



Managing effluent in the livestock supply chain – a registered industry code of practice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is a registered code of practice?

A: A Code of Practice registered under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL) is an information resource for parties in the Chain of Responsibility which will assist them to comply with their primary duty obligation.

A registered code will outline what is known about hazards or risks, risk assessments and risk controls relating to the topic of the code.

A registered code can also be used by a court as evidence of what is known about the hazards, risks and controls relating to the topic of the code.

Q: What are the benefits of adopting the Effluent Code?

A: A code of practice is a way to share industry knowledge and experience about how to work safely. A code's recommendations can deliver substantial improvements in safety to individual businesses and to overall safety within an industry.

Apart from its safety benefits, the Effluent Code may also promote consistency in the way that tasks are carried out. If businesses share an understanding of risks and the best ways to avoid or manage them, they can coordinate better when they work with each other by using common terminology and aligning systems, processes, and equipment.

Adoption of the Effluent Code, in particular, will also improve animal welfare outcomes and the health and safety of workers involved in livestock handling. It will also reduce the risk of environmental damage including the spread of weeds, pests and disease.

Q: Who has a Primary Duty for livestock transport under the HVNL?

A: Parties in the Chain of Responsibility for livestock transport have a Primary Duty to ensure the safety of the heavy vehicle transport activities they influence or control.

The hazard addressed by the Effluent Code is the loss of load when effluent spills from a livestock transport vehicle, and CoR parties should use the Effluent Code to understand what they can do to eliminate or minimise the risk of this occurring.

Q: Why should producers, agents and processors participate in implementing the Effluent Code?

A: As parties in the Chain of Responsibility, producers, agents and processors all have a primary duty obligation to do what is reasonably practicable to reduce instances of effluent loss during road transport, in the parts of the supply chain they influence or control.

The Effluent Code provides important guidance for these parties on how they can contribute to eliminating or minimising the risks arising from livestock effluent loss.

Q: What are the risks if effluent spills occur?

A: Spilled effluent can cause the roadway to become slippery, creating a risk to public safety, particularly on bends, corners, undulating surfaces or where otherwise unexpected by drivers.

Large amounts of effluent in the road corridor presents a risk to public amenity, particularly in urban or built-up areas.

In extreme cases, the persistent presence of livestock effluent in road corridors can undermine support for the livestock supply chain.

Q: Must parties in the supply chain implement all the risk management controls described in the Effluent Code?

A: Parties in the Chain of Responsibility are not bound to implement any or all the controls described in a Code of Practice. However, the hazards and risks described in the Code must be eliminated or minimised if they are present in the party's transport activities.

This means a party must find a way to control the hazard or risk, and if different from the control described in the Code, it must be at least as effective as the control described in the code.

Q: What do livestock transporters need to do to implement the Effluent Code?

A: Livestock transporters should use the advice in the Effluent Code to manage their transport activities. In particular, the code encourages information sharing between CoR parties at all stages of the transport journey. The information in the code is an important resource for all parties to understand what good practice should look like.

Q: What can you do when a producer does not prepare their stock appropriately?

A: Stock preparation is one important element of livestock effluent management during road transport, but it is not always essential, for example on very short journeys. When it is a critical factor in preventing or minimising the risk of effluent spillage, use the information in the code during discussions with all CoR parties to point out what good practice should look like.

In extreme cases, or when there is repeated non-compliance, breaches of the Heavy Vehicle National Law can be reported to the NHVR via the Heavy Vehicle Confidential Reporting Line on 1800 931 785.

Q: Why have a code of practice when there are no roadside effluent disposal facilities in Australia?

A: Despite a lack of effluent disposal infrastructure there are things that all parties can do to minimise or eliminate the risk of effluent spillage during road transport. These actions are outlined in the Effluent Code.

The information in the code should influence all parties in the livestock supply chain to consider the availability and effectiveness of the equipment and facilities they provide to help manage livestock effluent during road transport.

Where industry stakeholders identify a need for the provision of an effluent disposal facility, the information in the code can be used to support proposals for construction of these facilities by industry and/or governments.

Q: Do road safety enforcement agencies know about the Effluent Code?

A: The NHVR have provided information about the Effluent Code to road agencies and police in all participating jurisdictions. The code will also be an important information resource for compliance activities involving livestock effluent loss.

Q: Where can I get a copy of the Effluent Code?

A: The Effluent Code is available to access online on the NHVR website at <https://www.nhvr.gov.au/ricp>

Q: Who can I contact for more information about the Effluent Code?

A: For more information about the Effluent Code, contact ALRTA at office@alrta.org.au or the NHVR at codes@nhvr.gov.au.