

Merchant Shipping (Transit of Cattle by Sea) Rules

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Legislative History

**MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT
(CHAPTER 179, SECTION 237)**

MERCHANT SHIPPING (TRANSIT OF CATTLE BY SEA) RULES

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REVISED EDITION 1990

(25th March 1992)

[4th November 1927]

PRELIMINARY

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Transit of Cattle by Sea)

Rules.

Definitions

2.—(1) In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —

“master” includes the person in charge of a vessel;

“tongkang” includes any boat, barge, lighter, or other vessel, propelled by oars only or by sail only or by oars and sail;

“vessel” includes steamers, sailing vessels and tongkangs;

“cattle” includes horned cattle, deer, horses, ponies, mules and asses.

(2) For the purposes of these Rules, 3 pigs (not being enclosed in baskets) or 4 sheep or 4 goats shall be deemed to be equivalent to one head of cattle.

GENERAL RULES RELATING TO ALL VESSELS

Long voyages

3. When cattle are carried on board a vessel for a voyage which on an average takes more than 8 hours, the master and the chin chew shall cause to be provided for such cattle a sufficient amount of food and water and proper accommodation for the storage of food so that the food and water shall not be unduly exposed to the weather at sea.

Protection of cattle and livestock

4. Cattle and all other livestock shall be protected against injury and against unnecessary suffering from undue exposure to the weather by proper awnings, permanent or otherwise, to the satisfaction of the Inspector^{*}, and shall not be carried on iron decks unless such iron decks are overlaid with wood or some other suitable covering.

^{*} The Director of Marine, a Port Health Officer and a surveyor of ships *vide* section 237(4) of the Act.

Fittings to be fenced off

5. Ships' fittings likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering shall be properly and securely fenced off.

Treatment of livestock

6.—(1) Horned cattle shall not be slung by the horns and all livestock shall be shipped and landed in such manner as to avoid injuring the animals or causing them

unnecessary suffering and, if necessary, with proper slings or other appliances.

(2) Where necessary livestock shall be lifted by means of slings, and the slings shall be constructed in the manner shown in the diagram hereunder and shall consist of a canvas belly band or belt 3 feet in length and 2½ feet in width, the ends of which shall be fitted with round wooden stretchers over which the ends of the canvas sling or belt shall be securely sewn, and of two ropes, each of which shall be 9 feet in length and not less than 3½ inches in circumference, which shall be sewn along the length of the canvas band on both its sides and the ends of the ropes spliced together and fitted with an iron eye or thimble at each end. If one rope is used it shall be 18 feet in length and not less than 3½ inches in circumference and shall be arranged in the manner shown in the diagram.

(3) No livestock shall be shipped or landed if, by reason of the inclemency of the weather, the state of the tide or the draught of the ship injury or unnecessary suffering is likely to be caused to the livestock.

Destruction of injured animal

7. The master of a vessel shall destroy or cause to be destroyed forthwith any animal that is maimed or seriously injured, or has sustained a broken limb.

Pig baskets

8.—(1) All baskets for the carriage of pigs by sea shall be of a pattern approved by the Inspector. Each basket shall be of a size large enough completely to contain one pig but not so large as to allow the pig such freedom of movement as may enable it to cause injury to itself or to other pigs. Each basket shall be constructed in such a manner that the legs of the pig cannot protrude.

(2) Not more than one pig shall be carried in one basket. For the carriage of a pig from Singapore by sea the basket, if any, in which it is carried shall be made of round rattan. Baskets for the carriage of pigs by sea into Singapore may be constructed of split bamboo if their edges are so smoothed that they cannot cause injury.

(3) When loading or unloading pigs in baskets each basket shall be lifted by a pair of iron hooks fitted with wire or rope legs of equal length. The hooks shall be hooked securely, one at each end of the basket, in such a manner as to keep the basket in a horizontal position. Not more than two baskets shall be lifted together.

Stacking of pig baskets

9. Baskets in which pigs are carried shall not be stacked in such manner as to cause injury or suffering to the pigs.