OVERLOADING STOCK CRATES
KNOW THE FACTS AND THE RISKS

Anyone involved in the loading of livestock crates needs to be aware that they share responsibilities with the driver for animal welfare and road safety.

Overloading livestock crates above the legal penning densities (see below) is an offence under animal welfare codes of practice. If your carrier is loading above these levels, ask why. If your employees are asking carriers to load above these levels, make them aware of the facts.

Loading above these levels can put you at risk – if the vehicle has an accident, loading records can be sought by the courts. If you have been party to loading above these levels, you or your company could face legal action under Chain of Responsibility legislation.

The penning densities below create the best animal welfare outcomes. They provide comfortable weights under the livestock loading schemes around the country and should be followed.

For more information on proper loading of crates or any other livestock transport issues contact the ALTA on (02) 6247 5434 or visit our website www.alta org.au

Loading densities for cattle

Mean live weight (kg)	Floor area (m²/head)	Head per pen length (12.5m x 2.4m deck)
250	0.77	38
300	0.86	34
350	0.98	30
400	1.05	28
450	1.13	26
500	1.23	24
550	1.34	22
600	1.47	20
650	1.63	18

'care in stock transport'

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Loading Densities for Sheep

Mean live weight (kg)	Floor area (m²/head)	Head per pen length (2.4m wide tray)		
		3.0m	4.5m	6m
20	0.17	42	63	85
30	0.19	38	57	76
40	0.22	33	49	65
50	0.25	29	43	57
60	0.29	25	37	49

Loading Densities for Pigs

Average liveweights	3 metre		4 metre		Space allowance (m²/head)
	Min no.	Max no.	Min no.	Max no.	
50	30	33	40	44	0.22
75	21	25	31	34	0.29
100	19	21	25	28	0.35
125	15	19	21	23	0.42
150	13	15	18	20	0.48
175	12	13	16	18	0.55
200	11	13	14	16	0.61