



# Transport

Quality Assurance Programme



## Mission Statement

“To enhance the profitability of the deer industry by providing a specialist deer transporting service performing to an industry agreed code of operating standards”



Kenneth Swainson

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Chairman

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“Ideally, an accredited producer prepares animals to specification, transports them using an accredited transport operator to an accredited plant, having sold them as part of a managed supply programme for a mutually profitable price in a ‘preferred supplier’ relationship with an exporter.”

**Kenneth Swainson**, Chairman, DeerQA Transport Programme

# DeerQA Transport Programme

## OPERATING STANDARDS

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## FOREWORD

These operating standards describe the minimum standards a deer transport operator must satisfy to achieve accreditation under the DeerQA Transport Programme.

This Transport Programme is part of the deer industry quality assurance programme. The deer slaughter plants and deer farmers have produced their own quality programmes. Livestock agents produce their own quality programmes in line with a framework developed by Deer Industry New Zealand. These programmes support the Deer Industry New Zealand's pasture to plate quality strategy which ensures New Zealand venison is recognised as a high quality premium product in the international market place.

If you require more information about this Programme, please contact Deer Industry New Zealand, PO Box 10-702, Wellington, Ph: (04) 473 4500 Fax: (04) 472 5549.

## APPROVAL SIGNATURES

This manual has been reviewed and approved for use as a standard procedures manual within the New Zealand deer industry by:



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*Deer Industry New Zealand Representative*



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*DeerQA Transport Technical Committee Chairman*

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## **MANUAL HOLDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each manual holder will be responsible for:

- the removal and destruction of the obsolete manual
- ensuring manuals are available for use when required
- protection of manuals from damage, loss and deterioration
- maintaining the confidentiality of the manuals

## **MANUAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The process for review and subsequent amendment of this manual is as follows:

The manual will be reviewed annually by the DeerQA Transport Technical Committee.

This review will encompass:

- (a) evaluating change request forms
- (b) formulating amendments if necessary

You can participate in this review process by submitting areas and suggestions for changes to these standards. Just complete the Change Request Form at the back of this manual and send it to the address shown.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ACCREDITATION**

### **The welfare of the deer is paramount**

1. The transport operator, rather than the individual driver, will be the accredited body.
2. Transport operators will be accredited on the basis of meeting the standard.
3. It is the transport operator's responsibility to ensure that their management systems, equipment and drivers continue to meet the standards as set down in this manual.

# Operating Standards

# 1. THE DEER CRATE

## Standard

For effective and humane transportation, deer shall be transported in purpose-designed and built crates appropriate for the species to be carried.

### 1.1 PENS

#### Standard

Deer pens within the crate shall not exceed dimensions of 2.5m x 1.4m and shall be of solid construction.

#### Qualifier

*Using the loading density formula of 0.40m<sup>2</sup> floor space per 100 kg liveweight deer, this size pen would hold up to 8 x 100 kg liveweight deer.*

#### Recommendations

*For the cartage of larger animals, e.g. wapiti/elk, it is recommended single animals per pen or when partitions are provided they may be removed to accommodate these animals.*

*As a guide 3 x 500 kg animals per double pen (2.5m x 2.8m maximum).*

*Trophy Stags (refer Standard 4.10).*

### 1.2 FLOORING

#### Standard

The surface on which deer stand must:

- (a) ensure secure footing
- (b) ensure safety and freedom from injury
- (c) ensure cleanliness
- (d) ensure adequate drainage

#### Qualifier

*The ideal flooring to meet this standard is steel or alloy mesh with a maximum aperture of 19mm x 19mm. This type of flooring is required for both single and double deck crates. Certain other types of mesh, such as alloy pressed plate, and some types of rubber matting have been approved by the DeerQA Transport Technical Committee. Refer Appendix - Transport of Stud and Trophy Stags.*

## **1.3 INTERNAL DOORS**

### **Standard**

Internal doors must secure deer within the pen.

They must allow for unobstructed flow of deer through the crate.

There must be no protruding catches.

They must be of solid construction.

Clearance from the floor must be between 0-2cm or 10-15cm.

### **Qualifier**

*If the clearance of internal doors from the floor is between 2cm and 10cm they must be adjusted either way to comply with the standard.*

### **Recommendation**

*For the cartage of fallow deer, clearance from the floor should not exceed 2cm.*

*Internal doors should have clearance at the top to allow for the free flow of air.*

## **1.4 ROOF**

### **Standard**

The roof must be purpose built to secure the deer within the pen and prevent stress.

It must be constructed and secured in such a way that it cannot dislodge, flap, or create noise when deer are being transported.

### **Qualifier**

*To ensure the safety and welfare of the deer, where covers are used there must be no gaps between the edge of the cover and the inner rail and or edge of the deer crate.*

*Where canvas/synthetic roofing is used, it must be properly secured with webbing straps and load tensioners attached. It must not impede ventilation. The minimum fabric weight shall be no less than 440 gsm.*

*Covers must always be in good condition and consistently maintained.*

*Covers must be taut at all times and not sag below the line of attachment.*

### **Recommendation**

*The ideal roof is of solid construction in either steel or plywood.*

## **1.5 VENTILATION**

### **Standard**

For each pen there must be a continuous opening on the external walls or roof at the top of each pen to allow unrestricted movement of unpolluted air. Total width of openings must be not less than 100mm for each deck; where ventilation is not continuous the areas of opening must be equivalent. Such ventilation must ensure that deer are not heat stressed.

### **Note**

*Ventilation is recognised as one of the most important aspects of crate design. It is essential to have a free and unrestricted flow of air through all pens and to this end the standard must be seen as a minimum.*

*It should be noted that trucks with vertical exhaust systems will be unlikely to be able to meet the requirement for unpolluted air on the top deck.*

*A free and unrestricted ventilation gap of 100mm minimum can be sited at any distance up the external walls of a deer crate provided there is another gap free or restricted to allow for hotter air to dissipate from within.*

*Where these 100mm gaps are sited other than at the top of the pen wall, a rod should be attached through the centre of the opening to prevent any legs from protruding through. There should be a minimum opening of 50mm either side of this rod.*

*For fiberglass crates both the upper and lower rows of ventilation holes on the bottom deck must be open and unrestricted at all times when carrying deer.*

## **1.6 INTERNAL PROTRUSIONS**

### **Standard**

Deer crates must be constructed with flush fittings so as to avoid protrusions that could bruise the deer.

### **Qualifiers**

*Care must be exercised to ensure internal fasteners, hinges and the like are sited such as to clear all parts of the deer's anatomy.*

*Any protrusions must be rounded off to ensure they will not harm deer nor injure persons working within the crate.*

## **1.7 POSTURE**

### **Standard**

Deer within the crate must be able to display a normal pattern of behaviour.

### **Recommendation**

*When carting large wapiti/elk animals it is recommended they be transported single deck only and in cases of multi purpose crates, the centre or top floors should be folded up. If all floors are folded up, the crate must have an approved roof.*

## **1.8 INTERNAL LOADING RAMPS**

### **Standard**

Internal ramps must be at such an angle and of such a surface as to enable deer to maintain footing when walking up and down.

### **Qualifiers**

*When in place there must be no gaps around the ramp which could trap the legs of the deer.*

*When loading and unloading, all guides, flaps and false walls around the loading ramp must be in place.*

## **1.9 DRAINAGE**

### **Standard**

All decks must be adequately drained.

### **Qualifier**

*Drainage must ensure deer do not get contaminated with effluent that could lead to cross contamination in the slaughter process.*

### **Recommendation**

*All effluent should be collected into holding tanks fitted to the truck and /or trailer.*

*All transport operators should be aware of the requirements and recommendations contained in the industry Code of Practice for the Minimisation of Stock Effluent Spillage from Trucks on Roads.*

## **1.10 CRATE MAINTENANCE**

### **Standard**

Crates must be maintained in sound condition, be in a clean and tidy state and be washed out on a regular basis.

### **Qualifier**

*When diseased deer (e.g. Tb reactors) have been carried, the crate shall be washed down before any other deer are carried.*

### **Note**

*This is a legal requirement under the Cleaning of Conveyances Act 1978.*

## 2. THE TRANSPORT OPERATOR

The transport operator must have a documented procedures describing how deer are handled and transported.

### Qualifier

*The transport operator must ensure the use of approved crates and approved drivers at all times.*

## 3. DRIVER TRAINING

### Standard

All drivers must attend an industry training course to obtain a certificate of competence and knowledge of deer handling, transport, welfare and legal issues.

### Recommendation

*It is recommended that management and despatch staff also attend these training courses.*

## 4. ANIMAL HANDLING AND WELFARE

### 4.1 RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEER

#### Standard

The driver is responsible for the safety and welfare of the deer during transport. The driver must ensure that the correct documentation accompanies each consignment of deer.

#### Recommendation

*The farmers, agent or DSP stockman should be present to both load and receive (and sign for) deer, acknowledging their condition, unless by prior arrangement.*

*The driver is responsible for transporting only fit and healthy deer at all times.*

## **4.2 TOOLS**

### **Standard**

When handling or transporting deer, drivers must not use electrical prodders.

### **Recommendation**

*The following tools are recommended:*

- *Shields*
- *Rattles*
- *Flappers*
- *Plastic bags*
- *Alkathene/plastic piping used as an arm extension*
- *Dogs should not be used when handling or transporting deer*

## **4.3 BOXING/MIXING OF GROUPS**

### **Standard:**

Groups of deer which have not run together (either on the same farm or on different farms) must not be mixed during transport. Stags and hinds must not be mixed and age classes shall be kept separate during transport also.

## **4.4 ANTLER AND VELVET**

### **Standard**

Deer with bleeding antler and deer with hard antler or growth greater than 110mm measured from the centre of the skull between the pedicles shall not be accepted for transport.

Stags shall not be transported until 7 days after velvetting.

### **Qualifier**

*The exception to this being when trophy stags in hard antler are being transported.*

*Refer to standard 4.10.*

*Stags velvetted in accordance with the new Mechanical Block system using NaturO™ rings may be transported to slaughter within 72 hours of being velvetted provided the rings are still attached.*

### **Note**

*It is recommended Drivers have the right to refuse to transport velvetted stags that do not meet this standard.*

## **4.5 UNFIT DEER**

### **Standard**

Unfit deer shall not be accepted for transportation.

### **Qualifier**

*The exceptions are with an AGM82 or a veterinary certificate, at owner's expense and risk.*

*The driver has a legal right to refuse to transport unfit deer.*

*Unfit is defined as any condition which renders the deer physically unable to stand and bear weight on all limbs and unable to undertake the journey without suffering undue or unreasonable pain or distress.*

*These conditions also include:*

- (a) any limb or part of limb amputated*
- (b) scouring*
- (c) nasal discharge*
- (d) open wounds or lesions*
- (e) staggers*
- (f) any hind due to calve within 21 days*
- (g) over-aggressive deer that may be a danger to handlers and other deer*

### **Note**

*Special conditions apply for emergency transport of otherwise unfit animals, e.g. salvage operations in drought or snow, those covered by a vet certificate or an AGM82.*

*All conditions contained in the AGM82 or vet certificate must be complied with.*

## **4.6 TB REACTORS AND DEER FROM TB ENDEMIC AREAS**

### **Standard**

Tb reactors shall only be transported to a DSP.

### **Qualifier**

*These deer shall have appropriate documentation where required and prior notification with the DSP must be made.*

*Tb reactor deer are identified by orange ear tags with an orange arrow backer.*

*Where deer are being delivered from farm to farm, Tb reactors en route to DSPs shall not be transported on the same unit.*

### **Note**

*Documentation should include a Permit to Move.*

## **4.7 WEANED DEER**

### **Standard**

Where deer are transported at weaning they must proceed directly from farm to farm immediately following weaning and the total duration of yarding and transport must not exceed **six** hours.

These deer, when weaned less than **10** days, must not be transported on the same unit as their mothers.

Unweaned deer and deer weaned less than **10** days must not be transported to auction or sale yards.

Weaned deer sold at on-farm sales must also be weaned a minimum **10** days prior to transport.

### **Qualifier**

*In emergency situations (e.g. drought, snow) deer with young at foot may be transported, but only with prior veterinary or MAF certification.*

*Individual hinds with fawn at foot can be transported in a single pen.*

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that all deer be weaned at least **10** days prior to any transport.*

## **4.8 TRANSPORT OF STAGS**

### **Standard**

Only stags under 2 years of age can be transported to DSPs during the roar.

### **Recommendation**

*For the safety and welfare of both the deer and handlers, it is recommended that no sire stags over 2 years of age should be transported between mid-February and June.*

### **Note**

*Mixed age stags can show the effects of the roar through to button drop. The greatest care must be exercised when transporting this type of animal.*

*A deer's birth date is recognised as 1 December.*

## **4.9 TRANSPORT OF PREGNANT HINDS**

### **Standard**

Pregnant hinds due to calve within 21 days must not be transported.

### **Recommendation**

*Pregnant hinds should not be transported after 01 October.*

## **4.10 TRANSPORT OF TROPHY STAGS**

### **Standard**

Trophy stags must not be transported in velvet.

Trophy stags in hard antler should only be transported in crates especially designed for this purpose.

### **Qualifier**

*For further details refer to Appendix Transport of Stud and Trophy Stags.*

## **APPENDIX**

### **TRANSPORT OF STUD AND TROPHY STAGS**

#### **1. PEN SIZES**

##### **Standard**

###### **Floor areas and minimum heights**

###### **Elk/Wapiti**

For the cartage of Elk/Wapiti the maximum pen size must not exceed a floor area of 5.5sqm and not less than 3sqm. The minimum height for these pens must not be lower than 1.85m.

###### **Stud stags**

For the cartage of individual stud Red Deer and Fallow Deer the maximum pen size must not exceed a floor area of 3.5sqm and not less than 2sqm. The minimum height for these pens must not be lower than 1.5m.

###### **Trophy stags**

For the cartage of Trophy Stags the maximum floor area must not exceed 5.5sqm and not less than 3.75sqm. The minimum height for these pens must not be lower than 2.0m.

##### **Recommendations**

*For crates constructed in the "East/West" configuration it is recommended that for the cartage of trophy stags the minimum depth of any pen is not less than 1.4m and for stud deer the recommended minimum width is not less than 1.2m.*

#### **2. CRATE DOORS**

##### **Standard**

For stud deer the minimum width of all stock access doors to each pen must be no less than 1.0m.

For trophy stags the minimum width of all stock access doors to each pen must not be less than 1.4m.

## **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that internal doors within crates carrying trophy stags be 1.6m width.*

## **3. ON-BOARD WATERING SYSTEMS**

### **Standard**

All deer crates certified for the cartage of stud and trophy deer must provide for on-board watering systems.

### **Qualifier**

*To ensure deer are not heat stressed and have access to water during journeys a purpose built watering system is essential within the deer crate.*

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that watering systems must be either:*

- *Internal self-contained systems. These systems would provide all water requirements from on-board water tanks. These can be operated from the cab of the vehicle.*
- *A system set up so as to spray water to each pen by way of a hose connection coupled to a crate fitting. These can work on a garden sprinkler system with water provided from an external source.*

## **4. FLOORING**

### **Standard**

Flooring for all pens carrying stud or trophy deer must provide safe and secure footing for animals and be of a rubber type compound.

This type of flooring must ensure drainage of effluent and allow for animals to lay down according to their normal behavioural patterns.

### **Recommendation**

*The recommended aperture for any rubber type flooring is 17mm. The maximum aperture is 25mm.*

*It is recommended the minimum thickness of any rubber type flooring is 20mm. This will provide a flexible footing that will alleviate any jarring of the feet of the deer.*

## **5. CRATE ROOFS**

### **Standard**

The roof of all crates transporting stud deer and trophy stags must be constructed so as not to cause stress to any deer being transported.

### **Qualifiers**

*All roofs on single deck crates must be of solid construction of either metal or plywood and secured in such a way they cannot flap or open by themselves.*

*Where deer are transported on the bottom deck of combination crates the roof of these crates must meet the standards of the DeerQA Transport programme. The upper decks of these combination crates can be folded up to allow for space but the roof must be in place at all times.*

## **6. USE OF DRUGS**

### **Standard**

Drugs must not be used to aid any deer in the loading or unloading process.

### **Qualifier**

*The only proviso to this is if there is a veterinarian in attendance and that he/she administers and certifies this operation.*

*Documentation regarding this must accompany any deer and be given to the receiver on delivery.*

## **7. RECORD OF TRAVEL**

### **Standard**

A complete record of travel will be documented throughout the journey and a copy of which must be given to the receiver of the animal at the time of unloading.

- Time and date animal is loaded
- Time and place animals were checked during transit (each time must be recorded)
- Time of any watering and or feeding
- Time and date of arrival at ferry terminal
- Time and date loaded onto ferry
- Time and date unloaded off ferry
- Time and date into any lairage facility
- Location of lairage facility
- Lairage owners name and address and location
- Time and date animal loaded out of lairage
- Name/s of driver/s during transit

- Any veterinary certificates accompanying animals, if applicable
- Comments section
- Signatures of driver and of receiver. Signature of lairage personnel where possible

## **8. UNLOADING OF STUD AND TROPHY DEER**

### **Standard**

Stud or trophy deer must never be allowed to jump out of deer crates into paddocks.

### **Qualifiers**

*These animals should always be unloaded down purpose built loading ramps where possible.*

*If no ramp is available then a suitable loading bank should be used to avoid the risk of any injury to the animal.*

*The height of these loading banks should be similar in height to the floor of the crate.*

## **9. LAIRAGE FACILITY**

### **Standard**

Lairage facilities must provide for a safe and secure environment to contain all animals being held and allow for these animals to be able to display their normal patterns of behaviour.

### **Qualifiers**

#### **Flooring**

*Floors within the lairage facility must provide for a safe and secure footing. Floors must be clear of previous fouling and must be cleaned out after each consignment of animals has been through the facility.*

### **Recommendations**

*It is recommended that the floors should be covered with sand or sawdust (but not treated sawdust).*

*Where sand or sawdust is spread over existing concrete it must be greater than 50mm in depth.*

## **10. INDOOR PENS**

### **Standard**

The minimum pen size in any lairage facility must not be less than 4.5sqm.

Pens must be constructed to provide drinking water at all times for the animals contained within.

There must be no protrusions that can affect the safety of the deer within the pens.

Deer must not be able to access any electrical fittings.

Pens must be well ventilated.

Facilities must have lighting available for night time operations of loading or unloading and to provide safety for people working within.

Pens must have facilities for providing food to the deer contained within.

### **Recommendations**

*It is recommended that these pens should have provision for an overhead water sprinkler system to provide relief from any stress for the deer in any extreme weather conditions.*

*It is also recommended that the construction of any pens for the lairage of deer should provide for visual contact with other pens and or laneways within the facility.*

**CHANGE REQUEST FORM**

**DEERQA TRANSPORT PROGRAMME  
CHANGE REQUEST FORM**

**Date:**

**Request Made By:**

**Details of Change Requested:**

**Reason for Change:**

(If necessary attach additional pages to this form)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Send to:

**FREEPOST No. 3942**

**DeerQA Transport Technical Committee**

**PO Box 10-702**

**Wellington 6143**