

Livestock Presentation Policy



From July-2027



AFFCO Livestock Presentation Policy

The Livestock Presentation Policy is guidance for farmers on how to present your stock to the processing plant to ensure improved returns due to better presentation standards.

The policy is designed to be a positive form of reporting that will assist farmers in achieving high levels of quality livestock presentation.

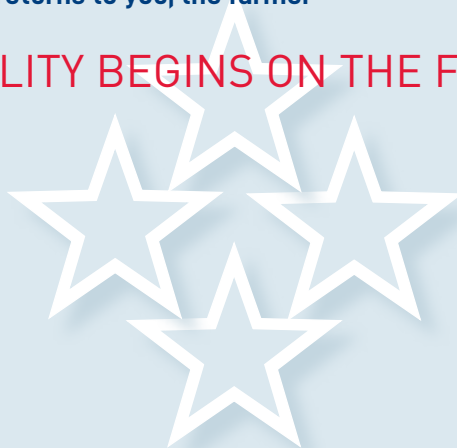
Acceptable:

- Well presented stock that are emptied out prior to transportation
- Require less time and handling in the stockyards
- Carcass contamination is eliminated during processing
- Minimise carcasses downgraded or placed on detain rail
- Carcasses eligible for chilled export
- Positive impact on AFFCO market
- Greater returns to AFFCO
- **Greater returns to you, the farmer**

Unacceptable:

- Poorly presented stock that are not emptied out, dags/dirt and are faecal stained
- Require extra time and handling in the stockyards
- Horned cattle that present risks to either Animal welfare or Health and safety
- Carcass contamination occurs during processing
- Processing is slowed or stopped
- Carcasses are placed on detain rail and contamination is removed, which can affect grade of carcass and quantity of saleable product
- Carcasses ineligible for chilled export
- Negative impact on AFFCO market
- Lower returns to AFFCO
- **Lower returns to you, the farmer**

QUALITY BEGINS ON THE FARM



Animal Status Declaration:

All stock sent to AFFCO plants must have an electronic ASD (eASD) completed before collection or be accompanied by the signed original of a correctly filled out Animal Status Declaration (ASD)

The eASD or ASD is to be completed by a person in charge of the animals who has the knowledge and authority to answer all the applicable questions. The person in charge of the animals could be the owner, farm manager or saleyard operator; but does NOT include transport operators.

Transport operators are not to prepare ASD's themselves, but are required to transfer the ASD when provided with the animals being moved.

Selection of Stock / Best Practice:

Muster

- Do not rush the animals
- Avoid unnecessary use of dogs, rattles. Try and work calmly and quietly

Selection

- All animals shall be outside the withholding period of animal treatments such as dips, vaccines and drenches etc.
- All stock must meet minimum presentation standards to be eligible for processing
- It is strongly recommended that any horns are removed 3 weeks prior to trucking. If cattle are horned, the horns cannot extend past the ear and must have points removed. If horned cattle are assessed to present an animal welfare or health and safety risk, they will be returned to the farmer at their cost.

Preparation

- Ensure stock are emptied out for a minimum of 4 hours before transporting
- Animals must have access to fresh drinking water
- Horned animals to be penned separately
- Cattle must be clearly identified with approved cattle marking paint or owner's brand

Loading

- Ensure that stock crates are clean before stock is loaded
- Animals must be able to stand and bear weight on all limbs and be fit enough to withstand the journey without causing undue stress or pain
- Any animal with any leg broken must not be transported for slaughter. An animal with any leg broken must not be transported for any other reason unless it has been treated by a veterinarian

Animals that are likely to give birth during transport must not be transported.

AFFCO accepts there are some hygiene issues with livestock presentation that may be beyond the suppliers control. This DOES NOT include dags. It is the supplier responsibility to ensure all sheep and lambs are dagged. This includes anal, leg, scrotum dags and belly crutching if necessary.

Animal Welfare:

It is a policy of the AFFCO Livestock Program that the supplying farms shall:

- Comply with all relevant legislation:
- Ensure the health and welfare of the stock based on The Five Freedoms :
 - freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition;
 - freedom from discomfort ;
 - freedom from pain, injury or disease ;
 - freedom from fear and distress;
 - freedom to display most normal patterns of behaviour.
- Ensure the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 is followed
- Be managed by competent stockmen and personnel and trained staff
- Ensure the safety and welfare of animals during transport
- Ensure the environment is protected and cared for
- Ensure animals showing signs of injury must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate

SHEEP

Sheep should be at least 3 days off shears with no open shearing cuts or grazes.

Stock Classification:

Grade 1

- Good presentation and require no more than a single standard washing procedure
 - Clean wool
 - Free of all dags/dirt
 - Emptied out before transporting
 - Woolpull **less than** 0.8kg (approx. 40mm in length) or clean and bellied

Grade 2

- Well presented but require more than the standard washing procedure to be acceptable for processing, due to any of the following
 - Rewashing required to remove faecal staining, dust or dirt
 - Not all dags removed
 - Not emptied out before transporting
 - Woolpull **greater than** 0.8 kg (approx. 60mm in length)

Grade 3

- Poorly presented stock that is unacceptable for processing in current condition, due to
 - Three or more items for grade 2 criteria
 - Rewashing required to remove excessive faecal staining, dust or dirt
 - Excessive dags

Grade 3 stock may be **returned to the supplier**.

DD Dags / Dirt

EW Excess Wool (More than 40mm (approx 0.8kg)

NE Not Emptied / Pen stained

H Horned



ACCEPTABLE



UNACCEPTABLE

Winter kill period "Shorn / Bellied Incentive": To

receive the incentive:

- Wool length **less than** 40mm (wool pull of approx 0.8kg) **or if it is greater:**
 - A strip of wool must be removed from crutch through to and including the brisket
 - This belly strip removal must be at least 3 comb widths or a full belly removal
 - Socks must be removed
 - Rams must have "purse" cleaned of wool and dags

Stock processed between 1st March and 30th November (South Island) **must be bellied** (ideally 2-7 days prior to processing) **or have** a wool pull less than 40mm

Stock processed between 1st June and 31st October (North Island) **must be bellied** (ideally 2-7 days prior to processing) **or have** a wool pull less than 40mm

BEEF

It is strongly recommended that any horns are removed 3 weeks prior to trucking. If cattle are horned, the horns cannot extend past the ear and must have points removed.

Animal Welfare Regulations on dehorning cattle: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/secondary-legislation/pco-drafted/2018/50/en/latest/#LMS22931>

All cattle must have a registered NAIT RFID tag.

Care must be taken when transporting adult bulls that may fight. They must be penned separately.

In-calf cows and heifers should not be transported within 21 days of calving.

Lactating dairy cows without calves at foot should be milked at regular intervals which do not exceed 24 hours. If dairy cows in early lactation are going to be transported over long distances, veterinary advice should be obtained.

Stock Classification:

Grade 1

- Good presentation
 - Clean
 - Free of all dags/dirt
 - Emptied out before transporting

Grade 2

- Well presented but may require washing to be acceptable for processing, due to any of the following:
 - Rewashing required to remove faecal staining, dust or dirt
 - Not all dags/dirt removed
 - Not emptied out before transporting

Grade 3

- Poorly presented stock that is unacceptable for processing in current condition, due to:
 - Rewashing required to remove excessive faecal staining, dust or dirt
 - Excessive dags/dirt

Grade 3 stock may be **returned to the supplier.**

DD Dags / Dirt

NE Not Emptied / Pen stained

H Horned

I Injured

E Emaciated / Weak

W Wild / Stressed



UNACCEPTABLE



Bobby Calves and Unweaned Calves

Calves must have the following attributes:

- Be more than four days old and not more than two months of age;
- Calves must be feed their usual morning ration of colostrum or milk (this is checked as part of the autopsy examination). The stomach must not be concave (sunken);
- The calf is free from signs from any injury, disease, disability, or impairment that could compromise the calf's welfare during the journey*;
- The calf is alert and able to rise from a lying position, stand and bear weight evenly on all 4 limbs, move freely and protect itself from being trampled and from being injured by other calves*;
- The calf's hooves are firm, worn flat, and not bulbous with soft unworn tissue; and
- The calf's navel cord is shriveled and not pink or red coloured, raw, or fleshy.

*This does not apply if the owner or person in charge of the young calf has a veterinary declaration that the calf is fit for transport.

The above welfare requirements are checked by both MPI and the company at each processing plant.

