

## ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

The federal requirements for the transportation of animals, by all modes of transport, are covered under the *Health of Animals Regulations, Part XII*. They are enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) with the assistance of other federal, provincial and territorial authorities. This report is to identify issues being addressed in the transportation industry, and to give ideas to assist in improving compliance with the regulations.

**More information on transportation of animals can be found in the pamphlet entitled 'Livestock Transport Requirements in Canada' and on the internet at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/trans/transe.shtml>.**

**Compromised Animals Policy (CAP):** A compromised animal is an animal with reduced capacity to withstand the stress of transportation, due to injury, fatigue, infirmity, poor health, distress, very young or old age, impending birth or any other cause. Some compromised animals can be transported under certain conditions without being exposed to additional suffering. Others would endure additional suffering during transportation and must not be transported, except for veterinary treatment or diagnosis. This is true of any condition associated with pain that will be aggravated by transport. Please refer to attached chart for more information.

**Livestock transporters should be trained in the CAP to ensure that compromised animals which should not be transported are rejected from the load. Transporters should also ensure special provisions for compromised animals which can be transported are arranged as needed.** This should decrease the incidence of non-ambulatory animals (downers), and injured or deceased animals being found at the unloading site. Incidents of this type have resulted in enforcement action. Cattle which cannot be transported could be managed more effectively via euthanasia, and the BSE sampling process.

It is recommended that transporters monitor their load repeatedly during the trip. If problems occur, such as injured, downer or deceased animals, the driver should stop and seek intervention as needed at the nearest suitable facility - this includes livestock auctions, livestock handling facilities, veterinary clinics, and slaughter plants.

Recent reports indicate that drivers have stopped at various auction yards to unexpectedly unload injured, downer or deceased animals. However, some auction yards have refused to accept these animals. The drivers have then chosen to proceed on to the final destination with the animal on board, bypassing other possible locations that would accept the animal. This is a violation of the compromised animals policy and is subject to enforcement action.

**Transporters, and transportation companies, should have contingency plans in place, such that locations which can assist are pre-determined so further transport of compromised animals is prevented.** Please be aware not all livestock auctions, handling facilities, and slaughter plants are willing to accept this type of livestock. It is important that locations that will accept these are known in advance, in case a driver must unexpectedly unload the trailer.

**Enhanced Animal Health Protection from BSE:** There are new requirements for handling, transporting and disposing of cattle carcasses. These requirements are a result of enhanced animal safeguards to help eliminate Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada, by tracking and maintaining control over cattle tissues capable of transmitting BSE known as Specified Risk Materials (SRM).

When animals found on trailers are confirmed to be deceased, they can be disposed of on-site, or an emergency permit can be obtained to move the carcass to a permitted receiving site. Permitted receiving sites in Saskatchewan are:

- Saskatoon Processors Company, Saskatoon, SK 1-800-803-9714
- Shur Livestock, Bienfait, SK (306) 388-2322
- Brent Lister Livestock, Moose Jaw, SK (306) 631-7772

Emergency permits can be obtained by calling 1-800-442-2342.

A list of locations of slaughter plants in Saskatchewan is attached, however, not all these plants will accept emergency slaughter. It may be necessary to contact several of these before a suitable location is found. Contingency plans would be beneficial in this regard.

**Certified Livestock Transporter course:** CFIA has observed the Certified Livestock Transporter course, now being offered in Saskatchewan by Mr. Ken McDonald. We have found this to be a very productive and informative course. It was an excellent opportunity for us to interact with truck drivers, and develop a common approach to ensuring humane transportation is occurring within the livestock industry. It is highly recommended that all drivers attend this course. In the near future, many of the receiving sites may possibly require drivers delivering livestock to their location to have taken this course.

**Transportation of Deer & Elk:** Deer and elk in the following conditions should not be transported, except for veterinary treatment or diagnosis - pregnant deer or elk within 14 days to giving birth, pregnant deer or elk within 30 days to giving birth if duration of trip is >6 hrs, pregnant deer or elk within 90 days to giving birth if temperature is >90\_F, young deer and elk under 4 weeks of age, pre-rut weaned animals within 2 weeks of separation from their dams, bulls in velvet, bulls with bleeding or incompletely healed pedicles, and bulls within 48 hours after antler removal. Allow 10 sq. ft. space per bull (see requirements below for bulls), and 9.5 sq. ft. space per cow.

Bulls in rut or with hard antlers can be transported but must be segregated from all other animals. Ensure each animal can stand in its natural position without touching the ceiling. Bulls cannot be transported in double-deck trailers. It is advisable to provide bedding and to close partition gates.

**Loading Density:** Loading density should be in compliance with the Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals - Transportation, Appendix 2. Loading density should be reduced when transporting compromised animals and cull animals. Dairy cattle, in particular, should be loaded at 85% of the normal recommended loading density for cattle. Please refer to the following website to review the Code of Practice:

<http://www.nfacc.ca/pdf/english/Transportation2001.pdf>.

**Health of Animal Regulations, Part XII:** Please be advised that regulations governing transportation of animals may be updated or revised in the future.

#### **Slaughter Plants - Saskatchewan North**

Bitzer Meats – *Arborfield*  
Country Butcher – *Baldwinton*  
Ecker's We Do It Meats – *Barthel*  
Bellevue Meats Abattoir – *Bellevue*  
Monarch Meats – *Biggar*  
B&T Meats – *Bruno*  
Scarf Custom Packers - *Carrot River*  
Quality Prime Meats – *Cutknife*  
Thiessen Abattoir – *Dalmeny*

Delisle Meats - *Delisle*  
Buchanan Meats – *Dinsmore*  
Drake Meats - *Drake*  
Country Choice Meats – *Duck Lake*  
Sun Down Farms – *Hague*  
Valley Meat Processors - *Hague*  
Skippy's Meats - *Handle*  
Pee Paw Abattoir - *Hudson Bay*  
Modern Meats Abattoir - *Humboldt*

Flatrock Meats – *Kenaston*  
Kindersley Packers – *Kindersley*  
Triple A Meats – *Kuroki*  
Yeager Quality Meats - *Lake Lenore*  
Leoville Meats – *Leoville*  
Diamond 7 Meats – *Lloydminster*  
Pat's Butcher Shop – *Lloydminster*  
T&C Meats – *Meadstead*  
Magnus Meats – *Melfort*  
Munster Meats – *Munster*  
Thevenot Family – *Naicam*  
Rheinlander Meats – *Osler*  
Paradise Hill Meats - *Paradise Hill*  
Vaughan's Meats - *Porcupine Plain*  
Meeting Lake Meats - *Rabbit Lake*  
Pine Country Meats – *Saskatoon*  
J&R Meats - *Shellbrook*

Parkland Meats - *Shellbrook*  
Richardson Meats - *Spalding*  
E&A Meat Market - *St. Brieux*  
Farm Meats Naturally - *St. Denis*  
Prime Meats - *St. Gregor*  
D&G Abattoir - *St. Walburg*  
Fristhaw Meats - *Tisdale*  
Willow Hollow Game Ranch - *Turtleford*  
Vanscoy Abattoir - *Vanscoy*  
Wadena Meats - *Wadena*  
Friesen's Meats - *Warman*  
Model Meats - *Watrous*  
Watson Meats Processors - *Watson*  
L&B Meats - *White Fox*  
Ron's Meats - *Wishart*  
Little Quill Meats - *Wynyard*

### **Slaughter Plants - Saskatchewan South**

Davis Meats – *Alameda*  
Mitch's Meats Assiniboia Ltd – *Assiniboia*  
Big Muddy Chop Shop - *Big Beaver*  
Custom Meat Cutting – *Briercrest*  
Rumpel Farms Abattoir – *Craven*  
JMR Butcher Shop – *Davidson*  
Lucian Leroy – *Dollard*  
Klassen Country Meats – *Ernfold*  
Nelson Meats – *Estevan*  
Spilchuk Meats – *Estevan*  
Gainsborough Frozen Foods – *Gainsborough*  
Buckhorn Butchers - *Maple Creek*  
Horizon Meats Inc – *Maryfield*  
Tanks Country Meats – *Melville*  
Jim Dietrich – *Mendham*  
Sherman Enterprises – *Milestone*

Dave & Deb Spooner - *Qu'Appelle*  
Big Bob's Sausage - *Regina*  
Stevenson Brothers Slaughter - *Shaunavon*  
Leaning Maple Meats - *Strausbourg*  
Street's Meats - *Stony Beach*  
J&D Meats - *Swift Current*  
Spuzak Meats Ltd - *Tompkins*  
West Bridgeford Meats - *Tugaske*  
Wiska Creek Abattoir - *Vanguard*  
Wallin's Bigway Foods - *Wawota*  
B&D Meats Inc - *Weyburn*  
Western Prime Meat Processors - *Weyburn*  
Galor Meats - *Whitewood*  
Gold's Meats - *Willow Bunch*

### **Guide to Assess Fitness for Transport Livestock Not Compromised**

Transport without Special Provisions

#### **Compromised Livestock Do Not Transport:**

- Unable to stand without assistance or to move without being dragged or carried. This includes animals that, after "splitting," cannot walk, or suffer severe pain when walking. These are non-ambulatory animals, lameness classes 4 and 5.
- Fractured limbs, fractures to the pelvis, or any other fractures that considerably hamper mobility or are likely to cause severe pain when the animal is manipulated for loading or when it is being transported.

- Body condition score indicating emaciation and weakness.
- Dehydration
- Exhaustion
- Shock, dying
- Suspected or confirmed nervous system
- Fever
- Uterine prolapse
- Has an open skin wound, ulceration or obvious infection.
- Hernia meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - Impedes movement (includes conditions in which the hind legs of the animal touches the hernia when the animal is walking)
  - Is painful on palpation
  - Touches the ground when the animal is standing in its natural position
- The above restrictions do not apply to animals destined for treatment at a veterinary clinic or for diagnosis at a veterinary laboratory.

#### **Transport with Special provisions:**

- Penis injuries
- Frostbite
- Bloat (if not weak or already down)
- Laboured breathing
- Blindness in both eyes
- Open wound with bleeding and/or exposed bone
- Amputee
- Amputee
- Animals that have not fully healed after operations such as dehorning or castration
- Animals that have given birth in the preceding 48 hours
- Rectal or vaginal prolapse
- Lameness Class 3 (transport not recommended) – can walk freely but requires assistance to rise

#### **Special provisions may include:**

- Veterinary care prior to transport
- Extra bedding
- Loading in the rear compartment
- Separation from other animals
- Pen with familiar companion animal
- Other measures as appropriate