



# Contingency plans for livestock consignments to the Middle East

## Live Animal Export Branch

### 1 Purpose

This policy outlines the contingency plan requirements for livestock consignments exported by sea to ports in the Middle East.

### 2 Scope

The policy applies to exporters preparing livestock for export by sea for discharge at ports in:

- Israel – accessed via the Red Sea or the Mediterranean Sea
- Jordan or Saudi Arabia – accessed via the Red Sea.

This policy may be varied urgently to apply to exporters preparing livestock for export to other ports or markets in the wider Middle Eastern region, for example, if there are changes to the security situation in this region. The department will notify exporters of any variations to this policy if required.

This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant export legislation and standards listed under [related material](#).

### 3 Requirements

In accordance with standard 4.1.18 of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL), exporters are required to prepare written contingency plans that address various potential scenarios for all livestock consignments exported by sea.

During assessment of a notice of intention to export a consignment of livestock (NOI), the department considers relevant information from a range of sources. When considering the approval of a NOI, the delegate must be satisfied (among other things) that:

- the arrangements for the transport of the livestock to their final overseas destination are appropriate to ensure their health and welfare (Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021, paragraph 8-6 (3)(d))
- an approved exporter supply chain assurance system (ESCAS) is in force for consignments containing feeder or slaughter livestock (Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021, subsection 8-6 (4)).

To support this assessment, exporters must prepare a contingency plan for all consignments covered by this policy. The contingency plan must be provided to the department at the time of NOI submission, within the relevant timeframe (Export Control (Animals) Rules 2021, subsection 8-3 (1)).

Contingency plans will be reviewed during NOI assessment on a consignment-by-consignment basis. During NOI assessment, the delegate may, to the extent it is relevant, also consider the security situation at the time and the potential for heightened risks to animal health and welfare during the voyage, relating to the:

- proposed vessel route to the destination port(s)
- destination port(s) and surrounding areas which may impact the discharge of livestock and transport to quarantine or feedlot facilities
- operation of the exporter's ESCAS in the importing country (where relevant).

These considerations are in addition to the contingency plan requirements that must be met under ASEL standard 4.1.18. Exporters must also continue to report notifiable incidents to the department for consignments exported by sea (ASEL standard 5.6.5).

NOI assessment charges will apply in accordance with the department's [charging guidelines](#).

## 4 Instructions

At the time of NOI submission, exporters must provide a detailed and demonstrably viable contingency plan for all livestock consignments travelling to Middle East ports outlined in the [scope](#).

The plan must detail the steps that will be taken if the contingency plan is required to be activated and must include details of:

- arrangements for the consignment to be discharged in a [contingency market](#), and/or
- [alternative contingency plan arrangements](#).

The arrangements need to be realistic and capable of implementation.

### Contingency market

An exporter's contingency plan may propose discharge in a market other than the intended destination market. To ensure the plan addresses the outcomes of this policy, the exporter must have a sufficient number of contingency markets available to them, based on the particular circumstances of the proposed export.

For each proposed contingency market, the exporter must provide:

- written confirmation the livestock will be prepared for export to meet the importing country requirements of the contingency market. This includes confirmation
  - of arrangements for additional testing, treatments, inspections, vaccinations and examinations that must be undertaken prior to departure from Australia
  - there is sufficient quarantine space available and approved in the contingency market (if relevant)
- written confirmation ASEL pen space requirements will be met for the livestock throughout the voyage, including if a diversion to the contingency market increases the voyage length
- details of additional bedding, feed, water, veterinary medicines or equipment that will be loaded on to the vessel prior to departure from Australia. This must be sufficient to ensure the

livestock will continue to be managed in accordance with ASEL until they are able to be unloaded from the vessel at the contingency market

- written confirmation no additional bedding, water, veterinary medicines or equipment will be loaded onto the vessel after departure from Australia, unless in exceptional circumstances and with approval from the department

The loading of additional feed following departure from Australia may be permitted, but only in exceptional circumstances and with approval from the department (ASEL standard 5.1.14 (d)) and the [Loading foreign sourced fodder onto a vessel carrying Australian livestock](#) policy.

- details on the exporter's monitoring and management of the security situation in the Red Sea, including the immediate steps (including notifying the department if the contingency plan has been, or will be, activated) and ongoing steps to be taken if it is identified that
  - the vessel is unable to proceed on its intended route
  - the consignment may be unable to reach the intended destination market
  - the livestock may not be permitted to discharge from the vessel
- details on the exporter's communications with relevant parties, additional to ASEL requirements. This includes details of how and when an adverse event will be notified, and the frequency and method (written or verbal) of ongoing communications with the
  - department
  - accredited veterinarian or accredited stockperson
  - importing country authority, importer, vessel master or operator
- any other information relevant to the ongoing security situation.

For consignments containing slaughter or feeder livestock, the exporter must also provide:

- a valid ESCAS in the contingency market for the relevant species in the consignment, and confirmation the ESCAS has sufficient capacity to receive the livestock, or
- written confirmation from another exporter they will accept the livestock into their approved ESCAS, and the ESCAS has sufficient capacity to receive the livestock.

### **Alternative contingency plan arrangements**

An exporter may propose an alternative arrangement that does not involve a contingency market.

Where an alternative contingency plan arrangement is proposed, the exporter must provide sufficient detail to the department outlining how importing country requirements and livestock health and welfare will be maintained. An approved extended long haul management plan may also be required, in line with the [Approved arrangement guidelines for the export of livestock](#).

Examples of an alternative arrangement may include:

- slowing or pausing the vessel's progression (if direct passage is temporarily unavailable)
- using an alternative route to travel to the intended destination market
- using an alternative option to load approved supplies including fuel, water, feed, bedding, or veterinary medicines and equipment.

## 5 Related material

- [Approved arrangement guidelines for the export of livestock](#)
- [Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock \(ASEL\)](#)
- [Charging guidelines](#)
- [Export advisory notices](#)
- [Export Control Act 2020](#)
- [Export Control \(Animals\) Rules 2021](#)
- [Exporter supply chain assurance system \(ESCAS\)](#)
- [Loading foreign sourced fodder onto a vessel carrying Australian livestock](#)
- [Regulating live animal exports](#)

## 6 Version control

| Version | Date of issue | Author                    | Reason for change |
|---------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1.0     | April 2024    | Live Animal Export Branch | First publication |

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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