



Further information on Animal Welfare (Calves) Regulations 2016

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You are responsible for ensuring that you are aware of all of your animal welfare obligations. The following links will help you understand your full responsibilities for transporting animals under New Zealand law:

- <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/> for Animal Welfare Act 1999 and animal welfare regulations; and
- <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/> for codes of welfare.

If you have questions about caring for bobby calves or the regulations, email animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz or phone 0800 00 83 33.

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General Queries

Why do we need regulations?

The Act

In New Zealand the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) requires owners and people responsible for animals, to ensure that the animals' physical, health and behavioural needs are met and that appropriate treatment is provided for any ill or injured animals under their care. Failure to meet these requirements is an offence under the Act. The Act sets the high level animal welfare obligations, and prescribes significant penalties for serious offending under the Act.

Codes of Welfare

Minimum standards and recommended best practices for the care and management of animals are published in codes of welfare issued under the Act. You can learn more about codes of welfare here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/>. Codes of welfare are important for setting minimum standards and can be used as evidence in prosecutions taken under the Act. If you are charged with an offence under the Act:

- evidence of your failure to meet a relevant minimum standard in a code may be used to support the prosecution
- your defence may include evidence that you equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in a relevant code.

Relevant codes of welfare for calves are dairy cattle, transport, commercial slaughter and sheep and beef cattle: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/>.

Regulations

In May 2015 the Government amended the Act and allowed regulations to be issued. Regulations set out mandatory and directly enforceable, animal welfare standards or requirements. The Animal Welfare (Calves) Regulations 2016 ("the Regulations") were made in July 2016.

Which regulations apply to calves and when are they in force?

We recognise that calves are vulnerable and that is why we've set clear guidelines and expectations for their care.

Seven regulations have been issued to strengthen the rules around calf welfare. The regulations set standards and requirements in accordance with good practice and scientific knowledge, and ensure that appropriate penalties can be applied when necessary to incentivise those in charge of calves to change their behaviour.

The majority of the Regulations apply to young calves, defined as a bovine up to 14 days old that has been separated from its mother. The prohibition on blunt force trauma applies to any calf, defined as a bovine that has not had milk (or milk replacer) permanently removed from its diet.

Four of the Regulations (numbered 5, 6, 7 and 11 in the Regulations) took effect from 1 August 2016:

- **5. Prohibition of killing calves by blunt force to the head**
Prohibiting the killing of any calves (not just young calves) by blunt force trauma except in emergency circumstances.
- **6. Fitness for transport**
The young calf must display certain physical characteristics, including freedom from disease and the ability to stand and move freely, before it can be transported.
The young calf must be at least four full days (96 hours) of age before it is transported.
- **7. Maximum duration of transport**
Setting a maximum total duration of 12 hours journey time for young calves that are being transported.
- **11. Prohibition of transport by sea across Cook Strait**
Prohibiting the transportation of young calves by sea across Cook Strait.

Three further regulations (numbered 8, 9 and 10 in the Regulations) take effect in 2017:

- **8. Requirements for loading and unloading** (1 August 2017)
Requiring loading and unloading facilities be provided when young calves are transported for sale or slaughter or as a result of sale, so that the calves can walk onto and off vehicles by their own action.
Additional requirement that all reasonable and practicable steps be taken to use these facilities.
- **9. Shelter requirements before and during transportation and at points of sale or slaughter** (1 August 2017)
Requiring that suitable shelter be provided for young calves before and during transportation and at points of sale and slaughter.
- **10. Maximum time off feed before slaughter** (1 February 2017)
Requiring that young calves must be slaughtered as soon as possible after arrival at the slaughter premises. The regulation also has feeding requirements if it is not possible to slaughter the calf within 24 hours of the last feed on farm.

You can view the full detail of the Animal Welfare (Calves) Regulations 2016 on the New Zealand legislation website: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>

What do I need to do?

Communication is key. Farmers, transporters and processors must talk to each other to ensure that the requirements for calf welfare are met.

If you own or are in charge of calves, you may need to change your current practice, systems, and facilities. Further detail is provided in the regulation specific sections within this document.

We encourage people who are aware of calf welfare issues to call the MPI hotline 0800 00 83 33 so that prompt action can be taken.

What is MPI doing to improve calf welfare?

MPI and industry have a collective responsibility to ensure the best welfare for calves. Together, MPI and industry organisations work with farmers, transporters and processors to support the humane treatment of calves. The Regulations are part of a suite of initiatives such as education programmes, supply chain system improvements, workshops and awareness campaigns that will all contribute to making a difference to calf welfare.

To learn more about the actions and improvements delivered by MPI working with industry you can visit the MPI website: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/media-releases/bobby-calf-welfare-everyone-has-a-role-to-play/>

This is a bobby calf problem. Why target beef producers too?

The definition of young calf in the Regulations may capture some beef animals.

There is no clear animal welfare reason to differentiate between calves based on their eventual purpose. For this reason the definition of a young calf was written with the intention of capturing any calf which has been separated from its mother and is up to 14 days of age.

Enforcement

The penalties for non-compliance

Each regulation has an associated penalty (see table below); the penalty level is determined by whether it is an infringement or a prosecution offence.

Infringement offences result in a fee but no criminal conviction.

Prosecutable offences under the Regulations are more serious than an infringement offence and may result in a criminal conviction. A fine can be imposed by the court up to the maximum amount stated in the Regulations, however there is no imprisonment associated with the regulation offences. For this reason, prosecutable offences “under regulations” are not designed to address the most serious animal welfare offending.

In more serious cases of animal welfare offending, prosecution under the Act is likely to be the most appropriate course of action with offences carrying higher financial penalties and imprisonment as maximum sentences, as well as disqualification from owning animals in the future.

The table below shows the maximum financial penalties associated with the Regulations. See note below about requirements for systems to ensure compliance. Penalties are different for individuals and companies:

Regulation		Penalty
5	Prohibition on killing calves by blunt force to the head	Prosecutable offence. A person who contravenes this regulation is liable on conviction,— a) for an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$3,000; b) for a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$15,000.
6	Fitness for transport	Infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500. An infringement can be issued for each calf unlawfully transported.
7	Maximum duration of transport	Prosecutable offence. A person who contravenes this regulation is liable on conviction,— a) for an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000; b) for a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.
8	Requirements for loading and unloading facilities	Penalty for not having facilities - Infringement offence with an infringement fee of \$500. Penalty for not using facilities - Prosecutable offence. A person who does not use the facilities is liable on conviction,— a) for an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$2,000; b) for a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.
9	Shelter requirements before and during transportation and at	Prosecutable offence. A person who contravenes this regulation is liable on conviction,— a) for an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$2,000;

	points of sale or slaughter	b) for a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.
10	Maximum time off feed prior to slaughter	Prosecutable offence. A person who contravenes this regulation is liable on conviction,— a) for an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000: b) for a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.
11	Prohibition of transport by sea across Cook Strait	Prosecutable offence. A person who contravenes this regulation is liable on conviction,— a) for an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000: b) for a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$25,000.

Some regulations also require certain persons, such as the owner or person in charge, to have systems in place which ensure compliance with the Regulations. Failure to ensure that such systems are in place could result in action being taken by the MPI's Compliance team.

Regulation 6 requires the owner or person in charge to have a system in place that if followed ensures a young calf is at least four full days (96 hours) of age to be transported and meets the requirements in the regulation in regard to fitness and maturity.

Regulation 7 requires the person in charge of a young calf during transport (e.g. the transporter) to have a system in place to ensure the journey from point of loading to the point of arrival at the final destination is no more than 12 hours.

Regulation 10 requires the person in charge of a young calf held at slaughter premises for slaughter (e.g. the processor) to have a system in place to ensure the calf is slaughtered as soon as possible after its arrival at the premises. If it is not possible to slaughter a calf within 24 hours after the calf was last fed on the farm, then the system must ensure the calf is fed appropriately, if it is able and willing to feed. The system must additionally ensure that the calf is slaughtered as soon as possible after it is fed or if the calf is unwilling or unable to feed, to humanely euthanise or slaughter the calf without delay.

Investigating complaints

MPI monitor compliance with the Regulations at processing premises, and in response to complaints received through the 0800 number. MPI has veterinarians stationed at all processing premises which process calves for human consumption. These veterinarians are also warranted animal welfare inspectors. An Animal Welfare Inspector will investigate complaints made to the 0800 number to identify whether there is any evidence of offending under the Regulations and/or the Act. If there is evidence of an offence MPI may consider a range of options for dealing with the offending, including providing education and assistance, issuing formal warnings or infringing or prosecuting under the Act or the Regulations.

The decision on whether to issue an infringement notice or to prosecute, requires careful consideration and will be taken in accordance with MPI's organisational policies on infringements and prosecutions - a prosecution or infringement may not be appropriate in all cases.

MPI has developed a plan for the implementation of the Regulations through 2017. This plan includes offering education and awareness programmes to those for whom the regulations are relevant, communicating with stakeholders and the public to raise awareness and promote best practice, and implementing a programme to monitor and assess compliance with the regulations using MPI inspectors located across the country.

On-farm and saleyards verification programme

MPI's on-farm and saleyards verification programme involves a visit to selected farms and saleyards by veterinarians from the MPI Verification Services (MPIVS), which verifies the information the supplier provides on the Animal Status Declaration (ASD) when livestock are sent to European Union listed meat processing premises. MPI uses a comprehensive checklist to ensure a nationally consistent approach by its staff when performing these verification visits.

Farms and saleyards are verified both randomly and as a result of specific issues related to the ASD. 1200 visits are to be completed in 2017, of which 300 are focussed specifically on the dairy sector. Dairy farm visits are principally conducted by a team of approximately 10 vets with experience in the dairy sector. A number of visits to dairy farms will be targeted to those dairy farms where there have been issues identified with the welfare of dairy calves and/or dairy cows sent for slaughter.

The on-farm visits involve verification of compliance with the statements on the ASD, including whether the supplier is meeting the Animal Products Act 1999 requirements and animal welfare systems and practices. If the farm is non-compliant, the supplier will be notified and given an opportunity to respond. If the non-compliance is not resolved, the matter will be escalated, which may prevent the farm from supplying processors for the European market.

At the same time as the on-farm verification visit, verifiers may exercise their inspection powers under the Animal Welfare Act. If there is evidence of a breach of the Animal Welfare Act, including the Calf Regulations, further action may be taken, including possible referral of the case to MPI's Compliance team for investigation.

Pet food processing premises

Facilities and handling of young calves at pet food premises are verified by MPI Verification Services to ensure they are following correct procedures, to comply with the Animal Products Act 1999. With the implementation of the Regulations in 2017 these verification audits will include a demonstration of compliance with the Regulations as well. MPI's Compliance team will become involved if there are issues identified that indicate non-compliance with the Regulations.

If you are given an infringement notice

If you are issued an infringement notice you can:

1. Pay the infringement notice in full.
2. Write a letter if there are circumstances relating to the offence that you would like to raise and which you think may provide grounds to request a waiver of the infringement.
3. Request a defended or non-defended court / judicial hearing

Full details on each option can be found here: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/paying-your-fine/>.

If you have been charged with a prosecutable offence

If you are charged with a prosecutable offence under the Regulations or the Act, you or your legal representative will be required to appear before the District Court. The normal criminal court processes will follow.

Humane Destruction

Regulation 5 prohibits the use of blunt force trauma to kill any calf.

Calf is defined as a bovine that has not had milk (or milk replacer) permanently removed from its diet.

Why has the use of blunt force trauma to kill calves been prohibited?

It was already prohibited by the Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare minimum standard 17(c), with an exception for unexpected or unforeseeable situations that require emergency humane destruction. Putting the prohibition into regulations makes it directly enforceable and will limit the practical risks that are presented by this method of killing.

What do I use instead of blunt force trauma?

Using a firearm or a captive bolt and then bleeding out is considered to be more certain to kill animals reliably without causing unnecessary pain or distress.

Fitness for Transport

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 requires that owners/persons in charge of animals ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animals are met (section 10). Calves must be healthy, strong and have been recently fed to be considered fit for transport. Prior to transport, young calves need to receive sufficient milk to ensure that their needs are met during the total length of the journey that they will take. For calves destined for slaughter, this also includes the time that they will spend in holding pens before they are slaughtered.

Farmers can talk to their transporter and processor to work out the journey length and the average time the calves will be held at the processing premises prior to slaughter. This can change towards the end of calving when fewer calves are being sent, so communication is key. Irrespective of the time of the calving season, the responsibility of the farmer is to ensure calves are well fed from birth until they are ready for transport, that they have no signs of disease or defect, they are warm and dry and bright and alert. Processors will have requirements under regulation 10 regarding the time from last feed on farm until slaughter which limits the time calves can be held at the processing premises prior to slaughter.

Regulation 6 introduces requirements around the age and physical characteristics necessary for young calves to be considered fit for transport.

Fitness for Transport – Age

Regulation 6 (Fitness for transport) requires that a young calf must not be transported unless it is at least four full days (96 hours) of age (Regulation 6(1)). The responsibility for this falls on the owner or person in charge on the farm, not the transporter. The Regulations also require that you have a system in place to ensure compliance with the age requirement. This means putting in place systems that

ensure that calves younger than four full days (96 hours) are not selected for transport, unintentionally or otherwise.

Think about how you track and would show the age of the calves, and the process the person in charge follows when selecting calves to meet this criteria. Required age is defined in the Regulations as four full days (96 hours of age). Some possible options to be considered for this system include:

- pen system (i.e. keeping calves born on the same day together in a pen)
- Coloured collars or paint
- Tag and track

Fitness for Transport – Physical Characteristics

Regulation 6 also requires that the young calf must not be transported unless it is free from signs of any injury, disease, disability or impairment that could compromise the calf's welfare during the journey. The calf must also be 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 must be firm and worn flat, and not bulbous with soft unworn tissue. The calf's navel must be shrivelled and not pink or red coloured, raw or fleshy (Regulation 6(3)).

The responsibility for this falls on the owner or person in charge on the farm, and the transporter. The regulation also requires that that a system is in place to ensure that calves not meeting these physical requirements are not transported.

The requirements are largely unchanged from the guidance and requirements in the codes of welfare. Under the Regulations, if farmers present an unfit calf for transport and the calf is taken for slaughter, both the farmer and the transporter could now face an infringement fee. An infringement notice can be issued for each calf unlawfully transported.

Transporters are not permitted to load unfit calves. Farmers need to check for calves rejected by the transporter before the time of the next feeding. Farmers are responsible for the calves' welfare and must take prompt action to treat or humanely destroy sick, or injured calves.

It is important to ensure that all those persons in charge of young calves understand how to identify young calves which are not fit for transport and know their responsibilities for the care and handling of calves. Training resources are available through DairyNZ and the code of welfare for dairy cattle provides further guidance.

MPI veterinarians monitor compliance with regulation 6 at meat processing premises. All calves arriving at the premises are inspected prior to slaughter.

The Journey

How far can calves travel?

Regulation 7 (Maximum Duration of Transport) provides that young calves must not be transported on journeys in excess of 12 hours. It also requires that persons in charge of young calves who transport young calves have a system in place to ensure compliance with this regulation.

A young calf is defined as a bovine that is up to 14 days of age and has been separated from its mother.

Why has the maximum journey time for calves been set at 12 hours?

Shorter journey times reduce the level of stress for young calves and reduce the risk of injury or exhaustion during the journey.

During consultation on the regulations it was determined that most journeys transporting young calves in NZ are shorter than twelve hours, however some transporters and processors may need to change their procurement system to ensure this journey length is not exceeded.

Transport across the Cook Strait?

Regulation 11 prohibits the transportation of young calves by sea across the Cook Strait.

A young calf is defined as a bovine that is up to 14 days of age and has been separated from its mother.

How can I be sure I will meet the requirements?

Communication is key. Farmers, transporters and processors must talk to each other to meet the requirements for calf welfare.

If you are a farmer, talk to your processor and transporter at the beginning of the season to find out where your calves are likely to go to, and the journey you are preparing them for. It is also very important that there is regular communication between all parties about the time that calves will be picked up on farm and when the farmer needs to provide the last feed to the calves, prior to transport.

Loading / Unloading

Loading / Unloading – Handling

Minimum standards within the codes of welfare and requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 for animal handling apply.

Guidance on handling calves with care is also available [here](#).

Young calves need to be handled gently and with care. Do not hit, kick, throw or drag calves. Electric prodders must not be used.

Loading calves will be made easier if facilities are designed and constructed according to the needs and abilities of animals.

If possible farmers or farm staff should be present at transport pick-up to help with loading and to ensure calves are handled with care.

Loading / Unloading – Facilities

Regulation 8 (Requirements for loading and unloading facilities) requires that young calves are able to walk onto or off the stock transport vehicle by their own action.

This regulation applies in situations where young calves are going to be loaded onto or unloaded from a stock transport vehicle, including:

- On farm
- At a saleyard
- At a processing plant.

A stock transport vehicle is defined as having a “loading height of 90 centimetres or more from the lowest point of the tyres to the height of the deck or body of the vehicle onto which a calf will be loaded.” This is intended to capture large, commercial livestock trucks.

This means if the deck height is lower than 90cm i.e. a farm ute or calf trailer, calves can be lifted in to the vehicle. This allows farmers to transport newborn calves to the calf shed, or for calf rearers to transport a small mob of calves off-farm on a covered trailer.

The farm must provide a facility, or make available other means, to allow the calf to walk onto the stock truck. Examples of this include a raised platform, a loading ramp, an embankment or lowering the height of the vehicle track relative to the calf shed. The wording within the regulation requires the owner or person in charge to ‘provide facilities designed to, or make available other means that, enable a calf to walk onto the stock truck...’. This wording permits individuals to meet the requirements of this regulation in a way that best suits their particular circumstances.

Under this regulation, the facilities or other means used to load and unload the calves, must minimise the risk of a calf slipping and injuring itself, falling off, or becoming otherwise injured. Things to consider when designing and building the facility include the surface of the pen/ramp, the height of the wall and gaps between railings.

Codes of welfare recommend a ramp slope of 12° for bobby calves.

DairyNZ cover both specification for a particular loading facility design and also a range of possible loading design options: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/bobby-calves/loading-facilities/>.

Saleyards and processing premises are also required to have loading and unloading facilities that comply with this regulation.

You may already have facilities which meet these requirements. However, it is recognised that some farmers and other businesses will need time to make the arrangements necessary to put suitable loading and / or unloading facilities in place. For that reason this regulation was introduced with a delayed commencement, coming into force on 1 August 2017.

Can transporters collect calves from farms without a loading facility?

Responsibility for the provision of loading / unloading facilities does not apply to the transporter. However, the use of unloading / loading facilities does apply to transporters.

Transporters and others involved in loading / unloading young calves for transport, must take all reasonable and practicable steps to ensure that young calves are not loaded onto or unloaded from a stock transport vehicle other than through the use of such facilities or means. If appropriate facilities are not present on farms, transporters must not pick up the calves.

It is recognised that not every calf will choose to walk even when it can. If it is absolutely necessary to lift a calf on or off a truck then calves should be handled with care.

Why do loading and unloading facilities need to be provided when calves are transported?

Loading and unloading can be the most stressful part of transport for young calves in part due to increased handling, which they are not used to. In situations where loading or unloading facilities are absent, the requirement to handle the animals – lifting and placing them in to the stock truck – is significantly greater than it would be otherwise. Requiring loading and unloading facilities which allow the calves to walk onto a truck by their own action will reduce the need to handle calves and, in turn, the risk of injuries caused by rough handling (however unintentional).

This regulation is also intended to ensure that calves can actually walk unassisted and are not suffering from an injury, disease, disability or impairment that would preclude the calf from walking onto the truck.

Do I have to use the loading / unloading facility to load the calves onto each level of the truck?

No. The loading / unloading facility only has to be used to get calves onto or off the truck. Moving calves between levels once on the truck is not covered by the regulation. However, minimum standards within the codes of welfare and requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 around animal handling still apply in these situations, e.g. the animals must not be thrown or dropped.

Do I need to build a ramp or a raised loading facility?

You might. The regulation requires that calves are able to walk onto or off the truck. This may require you to build a purpose-built loading facility, if you don't have other means for calves to be able to walk onto the truck.

Each farm is different and a one size fits all solution is unlikely. The regulation deliberately doesn't prescribe what the loading / unloading facility should look like, only what it must achieve - young calves being able to walk onto and off trucks, without becoming distressed, falling, slipping or otherwise injuring themselves. A raised loading facility might be a great solution for your farm / saleyard / plant. Equally, a ramp might work well for some but not for others.

Animal injury and distress can be avoided, and loading and unloading made easier, if facilities are designed and constructed according to the needs and abilities of animals. Codes of welfare recommend a maximum slope of 12° for ramps.

Farmers should talk with their transport operator before finalising a design or location to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose, accessible and safe for people and calves. This may require contacting the meat company to find out which transporter will be collecting the calves.

DairyNZ cover both specification for a particular loading facility design and also a range of possible loading design options: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/bobby-calves/loading-facilities/>.

I have a ramp rather than a pick up pen. Does this need to be covered?

The pen the young calves are waiting in needs to be sheltered against adverse weather, ventilated and clean and it must allow calves to stand up and lie down in a natural posture (see details below under Shelter). If using a ramp rather than a raised platform, this does not need to be covered provided the calves are only on the ramp during loading, and not while they are waiting to be collected.

How do I get calves into a raised loading pen?

Whilst a raised loading pen may well be the best solution for your farm and transporter, raised pens are not specified in the regulations and alternative facilities can be used if these suit the farmer and calves better.

The regulation deliberately does not cover getting calves into the loading facility. This is to allow farmers to decide what facilities and procedures suit them best. If calves need to be handled to get them into a loading facility such as a raised pen, it needs to be in accordance with codes of welfare and the Animal Welfare Act 1999. They may not be dragged, thrown or dropped. Industry guidance is also available to assist individuals in meeting these requirements.

How can I be sure I will be compliant? Can MPI provide me with specifications for the loading / unloading facility?

No, MPI is not endorsing a particular loading / unloading design or facility. This is because farms and trucks are all different and there is not a one size fits all solution.

Both the design and appropriate use of the facility are also important in ensuring compliance with the regulation.

Farmers should talk with their transport operator before finalising a design or location to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose, accessible and are safe for people and calves. This may require contacting the meat company to find out which transporter will be collecting the calves.

Saleyards and processors should already have appropriate unloading facilities for calves but they also need to assess their facilities to ensure they comply with the regulation.

DairyNZ cover both specification for a particular loading facility design and also a range of possible loading design options: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/bobby-calves/loading-facilities/>.

What about picking calves up from the paddock and lifting them on to trailers?

Regulation 8 only applies where calves are being unloaded / loaded from a stock transport vehicle. It doesn't apply where calves are being transported within a farm.

Minimum standards within the codes of welfare and requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 around animal handling still apply, e.g. that animals are physically handled in a way which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress e.g. animals must not be thrown, dropped etc.

Do saleyards need loading / unloading facilities for calves?

Yes, they do. Calves might be sold and transported on trailers with a deck height of less than 90cm, and so can be lifted on to and off the trailer. However, any calves that are being transported to or from the saleyard in a truck with a loading height of 90 cm or over 90cm will need to walk on to and off the truck using a loading facility (or other means).

Why can't we put hoists on the back of trucks?

Regulation 8 deliberately doesn't prescribe what the loading / unloading facility, or other means, should look like. It only specifies what it should achieve, which is that young calves should be able to walk onto and off trucks by their own action, without becoming distressed, falling, slipping or otherwise injuring themselves. This is deliberate to permit individuals to meet the requirements of this regulation in a way that best suits their particular circumstances.

Regulation 8 clearly places the responsibility for providing such facilities, or other means, onto the owner or person in charge (be it on farm, at a saleyard or at a slaughter premises) rather than the transporter.

As a result, whilst nothing in the regulation prohibits the use of hoists on the back of the truck, you should talk with your transport operator before finalising a particular option to ensure that it is fit for purpose, accessible and safe for people and calves. Solutions would need to both meet the regulations requirements and take into account safety and commercial considerations.

Shelter

What are the requirements around shelter for young calves?

Regulation 9 requires that shelter must be provided that:

- is ventilated;
- provides protection from adverse weather, so keeping the calves warm and dry;
- enables the young calf to stand up and lie down in a natural posture – so ensuring stocking density and roof height are chosen accordingly; and
- is clean - faeces and urine must not accumulate to the extent that may pose a threat to the health or welfare of the calf.

This regulation applies to an owner or person in charge where young calves are being held:

- before being transported off farm;
- at saleyards;
- at processing premises; and,
- applies to the transporter when the calves are on a vehicle used to transport them off farm or from a sales yard.

You may already have an existing structure (holding pen, vehicle) which meets all of these requirements, or it may be that you need to make some minor changes to ensure you are compliant with every component of the regulation. Stocking densities need to be considered to ensure calves are able to both stand up and lie down in a natural posture. Shelters might need to be flexible to provide greater protection on a cold windy day and more ventilation on a hot day.

If you do think you need to make some more major changes, industry guidance is available from: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/bobby-calves/loading-facilities/>.

If the holding pen in which calves are being held for a period of time before being transported off farm is the same structure as the loading facility i.e. a raised platform, it is then also important that the facility meets these shelter requirements.

If using a ramp rather than a raised platform, this does not need to be covered provided the calves are only on the ramp during loading, and not while they are waiting to be collected.

Why is the provision of shelter being regulated?

Young calves are more vulnerable to extremes of weather and temperature than older livestock. Lack of adequate shelter, especially in circumstances where calves are left unattended for extended periods of time, such as awaiting or during transportation, places them at risk of suffering hot or cold stress.

Regulating ensures that clear, mandatory standards are in place for the minimum level of shelter that must be provided for young calves in order to protect them from extremes of weather and temperature and from any other unnecessary discomfort from their physical environment.

How can I be sure I will be compliant? Can MPI provide me with specifications for the shelter?

No, MPI is not endorsing a particular design. This is because farms, saleyards, processing premises and trucks are all different and there is not a one size fits all solution.

Both the design and appropriate use of the shelter are also important in ensuring compliance with the regulation. A shelter might meet the requirements of the regulation in theory but if used inappropriately e.g. too many calves are held in the pen preventing them from lying down, in practice it would not be compliant.

Maximum time off feed before slaughter

Regulation 10 applies to all processors of calves whether the calves are destined for human consumption or pet-food.

What do I need to do?

Regulation 10 (Maximum time off feed before slaughter) requires that a young calf must be slaughtered as soon as possible after arrival at the slaughter premises, and within 24 hours of the last feed on farm.

If the calf is unable to be killed within the 24 hour window, regulation 10 allows for calves to be fed in lairage at slaughter premises. It requires a calf to be fed a volume of colostrum, milk or milk replacer that equates to at least 5% of a calf's body weight. If the calf is unable or unwilling to feed, it must be humanely euthanised or slaughtered without delay.

In practice, the dairy cattle code of welfare minimum standards and recommendations for best practice for feeding calves on farm can be followed. This means all calves need the opportunity to feed on a sufficient quantity of colostrum, milk or milk replacer, and need to be monitored to ensure they are feeding in the group. Good practice is to ensure sufficient teats for the number of calves, or monitor calves while feeding and remove calves once fed to allow other calves to feed; and provide a total volume that allows for at least 2 litres per calf in lairage.

Responsibility for having a system in place to ensure that these requirements are met falls on the processor. However, communication is key. This regulation requires the various different parts of the

supply chain (farms, transporters and processors) to communicate effectively. The Meat Industry Association, in consultation with DairyNZ and the transport industry, have developed a national system to meet the requirements of regulation 10(3) for calves destined for human consumption processing premises. It is expected that the majority, if not all bobby calf processors for human consumption, will use this national system. Processors do not have to follow the industry developed framework but their system does have to meet the requirements of the regulation.

Farmers must ensure that, prior to transport, calves receive proper and sufficient food to ensure that their needs are met both during the total length of the journey that they will take, and the time that they will spend in holding pens before they are slaughtered. Within the industry developed framework time of last feed must be recorded on your calf pick up docket, or transporters will not collect the calves. This is to allow processors to kill calves in time to meet their responsibilities under the regulations.

Under the industry developed framework, transporters will not pick up calves without a calf pick up docket with time of last feed recorded.

What happens if the truck is late?

Farmers need to feed calves in accordance with their agreement with the processor. Under the industry developed framework, a notified pick up time will be agreed between the processor, transporter and supplier at the start of each bobby calf season. Farmers need to record time of last feed on the calf pick up docket in order for calves to be collected for transport and processors to know when they were last fed.

If a transporter arrives late but the calves are still collected for slaughter, the onus is on the processor to ensure that calves are slaughtered as soon as possible after arrival, and within 24 hours, or they must be fed at the slaughter premises.

Farmers are responsible for meeting welfare requirements of calves that are rejected, not picked up or that remain on the farm. Such circumstances could arise when trucks are delayed and do not arrive on farm at the scheduled pick up time. It is understood that such circumstances can arise unexpectedly and are outside of a farmers' control. However, this does not absolve the farmers' responsibility for the welfare of calves while they are still in their care and until they are picked up.

A 'collection sign' for bobby calf pens is available from DairyNZ for farmers and transporters to use: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/bobby-calves/fit-for-transport/>. The sign aims to ensure all calves are fit for transport and provide a simple way for farmers and calf collectors to communicate regularly.

If calves remain on the farm, it is the farmer's responsibility to ensure calves are fed in accordance with the code of welfare.

Why has the maximum time off feed before slaughter been set at 24 hours?

The longer calves go unfed, the more their levels of adequate nutritional resources reduce and they become less able to withstand the stress of transport. They can also experience significant hunger, which is a welfare issue in itself.