



Australian Government

Independent Observer summary report on MV Ocean Ute

Cattle exported to Vietnam in July 2022

December 2022

Voyage summary

Livestock: 3,581 cattle.

Vessel: *MV Ocean Ute*.

Loading location and date: Townsville, 5 July 2022.

Vessel departure date: Townsville, 5 July 2022.

Discharge location and dates: Hon La, Vietnam, from 18 July 2022 to 20 July 2022.

Voyage length: 16 days.

Independent Observer: Boarded at Townsville and remained onboard until completion of discharge.

Voyage mortality rate: 0.28% (10 mortalities). These mortalities are unlikely to be linked to any systemic failure by the exporter.

Notifiable mortality rate required to trigger a mortality investigation: 0.5% or 3 animals (whichever is greater).

Summary of observations

This report summarises key observations of the implementation and effectiveness of exporter arrangements to ensure the health and welfare of livestock. The report has been approved by the observer who accompanied the voyage.

Exporter documentation

The observer reported no issues regarding exporter documentation.

Loading

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements during loading were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

Personnel

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to personnel were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

Daily routine

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to the daily routine were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

Feed and water

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to feed and water were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

Ventilation

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements relating to ventilation were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

Pen conditions

The observer noted that:

- 1) There were occasional water leaks caused by leaking hose connections or overflowing water troughs. These were repaired quickly by the crew with no impact on pen conditions or animal health and welfare observed.
- 2) Some gates had been removed between pens, leaving exposed hinges. This did not lead to any observed animal health and welfare issues.

Health and welfare

The stockperson reported that:

- Post-mortems were conducted on all mortalities except those occurring on the day of discharge.
- One post-mortem identified respiratory issues as the likely cause of death.
- No abnormalities were detected during the remaining post mortems.
- Treatments were administered to a number of cattle for nasal discharge, lameness, limb injuries and infections.

Discharge

Based on observations made during this voyage, the exporter arrangements during discharge were appropriate and effective in managing livestock health and welfare.

Department actions

No adverse animal health and welfare outcomes arising from exporter arrangements were observed, and no regulatory action was taken for this voyage.

Representative photographs of voyage

Day 2 Cattle in pen — gate hinges exposed



Day 5 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 7 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 9 Cattle in pen — gate hinges exposed



Day 11 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 13 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



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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