

# NEW ZEALAND LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT ASSURANCE

PROGRAMME

## TRAINING & ASSESSMENT GUIDE



**National Livestock Transport & Safety Group**

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**NZLTA accredited trainers must assess livestock transport drivers to ensure they have a sound knowledge and understanding of livestock transport plus animal welfare standards pertaining to transportation.**

**If trainee (driver) competence is considered to be insufficient at any point of an assessment the trainer must intervene and provide effective corrective coaching.**

**Drivers will be regularly audited at meat processing sites. Regular or multiple corrective actions may result in drivers (and their trainers) being relieved of their NZLTA accreditation.**

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## FUNDAMENTALS

Driver training and assessment will focus on the following:

1. Contingency planning for transporting livestock by road, including actions to be taken in the event of unforeseen circumstances that cause livestock to become distressed.
2. Setting up and maintaining a livestock transportation crate.
3. Stockmanship and the skills required to move livestock efficiently and effectively within declared animal welfare guidelines.
4. Occupational safety and health requirements; and
5. All relevant documentation requirements for each consignment.

### NOTE:

There are a range of documents and codes that should be referenced when conducting training. The references and resources section of this guide identifies some of those materials.

## TRAINING ELEMENTS

### 1. Contingency Planning

Drivers are to be trained and assessed on their ability to implement contingency plans when transporting livestock by road. Training will include:

- Consideration of situations that can arise during transportation of general livestock by road and solutions that will minimise potential harm to the livestock being transported.

- Advice on communication procedures used to assist with implementing a contingency plan in accordance with recognised procedures.
- Familiarisation with the NAWAC Code in respect of procedures required for unloading and holding distressed livestock until fit to continue their journey.
- Ensuring that drivers have the ability, confidence and support to implement successful contingency plans when required.

## **2. Setting Up and Maintaining a Livestock Transportation Crate**

Drivers must carry out a practical inspection of a livestock crate to demonstrate their ability to:

- Identify any wear and damage likely to compromise animal welfare or personal safety.
- Report any unacceptable wear or damage to the crate without delay.
- Confirm the crate loading ramp is safe and secure for use.
- Identify that crate cleaning and hygiene is to required standard
- Ensure the crate to be used is designed for the livestock type to be loaded.
- Ensure the crate is in accordance with company and legal load specifications.
- Inspect and report effluent tank and tap status.

## **3. Stockmanship**

Drivers are to be trained and assessed for livestock handling in the crate, in yards, when loading and unloading plus the correct use of equipment.

Drivers shall:

- Demonstrate that they have a sufficient understanding of animal behaviour when handling livestock.
- Demonstrate an understanding of handling methods which minimise stress, injury, risk of disease to livestock without compromising personal safety.
- Demonstrate the ability to operate electric prodders and goads in accordance with NAWAC and RTFNZ electric prodder guidelines.
- Select livestock in accordance with the NAWAC Code and loading and penning density requirements, including identifying livestock that are unfit to be transported. Drivers should also understand the process for refusal to transport unfit livestock.

- Load and unload livestock in accordance with the NAWAC code and designated slaughter plant and / or customer requirements.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the actions to be taken before, during and after transport in terms of animal care to ensure the welfare of animals
- Dispose of effluent in a manner that is consistent with the industry code of practice for the minimisation of stock effluent spillage from stock trucks.
- Demonstrate safe and efficient driving techniques including proficient vehicle manoeuvring and positioning for loading and unloading operations. This must include driving techniques that are consistent with maintaining animal welfare

#### **4. Occupational Safety and Health**

Drivers shall be assessed and trained to determine their ability to identify and implement health and safety procedures associated with loading, unloading and handling livestock in crates, yards and other facilities. This should include ensuring that drivers are:

- Aware of the personal protection equipment required to increase personal safety
- Aware of animal management devices and their correct use and maintenance
- Able to demonstrate safe animal handling techniques
- Able to identify safe access and egress points and provide examples of scenarios where these evacuation/ entrance techniques may be required to be used
- Attentive to the environment that they are to work in. For example, adequacy of lighting, ground condition, yard dynamics (including assessment for power lines and other dangerous surroundings)

#### **5. Documentation requirements**

Drivers shall:

- Confirm that all relevant documentation required to be carried in support of the consignment, must be obtained at the time of loading.
- Be familiar with the documents listed below:
  - Animal Status Declaration (ASD), requiring correct tallies, time of loading and time of unloading
  - Transport consignment note where appropriate

- Livestock purchase advice or truck dockets with tallies for each delivery
  - Any relevant veterinary declarations
  - Any relevant 'Permit to Move' animals from restricted areas
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- Demonstrate the ability to accurately complete documentation where required
  - Demonstrate an understanding that if livestock are presented with an ASD form the driver must record the "Pick-Up" on either the ASD or the trucking docket
  - Be able to enter information in a legible manner
  - Demonstrate the ability to maintain records of all check stops – times and places – plus record any animal welfare issues which have arisen during transport
  - Demonstrate an awareness of health and safety requirements and other specific requirements for the sites where they load or unload livestock

## References and Resources:

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Animal Status Declaration form is obtainable from the Animal Health Board at <http://tbfree.anh.org.nz/Default.aspx?tabid=169> <http://www.tbfree.org.nz/animal-status-declaration-4.aspx>

Industry Code of Practice for the Minimisation of Stock Effluent Spillage from Trucks on Roads, 1999, National Stock Effluent Working Group, available from <http://www.rcaforum.org.nz/industry-code-of-practice/>

The Official New Zealand Truck Loading Code – Code of Practice for the Safety of Loads on Heavy Vehicles (current edition), available from booksellers.

ACC handling cattle safely  
[http://www.acc.co.nz/PRD\\_EXT\\_CSMP/groups/external\\_ip/documents/publications\\_promotion/wpc086521.pdf](http://www.acc.co.nz/PRD_EXT_CSMP/groups/external_ip/documents/publications_promotion/wpc086521.pdf)

ACC survival guide for livestock handlers  
[http://www.acc.co.nz/PRD\\_EXT\\_CSMP/groups/external\\_ip/documents/guide/wim2\\_059364.pdf](http://www.acc.co.nz/PRD_EXT_CSMP/groups/external_ip/documents/guide/wim2_059364.pdf)

Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) code of welfare  
<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-resources/publications>

## Relevant Legislation:

The legal requirements relevant to this programme include the:

Animal Products Act 1999;

Animal Welfare Act 1999;

Biosecurity Act 1993;

Land Transport Act 1998;

Resource Management Act 1991;

Transport (Vehicle and Driver Registration and Licensing) Act 1986;

Biosecurity (Animal Identification Systems) Regulations 1999;

Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999;

Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004;

Traffic Regulations 1976

## DEFINITIONS

### **The NAWAC Code:**

Also referred to as, the Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare.

### **Contingency plan:**

Refers to actions to be considered and taken in the event of unforeseen circumstances that cause livestock to become distressed.

### **Livestock:**

Refers to cattle, sheep, goats, bobby calves and pigs.

### **Organisational procedures:**

Mean those company instructions that are formally documented for employees and made available to candidates plus assessors.

### **Road Transport:**

In addition to its usual sense, includes transport of animals before, during, and after sea transport that is a part of and/or a continuation of normal road transport. This refers specifically to inter-island transport within New Zealand and not export.

### **Stockmanship:**

Refers to the skills required to manage livestock efficiently and effectively without causing stress to the animal.