



National Livestock Transport & Safety Group

# STOCK CRATE CODE

## For Transportation of Livestock

Quality  
Assurance  
Programme



Commenced	1997
Version 4	November 2004
Version 5	November 2013
Version 6	February 2016
Version 7	September 2017

## **PROGRAMME SCOPE**

- a) This programme provides assurance that crates used for transporting livestock meet relevant and necessary requirements as outlined in this document and other related rules, regulations and standards
- b) Crates meeting or exceeding the programme’s requirements shall be branded by QR coded tags fixed permanently to the crate.
- c) Crates may be certified for carriage of multiple or single species, and may be subject to certain other specific conditions.

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## **AUDIT STRUCTURE**

### **Certification Audit:**

An initial one off certification audit will be carried out on all crates by accredited AsureQuality auditors.

### **Repairs and Maintenance Inspections:**

Biennial two [2] yearly repairs and maintenance inspections will be required for each crate following its initial certification audit. Except for brand new crates which will be exempt for three [3] years before they require their first inspection.

If you are a member of the NZLTA Programme your crate is likely to be captured for inspection during random on plant checks. If you are not participating in this programme you will be required to organise your crate audits directly through your regional AsureQuality auditor.

**NB: It is the responsibility of the transport operator to maintain the crate to standard between inspections and ensure inspections are kept up to date. The right is reserved, by AsureQuality, to revoke accreditation at any time if the standards are not being met.**

## **AUDIT STANDARD & CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUEST (CAR) STRUCTURE**

Audit standards are taken from the Code of Practice for the Manufacture and Use of Stock Crates on Heavy Vehicles, New Zealand Standard 5413:1993, and this programme document must be read in conjunction with the Standard. Copies of the NZS 5413:1993 are available from Standards New Zealand.

Refer to appendix 1 for further details and explanation on the interpretation of this standard and its application to different types of crate, as well as some additional requirements added to those found in the Standard.

The crate will be evaluated against the above criteria and issued with one of the following statuses:

- i. Certified – the crate has met all requirements and is certified for use under certain conditions (conditions to be specified on certificate [appendix 6] to be retained by the transport operator).
- ii. Target Dated minor (m) – the crate has been inspected and does not meet the programme standard. Corrective Action required within 30 days.
- iii. Target Dated Major (M) – the crate has been inspected and does not meet the programme standard. Corrective Action required within 10 days.
- iv. Target Dated Critical (C) - the crate has been inspected and does not meet the programme standard. Corrective Action required within 24 hours.

Corrective Actions must be closed out within the required timeframes. Crates with outstanding CARs will not be eligible to deliver livestock to NZLTA Member plants.

For a crate to be accredited to carry deer it must be currently approved by the **New Zealand Game Industry Board QA Transport programme**.

## **FEE STRUCTURE**

### **Certification Audits**

All crates audited for the **first time** will be subject to the following fees: RTFNZ affiliated association members \$48 per crate, non RTFNZ association affiliated members \$125 per crate. These audits will be invoiced by AsureQuality as they are completed. All crates certified for the first time will be subject to a database management fee of \$48 per crate.

### **Crate Inspections**

AsureQuality will invoice each transport operator an annual fee for each crate on their crate list at a rate of \$48 for RTFNZ affiliated association members and \$125 for non RTFNZ association affiliated members. Crate Inspections completed by the crate manufacturer will be charged at a rate of \$48 per crate inspection.

Any audit requiring a visit to the transport operator depot by AsureQuality (initial certification audits, overdue repairs and maintenance inspections, visits to check corrective actions) will also incur charges for hourly rates plus mileage. The auditor will be able to provide an estimate of the cost prior to the visit if required.

### **QR Coded Crate Tags**

There is no separate fee for the new crate certification tags, however should a tag have to be replaced due to operator negligence this will incur a fee of \$65.

**NB: Fees indicated are exclusive of GST**

## **AUDITORS**

To find your local auditor please refer to the NZLTA website where a full list of RTF crate auditors are listed - [www.nzlta.co.nz](http://www.nzlta.co.nz).

**Note:** This code is subject to review at any time. Submissions are welcome, and appropriate amendment will be made, after consideration by the RTFNZ National Livestock Transport and Safety Group.

## APPENDIX 1

Interpretation of the Code and its application to different crate types.

### 1. References

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the **Code of Practice for the Manufacture and Use of Stock Crates on Heavy Vehicles, New Zealand Standard 5413:1993**.

References to the appropriate section of the Standard are noted in brackets and bold italic.

### 2. Standard Interpretation

#### **Scope (1)**

This programme shall apply to the livestock crates on vehicles with a GVM of more than 6000kg.

#### **Construction (4)**

##### **All stock crates (4.1)**

Timber may only be used for floor deck grating spacing, overhead walkways, and for ramp partition.

Timber is sometimes used as spacing under grating on the central pan on the upper cattle deck. This is not allowed for crates manufactured after 1<sup>st</sup> January 1994. Spacing of impervious material should be used - eg, metal or plastic.

Crates manufactured prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1994 – timber may be retained but is not recommended. **The following must apply:**

- Proof of date of construction must be provided.
- H4 treated pine (or equivalent) with a smooth surface must be used – readily removable for steam or pressure cleaning.
- Readily replaced if instructed to do so by an Inspector under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Biosecurity Act 1993, or the Meat Act 1981.

Sections **4.1.2** and **4.1.3** do not apply.

##### **Doors (4.3)**

Minimum opening width of 700mm.

All hinges, latches and lock pins must be secure.

Rear sliding door pins shall protrude 50mm below the latch, or have suitable locking device. This applies to all new crates manufactured after 1 January 2005.

Note (2) – A sight board is not required

## **Panelling and partitions (4.4)**

### **Metal crates (4.4.1)**

The horizontal or vertical ventilation gaps shall not be greater than 100mm (this is to prevent an animal's leg coming through the side of the crate). Round ventilation holes on **some** crates shall be no greater than 125mm in diameter.

If the gap is wider than the dimensions described the aperture opening can be reduced by fixing a rod through the middle.

### **Ventilation (4.4.2)**

Ventilation shall be sufficient to provide adequate airflow to all pens when fully loaded to prevent overheating or suffocation of stock.

Mesh covers shall be fitted to all crates no later than 30 May 2016

Note (2) – Vehicle engine exhaust should be under slung.

### **Contamination between pens (4.4.5)**

Partitions between cattle pens need to be solid to sufficient height to prevent contamination between pens, but this is not necessary for partitions between sheep pens – ie, the longitudinal partitions or the transverse partition on the top sheep deck.

### **Open crates (4.4.6)**

The return is not required where cattle are carried on the bottom deck only and sides are well in excess of 1400mm. All crates which carry cattle on an upper deck must have a return.

For unconditional carriage of adult cattle on the top cattle deck the height must be at least 1400mm. If the deck height is less than this there will be a condition such as – “No cattle with a shoulder height greater than 1350mm (or whatever the deck height is) to be carried on the top cattle deck”.

For young calves to be carried on the top deck the height must be at least 900mm.

### **Stock Footholds (4.5)**

As of 2020 Stock crates that are 2 deck cattle, and 3 or 4 deck sheep must be fitted with covers. Stock crates that are single deck cattle, and 2 deck sheep are to have the provision to have covers fitted for the carriage of bobby calves if required.

### **Grip-bars (4.5.3)**

Suitable for any species although grating is preferable on all decks. Consideration should be given for transporting sheep and young calves. Grip bars may be fitted to the third deck only. The spacing must be no greater than 100mm between bars.

All other decks **must have suitable grating** – ie, grating required on the bottom floor, the 2<sup>nd</sup> multi species deck, and the 4<sup>th</sup> deck. Grip bars are **not acceptable** on these decks.

### **Alternative treatments**

Decks which have grip bars that require grating can be upgraded by removal of the runners and having grating attached. Plastic grating is good and aluminium punch plate (aluminium plate with holes punched in it) can also be used but can be difficult to clean.

Any grating must provide suitable foothold for stock and **not** have a smooth surface.

Crates with an upper deck which drains to the outside that have a central pan of smooth aluminium shall have grating attached. Aluminium punch plate is recommended.

### **Decks (4.6)**

All deck hinges and latches must be secure.

Crates with a fixed central pan will not be approved for carrying horses as this can cause injuries.

### **Internal Races (4.7)**

The gradient of ramps must not be too steep. Stock must be able to ascend and descend without losing footing.

The pen floor which forms the ramp to the top cattle deck may be in the form of steps. This cannot have grating or grip bars affixed, and is suitable, as is, only for cattle. If young calves, sheep and pigs are to be carried in this pen there must be some temporary removable grating which can be laid on top of it.

The pen floor which forms the ramp to the first sheep deck may have grip bars for better grip provided they are modified with closer runner spacing as in **4.5.3** above.

All other pens on this deck must have grating.

The front pen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> multi species deck on some trailers can also be used as a ramp. If grip bars are on this pen then temporary removable grating must be used in this pen when carrying stock.

### **Effluent Containment (4.8.4)**

Containment of effluent is a requirement of the Industry Code of Practice for the Minimisation of Stock Effluent Spillage from Trucks onto Roads. Effluent tanks shall be fitted, or some other suitable form of effluent containment - eg: this will apply to tipper trucks fitted with stock crates.

### **Effluent Discharge Control (4.9.5)**

Effluent holding tank discharge control shall conform with relevant land transport legislation.

### **Crate Retention Devices**

Section **5.1** and **5.2** will not be audited.

Section **5.3**. The number of retention devices will be specified on the manufacturer's certification plate (*see Section 3*).



## **Maintenance**

Welding does not have to meet Section **(4.1.3)**.

### ***Additional requirements:***

No excessive corrosion cracks or broken welds that is likely to cause injury or contamination of stock. **(7.3)**.

Walkways and ladders are to be in good repair. **(7.4)**

## **Appearance**

Crate must be clean inside and out.

The general appearance of the crate shall be clean, tidy and safe.

Nothing shall compromise the safety of the animals or people using the crate, or the inherent safety of the crate.

## APPENDIX 2

### Application Form

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of trucks: ¾ deck \_\_\_\_\_ 2 deck \_\_\_\_\_

Trailers: ¾ deck \_\_\_\_\_ 2 deck \_\_\_\_\_

Fleet capacity: Sheep \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle \_\_\_\_\_

Company yards: Yes No Washing facilities: Yes No

Capacity of yards: \_\_\_\_\_

Effluent disposal: Yes No Capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

Association membership: RTF \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Crates for Accreditation: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The information collected above may also be used to compile a Livestock Transport Register which may be used in the event of civil emergencies where transportation of livestock is required.

Send to:  
RTF Technical Coordinator  
RTF Crate Certification Programme  
AsureQuality Limited  
Private bag 4718  
Christchurch, 8140, or email [nzlta@asurequality.com](mailto:nzlta@asurequality.com)

# APPENDIX 3

## Crate Certification Checklist

### CRATE IDENTIFICATION<sup>\*\*\*</sup>(NB - Below)

<b>COMPANY:</b>		<b>TRUCK</b>	<b>TRAILER</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<b>ID N°</b>		
<b>LOCATION:</b>	*** Removable crates = manufacturers crate ID (not rego N°) - Non removable (dedicated) crates = can be rego N°		
<b>PHONE:</b>	<b>Make</b>		
<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b>	<b>New/Old</b>		

<b>Outside</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impervious materials</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ventilation (100mm max opening)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retention approved number and type</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External doors must be firmly fixed</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinged exterior doors retained on hinges</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door pin 50mm below latch or pin locked</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appearance</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance – Welding</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhaust (should be under-slung)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covers must be fitted and operational</li> </ul>	
<b>Effluent Containment and Tankage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effluent tanks or effluent containment</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solid sides to the floor</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharge outlets &gt; 75mm diameter</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discharge air control must not to be operable from drivers position in the cab</li> </ul>	
<b>Inside</b>	
<b>Doors</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening 900mm recommended (min 700mm)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All hinges and latches must be secure</li> </ul>	
<b>Decks</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soiling from above</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinges and latches must be secure</li> </ul>	
<b>Drainage and Effluent Spillage Control</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate fall to gutters</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Down-pipes (max to floor 150mm)</li> </ul>	
<b>Panelling and partitions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flush fittings</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contamination between pens</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return at the top</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed central pan (Yes = no horses)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 1400mm cattle top cattle (shoulder height) deck (900mm young calves)</li> </ul>	<b>Heights</b> – Top cattle deck _____ 4 <sup>th</sup> deck _____
<b>Stock footholds</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gratings</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grip bars upper cattle deck only</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For multi-species maximum opening 100mm<sup>2</sup> (150mm for existing crates)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal races (not too steep)</li> </ul>	
<b>Comments</b>	
PASS <input type="checkbox"/> TARGET DATED <input type="checkbox"/> Auditor.....      Signed..... <span style="float: right;">Date.....</span>	

## APPENDIX 4

### Crate Inspection Checklist

<b>COMPANY:</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>
<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b>

CRATE PLAQUE ID N°	TRUCK	TRAILER
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<i>Exterior</i>	<i>Comments. If satisfactory tick this box</i>
<b>Doors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External doors firmly fixed</li> <li>• Door pin 50mm below latch or pin locked</li> </ul>	
<b>Covers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be fitted and operational</li> </ul>	
<b>Effluent Containment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effluent tanks fitted</li> <li>• Discharge outlets &gt; 75mm diameter</li> </ul>	

<i>Interior</i>	<i>Comments. If satisfactory tick this box</i>
<b>Doors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All hinges and latches secure</li> </ul>	
<b>Decks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soiling from above</li> <li>• Hinges and latches must be secure</li> </ul>	
<b>Panelling and partitions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flush fittings. No sharp protrusions</li> </ul>	
<b>Stock footholds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gratings</li> <li>• Grip bars upper cattle deck only</li> </ul>	

<b>PASS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>TARGET DATED</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Auditor</b> .....
<b>Signed</b> ..... <b>Date</b> .....



## APPENDIX 6

### Certificate Template



Helping Aotearoa shape a better food world

## Jo Bloggs Transport Ltd

444 Truck Road, RD 28, Cartington 4678

This crate has been audited by AsureQuality Limited and found to have met the requirements of the following code of practice:

### Road Transport Forum Stock Crate Code for Transportation of Livestock

The standards for this QA Programme are set by the Road Transport Forum New Zealand (Inc), Version 7 August 2017

Audited to transport the following livestock:

Cattle, Bobby Calves, Sheep, Goats, Pigs

**Notes:**

1. Effluent holding tank discharge shall not be operative from the vehicle driving position.
2. All crates shall be fitted with covers which must be used as appropriate when livestock are in transit.

**Conditions:**

No cattle to be carried on the top (4<sup>th</sup>) deck.

QR Tag Number: AQ0001

Stock Crate No: 4444

Date of Certification: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Ballinger'.

**Kim Ballinger** Chief Executive Officer



This certificate remains the property of AsureQuality Ltd, 7a Pacific Rise, Mt Wellington, Auckland 1060, New Zealand  
+64 9 573 8000, info@asurequality.com, asurequality.com

## APPENDIX 7

### QR Coded Crate Tag



#### **NB: CrateScan App**

The CrateScan App can be downloaded to android or iphone and is used to read the information embedded in your QR Coded Tags. For full details of how to download and use this App please email AsureQuality at [nzta@asurequality.com](mailto:nzta@asurequality.com) or download the instructions from the NZLTA website [www.nzlta.co.nz](http://www.nzlta.co.nz).