



Australian Government

Independent Observer summary report on *MV Ocean Ute*

Cattle exported to Indonesia in March 2024

August 2024

Voyage summary

Livestock: 4,716 cattle

Vessel: *MV Ocean Ute*

Loading location: Townsville

Discharge location: Panjang, Indonesia

Voyage length: 14 days

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

Voyage mortality rate: 0.21% (10 mortalities). These mortalities are unlikely to be linked to any systemic failure by the exporter

Notifiable mortality rate: 0.5% for cattle

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

One of the cattle was identified to have fractured a leg during the loading process and was euthanised. This was reported to the observer.

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

Feed and water

The observer noted that cattle were not fed chaff on days 13 and 14 during discharge. The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) requires that at least 1% of the required feed is chaff or hay. No adverse effects on animal health and welfare were observed as a result of chaff not being fed.

Ventilation and voyage conditions

No adverse effects on animal health and welfare were observed as a result of the temperatures throughout the voyage.

The observer recorded temperatures at known hotspots near the engine room on Decks 3 and 4. The observer noted these were 1°C to 2°C higher than other sections of those decks. No adverse effects on animal health and welfare were observed in cattle due to temperatures in pens surrounding the engine room.

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

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

Health and welfare

No systemic issues observed.

Discharge

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

Representative photographs of voyage

Day 3 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 6 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 6 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 7 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 9 Cattle in pen — no issues identified



Day 11 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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