying out their responsibilities must be emphasized to drivers and animal handlers.
- (7) Suitable bedding material of sufficient density and thickness to prevent slipping and sliding is permissible.
- (8) Animals must not be transported for periods more than 18 hours between source farm/feedlot and the holding facilities and if the trip is longer than 18 hours, a recess must be provided where the animals must be offloaded and provided with suitable feed, potable water and shelter.
- (9) A trip between the holding facilities and the vessel must not take longer than 5 hours.
- (10) animals may only be transported between the feedlot of origin, the holding facilities and the vessel under cover of a veterinary movement permit issued by a state veterinarian.
- (11) No animal must be loaded or off-loaded by lifting by head, fleece, skin, ears, tails, or legs.
- (12) The trip must commence as soon as possible after the animals have been loaded and offloading must be carried out promptly after arrival at destination.
- (13) Unless adequate provision has been made for effective separation, different or antagonistic species of animals must not be loaded and transported in the same vehicle.
- (14) Animal moving aids that do not cause any injury or pain to the animals, such as plastic paddles, moving boards, plastic bag on a stick, may be used. Electric prodders are prohibited for use except for adult cattle and must be used sparingly.
- (15) The driver of a vehicle transporting animals must have knowledge of the natural behaviour and the humane handling of the animals being transported and must have competence to assess any distress to the animals and take the necessary measures to alleviate or resolve the situation.
- (16) The driver must handle a vehicle in a manner that does not cause the animals transported therein to slip, fall, be injured, or subjected to undue stress or discomfort.
- (17) Animals must not be transported under extreme weather conditions.
- (18) The driver must inspect the animals being transported as frequently as circumstances may permit, but within intervals of not more than 2 hours to identify any animal in

obvious distress;

- (19) Records of number and percentage of deaths or removals from the holding facilities, and the reasons thereof, must be provided to the official veterinarian and the on-board veterinarian before loading of the animals onto the vessel is completed.
- (20) Animals that have already been loaded must be inspected throughout the loading process and those that are not fit to continue with the journey may be removed upon the recommendation of an official veterinarian,

#### **PART 4**

##### **DAILY CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF ANIMALS ON BOARD**

- 14. (1) Animal handlers under direct supervision of the on-board veterinarian must conduct adequate health and welfare inspections on all the animals at least twice during a 24 hour period.
- (2) A checklist endorsed by the certifying official veterinarian must be used during the inspection.
- (3) Health and welfare monitoring should be on a continual basis and inspections must be increased whenever there are incidences that require more frequent inspections, such as a rough sea passage or adverse weather.
- (4) Monitoring of the temperatures and humidity in the decks where animals are kept must be conducted during the inspections.
- (5) The on-board veterinarian must inspect all animals on board at least once a day and frequency must be increased in case there are events that require more frequent attention by a veterinarian, such as illnesses, and weather or environmental changes.
- (6) Sick and injured animals must be reported to the on-board veterinarian for immediate medical or surgical attention, including euthanasia where necessary
- (7) If any animal becomes severely ill or in the judgement of the on-board veterinarian, is unduly suffering, it must be immediately and humanely euthanised by the on-board veterinarian.
- (8) The animals must be provided with adequate clean feed and potable water on an ad- lib basis
- (9) The on-board veterinarian, a representative of the animal handlers and master or first officer of the ship must meet daily to discuss the health and welfare of the animals and any corrective actions that may be required.
- (10) Lairages must be kept as dry as possible by renewing or supplementing bedding as needed
- (11) Lairages must be cleaned as required and liquefied or semi-solid dung and old fodder in pens must be removed on a regular basis or as needed to prevent build-up of noxious gas
- (12) Pressurized water used must not cause injury, discomfort or pain to animals, but must be sufficient to clean effectively.
- (13) Hosepipes must be permanently attached at, or as close as possible to the lairages and they must be long enough to easily reach all lairages.

- (14) Animal handlers must monitor and take appropriate action against bullying of vulnerable animals by others, which may prevent other animals from accessing the feed and water.
- (15) Stocking densities of lairages must be checked and adjusted as required.
- (16) There must be a standard operating procedure for each animal care task such as feeding conducted on the vessel and these must describe precise protocols for all the tasks and include who is responsible for each task and when and the standard operating procedure must be updated continuously when there are changes in the set systems or deficiencies encountered
- (17) Data loggers for continuous recording of wet bulb temperature and relative humidity on an hourly basis must be kept and made available when required by the on-board veterinarian, assignee, or competent authority.
- (18) A maximum ammonia concentration in all decks during loading, transportation and offloading may not exceed 25 parts per million (ppm) and appropriate actions must be implemented to reduce the concentration if found to be higher.
- (19) Ammonia levels must be measured at least once a day at several points on all decks and in case of higher readings of the levels above or close to the desired limits, the measurements must be increased to a frequency as determined by the on-board veterinarian.
- (20) The on-board veterinarian must monitor the response of the animals to heat on a daily basis by using a panting score as reflected in regulation 14(21) and the panting scores of the animals on each deck and section of the vessel that provides a unique condition to the animals that may affect their wellbeing, must be recorded.
- (21) The panting score to be utilized is as follows:
  - a. Panting score 0 – No stress, no panting, normal respiration rate;
  - b. Panting score 1 – Slightly increased respiratory rate, mouth closed, no drool, easily observed chest movements;
  - c. Panting score 2 – Increased respiratory rate, mouth slightly open, easily observed rapid chest movements;
  - d. Panting score 3 – Open mouth, neck extended, excessive drooling, head held up, tongue extended, rapid respiratory rate;
  - e. Panting score 4 – Open mouth with tongue fully extended for prolonged periods, excessive drooling, neck extended, head lowered;
- (22) The conditions on the vessel must be such that the animals do not exhibit a panting score above 2, which demonstrates the onset of heat stress.

**PART 5****VETERINARY AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES****Veterinary care of the animals**

15. (1) The holding facilities and vessel must be provided with the necessary medicines to treat the animals until completion of the journey and the storage and usage of medicines must comply with the following requirements:
  - (a) the expiry dates on all medicines on the vessel must be at least beyond one month of the expected arrival date at final destination;
  - (b) all medicines must, where applicable, comply with the requirements of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act No. 101 of 1965) as amended, or the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947) as amended;
  - (c) access, usage and control of medicines must be in line with the applicable legislation;
  - (d) all medicines and veterinary products must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's advisory, including the observation of the withdrawal periods.
- (2) Sick and injured animals must be presented immediately to the on-board veterinarian for attention.
- (3) Downer animals must be moved to the sick pens and provided with immediate treatment.
- (4) The on-board veterinarian may consider euthanasia in a case where an animal is severely sick or suffering from a condition that cannot be immediately remedied and in which any prolonged exposure to such a condition, as assessed by the on-board veterinarian, may not be in the interest of the animal to prolong its life.
- (5) The decision regarding the fate of a sick or injured animal is exclusively for the on-board veterinarian and may not be overruled by the master of the ship.
- (6) Provision must be made on the vessel for:
  - (a) facilities such as isolation and hospital pens for handling emergencies;
  - (b) euthanasia of animals as directed by the on-board veterinarian;
  - (c) prompt segregation of sick or injured animals from other animals;
- (7) A standard operating procedure must be provided for the stunning and euthanasia of distressed animals on board, which must include, inter alia, the following:
  - (a) How a captive bolt works;
  - (b) How to maintain a captive bolt in a working state;
  - (c) How to test for penetration quality;
  - (d) Where to place the captive bolt on the head;
  - (e) Signs of a properly or improperly stunned animal;
  - (f) Timelines between stunning and bleeding or euthanasia to prevent the animal from regaining consciousness;
  - (g) How and where to cut to bleed the animal;



- (h) Measures to take in case of improperly stunned animals;
- (8) Pithing must be carried out on all animals that are stunned using a captive bolt and not medically euthanised immediately thereafter.
- (9) Carcasses must be removed from the lairages as soon as possible to avoid decomposition and affecting other animals.

#### **Contingency planning for emergencies**

- 16. (1) Contingency plans and emergency response procedures that identify potential adverse events and unexpected delays that could be encountered during the journey must be prepared and reviewed and signed off by the Master of the Ship prior to every shipment and these plans must be reviewed and endorsed by the certifying official veterinarian before commencement of the journey.
- (2) The contingency plans must address, inter alia, the following possibilities:
  - (a) Mechanical breakdown at sea;
  - (b) Refusal of passage;
  - (c) Fire on board;
  - (d) On-board veterinarian and/or animal handlers becoming indisposed;
  - (e) Shortage of feed, water and medication;
  - (f) Unexpected delays at any point prior, during the voyage and at disembarkation;
  - (g) Refusals of entry at final destination;
  - (h) Disease outbreaks.

#### **PART 6**

##### **ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF A REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE DISEMBARKATION OF ANIMALS AT THE FINAL DESTINATION**

- 17. (1) In case of refusal for disembarkation by an importing country, the competent authority of South Africa must immediately engage the competent authority of the importing country to discuss possible solutions in the interest of the welfare of the animals.
- (2) Any dispute between the competent authority of South Africa and the importing country can be referred to a relevant international body for a dispute resolution as applicable.

#### **PART 7**

##### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMPETENCIES**

###### **Exporter**

- 18. (1) The exporter has the overall responsibility and accountability for the health and welfare of the animals whilst under their care, including where a third party is contracted by the exporter, and supervision for the entire period of the transportation, which includes the pre-journey period, the embarkation, journey at sea, and disembarkation.
- (2) The accountability of the exporter extends from the planning of the journey, the implementation thereof until offloading at final destination.
- (3) The exporter must provide the provincial veterinary authority where the exportation is to take place from with a copy of a veterinary import permit and any other relevant

information regarding the planned journey.

- (4) The exporter must ensure that all processes comply with the requirements of the importing country and applicable local legislations.
- (5) The exporter must ensure that the animals intended for the journey are in good condition and healthy to be able to travel the intended distances by sea.
- (6) The exporter must ensure that the animals' health and welfare needs are attended to throughout the process.
- (7) The exporter must ensure the loading and offloading processes are carried out with the utmost care to avoid unnecessary stress and injuries to the animals.
- (8) It is the responsibility of the exporter to provide all the required personnel, equipment, veterinary medicines and products, feed, water, etc.
- (9) The exporter must provide suitable facilities for the assembly, loading, unloading and holding of the animals at the start of the journey and also for emergency situations.
- (10) The exporter must ensure that contingency plans to address emergencies throughout the export process are available, up to date and implementable.
- (11) The exporter must ensure that animals are inspected regularly during the journey.
- (12) The exporter must make sure that animal handlers have proper training and competency in handling of the specific animal species.

#### **Competent Authority of South Africa**

##### **19. The competent authority of South Africa-**

- (1) advises the competent authority of the importing country with regards to the veterinary and animal welfare requirements for the exportation of animals;
- (2) inspects and approves the vessels to be used for the exportation of animals and registration of a vessel in another country for competence to export animals humanely, may be used to approve a vessel without an inspection prior to arriving in South Africa;
- (3) reserves the right to assign its own officials or any other party to accompany the shipment for the purpose of monitoring the animals until the final destination.
  - (a) The assignee contemplated in regulation 19(3) must have at least 5 years of experience working with the species of animals to be exported.
  - (b) The assignee must perform their responsibilities independently and must have no relationship with any party involved in the export, with the exception of the competent authority of South Africa, the certifying official veterinarian, or any person as approved by the competent authority of South Africa in advance.
  - (c) Responsibilities of the assignee:
    - i. The assignee must, on a daily basis, monitor and prepare reports on the care of the animals on the vessel and the performance of the animals before and during the voyage, and during disembarkation at the port of final destination.
    - ii. The assignee must complete the reports using the reporting template issued by the competent authority of South Africa.
    - iii. The assignee must prepare and submit an end of voyage report to the

competent authority of South Africa within two weeks after the final offloading at the country of final destination.

iv. The report must, in addition to any other observations of importance, include the following areas:

- (a) Details of the vessel;
- (b) Challenges experienced during the voyage and at disembarkation;
- (c) Climatic and weather conditions in at sea, in the vessel, and at final destination. This must include daily temperatures, humidity, and ammonia readings at each area in which the animals are loaded;
- (d) The performance of the animals as measured in terms of animal health and welfare;
- (e) Veterinary interventions implemented by the on-board veterinarian during the voyage and at disembarkation;
- (f) Records of sick animals, mortalities and post mortem findings.
- (g) Records of any abortions or births.

v. The assignee must have access to any part of the vessel that affects the health and welfare of the animals.

vi. An assignee may take pictures and video footage of animal health and welfare related operations and facilities on the vessel, in compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) and any other applicable legislation.

vii. The pictures and videos captured by the assignee are to be used for the preparation and attached to the reports as contemplated in regulation 19(3)(iii).

viii. The assignee may not distribute the pictures and footage to any party other than the competent authority of South Africa, the certifying official veterinarian, the master of the ship, and the exporter.

ix. The assignee may not accept any gifts or donations from the exporter, the master of the ship or any person associated with the exportation.

x. All persons in possession of the documents and files from an assignee must adhere to the provisions of Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) and any other legal provisions relating to access to information and confidentiality.

### **Functions of the Official Veterinarian**

20. The following are the functions of the official veterinarian:

- (1) Facilitates the exportation of animals in line with the provisions of these regulations and the requirements of the importing country.
- (2) Confirms that the applicable legislative requirements of South Africa and all requirements of the importing country have been complied with by the exporter and all other responsible parties.

- (3) Inspects, registers or approves facilities to be used for the exportation as may be necessary.
- (4) Inspects the vehicles and vessels used for the transportation of the animals for fitness of purpose.
- (5) Inspects the vessel prior and during the loading to ensure compliance to animal health and welfare requirements.
- (6) Inspects the documents necessary to confirm compliance to the requirements.
- (7) Conducts inspection of animals at the holding facility to ensure that all provisions as contained in these regulations have been complied with.

### **Master of the Ship**

21. The following are the functions of the Master of the Ship:

- (1) Ensures that the vessel and crew comply with the applicable maritime regulations.
- (2) Assumes responsibility for the management and care of the animals from when the animals are loaded onto the vessel until off-loading from the vessel is completed.
- (3) Prepares and updates contingency plans for emergencies at loading, at sea and offloading at country of destination.
- (4) Provides the necessary environment for persons assigned by the competent authority accompanying the vessel to perform his/her responsibilities independently and unhindered.
- (5) Provides tools to enable the persons assigned by the competent authority to prepare and transmit reports.

### **On-board veterinarians**

22. (1) Each voyage of animals transported by sea must be accompanied by an on-board veterinarian with at least 5 years of veterinary experience in the species of animals to be transported.
- (2) The veterinarian must be able to issue instructions directly to the animal handlers in relation to the care of the animals.
  - (3) The veterinarian is responsible for the following:
    - (a) to provide veterinary care and treatment to the animals throughout the exportation process;
    - (b) to assess environmental conditions and respond appropriately where conditions may compromise animal welfare;
    - (c) to handle, in the most appropriate manner any veterinary medical emergency;
    - (d) to euthanise animals as may be deemed in the best interest of the animals;
    - (e) to perform post mortem examinations of all dead animals;
    - (f) meet daily with the Master of the Ship or First Officer and a representative of the animal-handlers to share up-to-date information on animal health and welfare status and travel conditions; and
    - (g) prepare and submit a report to the competent authority of South Africa and the certifying official veterinarian, within two weeks of the completion of the voyage.

### **Animal handlers**

23. (1) The number of on-board animal handlers must be sufficient for the number of animals all the time for the duration of the voyage, as determined by the on-board veterinarian in consultation with the certifying official veterinarian.
- (2) Animal handlers must be trained in basic animal handling and welfare.
- (3) Provision must be made for animal handlers to monitor the animals at night and report to the Master of the Ship and on board veterinarian on issues that need attention.
- (4) Animal handlers must always handle animals humanely during any part of the journey including the preparation and the offloading at the final destination.
- (5) The animal handlers are responsible for the following:
- (a) To check the animals immediately before departure to ensure that they have been loaded in accordance with the loading plan.
  - (b) To inspect each lairage at least twice a day or more frequently if necessary for normal behaviour, health and welfare, and the correct operation of ventilation, watering and feeding systems.
  - (c) To carry out any task necessary for the care of the animals, including provision of feed, water, removal of waste material, carcass disposal, etc.

## **PART 9**

### **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

24. (1) The following records must be kept by the exporter:
- (a) Records of continuous recording of the environmental temperatures and humidity by an automated recording system at all levels / decks on the ship where animals are kept.
  - (b) Records of continuous recording of the ammonia levels by using an ammonia gas meter.
  - (c) Duration of the journey from South Africa to each port of disembarkation.
  - (d) Numbers and types of animals loaded at port of exit, including breed, sex, etc.
  - (e) Feed specification at the holding facilities and in the vessel.
  - (f) Standard operating procedure for the feeding of the animals which must include the feeding intervals as well as the assigned responsibilities.
  - (g) Water quality monitoring records.
  - (h) Loading and offloading plans and the expected duration.
  - (i) Design drawings to indicate vessel layout with lairage sizes, location of ventilation chutes and location of water and feed troughs with specific parameters.
  - (j) Qualification certificate of the on-board veterinarian and proof of registration with a veterinary statutory body.
  - (k) Records of training of animal handlers.

- (l) Lists of veterinary medicines, products and equipment used on-board.
- (m) Contingency plans for disease outbreak and adverse events during the voyage.
- (n) Waste disposal plans and methods at sea in line with international maritime laws.
- (o) Vaccination and treatment records from the farms/feedlots of origin and holding facilities.
- (p) Record for all treatments administered on-board.
- (q) Number of deaths as well as causes of deaths in the holding facilities prior to loading onto the vessel, during the voyage and during disembarkation at the country of destination.
- (r) Number of abortions or births and diagnoses of diseases made on sick animals or during post mortem examination.
- (s) Records of daily checks of fire-extinguishers, water and feeding troughs, drains and lights.
- (t) Communication log for daily meetings with the on-board veterinarian and master of the ship.

(2) The following standard operating procedures must be developed and maintained:

- (a) Administering of medication to sick or injured animals and the assignment of responsibilities.
- (b) Humane killing of animals.
- (c) Maintenance of the captive bolts.
- (d) Sanitation and cleaning of the lairages and the vessel before loading, during transport at sea and at offloading at importing country.
- (e) Disposal of dead and euthanised animals.
- (f) Disposal of faeces, urine and used bedding.
- (g) Control of ventilation, temperature, ammonia and humidity levels.
- (h) Feeding of animals at the holding facilities and on the vessel.
- (i) Water desalination.

## COMMENCEMENT

25. These Regulations come into operation on the date of the publication of the final regulations.