

BACKGROUND

Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of beef cattle during transportation is important to farmers, transporters, and the public. In fact, for the public, encountering cattle trailers on the highway may be a consumer's first point of contact with livestock. Standards are in place to ensure the health and safety of every animal during loading, transportation, and unloading.

KEY MESSAGES

- **Everyone involved with loading, unloading and transportation of cattle is dedicated to do so as safely and humanely as possible.** Before cattle are transported humanely they must be healthy, free of injury and at no risk of calving while in transport¹.
- There are per animal space requirements for transport, which consider the size of the animals being transported to allow for movement and comfort while in transit¹.
- There are maximum time limits that cattle can be on a truck without feed, water or rest to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the animals¹.
- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) along with federal and provincial counterparts, regulates livestock transport in Canada under Part XII of the Health of Animals Regulation.
- Every animal arriving at a processing plant is inspected. If any concerns arise, the animals are thoroughly investigated by the CFIA.
- The “Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle” includes **standards and protocols for pre-transport decision-making, loading, and receiving beef cattle**¹. The code was created with input from industry, animal care specialists, academics, veterinarians, government, and animal welfare advocacy groups like the Canadian Federation of Human Societies¹.
- The largest Canadian beef cattle transport study ever completed determined that 99.98% of beef cattle in transit for short hauls (4 hours or less) and 99.95% of cattle in transit on long hauls (4 hours or more) reach their destination in good condition².

SPACE REQUIREMENTS FOR CATTLE

- Sufficient space for full range of head movement.
- Ability for the animal to maintain its preferred position.
- Ability for the animal to stand at all times with all four feet on the floor with head elevated.
- Sufficient space so that no part of the animal's body comes in contact with the roof of the container.



**Canadian
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CANADIAN BEEF
Public & Stakeholder Engagement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why do cattle need to be transported in Canada?

Cattle are transported as part of a safe and effective food system. At different stages of their lives, cattle may be moved to different farms that specialize in raising cattle of that particular stage of growth. Typically, starting their lives on a pasture-based system with their mothers, they will then be moved to a feed yard where they are fed an increasingly high-energy diet to encourage growth and meat quality. Eventually these animals will be transported to abattoirs for processing.

Is there any training required to transport livestock in Canada?

Truck drivers who deliver cattle can access training sessions on topics including animal handling, loading and unloading cattle, truck and trailer maintenance and biosecurity offered by the Canadian Livestock Transport certification program or Beef Quality Assurance transportation program.

Who oversees the transport regulations for livestock in Canada and how are they enforced?

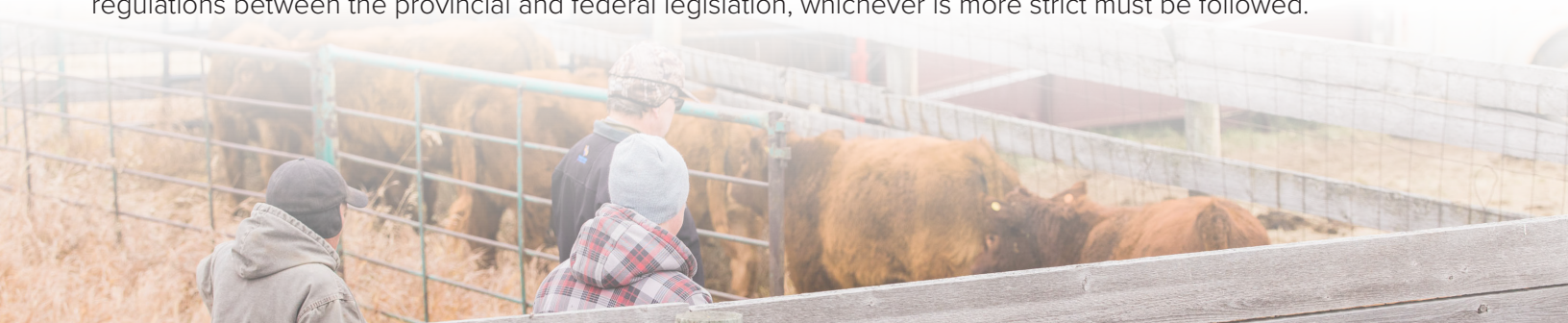
There are several authorities that regulate and ensure safe transportation of livestock into, within and out of Canada including:

- Health of Animals Act (HAA) - Provides the authority to make regulations to protect animal welfare.
- Health of Animals Regulation (HAR) - Part XII (transport of animals) outlines for specific livestock transportation.
- Safe Food for Canadians Act (SFCA) - Put into action by the Safe Food for Canadians Regulation which ensures the humane treatment of food animals.
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) - Enforces the work done by SFCA at federally run plants.

In addition, there are specific provincial regulations which are enforced by provincial plants. If there are overlapping regulations between the provincial and federal legislation, whichever is more strict must be followed.

Maximum amount of time beef cattle can be without water, feed or rest as required by the Health of Animals regulations³:

Animal Type	Max Time
Cattle that can exclusively be fed hay and grain	36 hours
Cattle too young to be fed exclusively hay and grain	12 hours



1. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle (2013). National Farm Animal Care Council. <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle> (Accessed Jan. 24, 2024)
2. Effect of Ventilation Management Strategies and Stocking Density During Transport on Trailer Microclimate and Calf Welfare. Beef Cattle Research Council Research Summary. <https://www.beefresearch.ca/fact-sheets/improving-calf-transportation/> (Accessed Jan. 24, 2024)
3. Health of Animals Regulations: Part XII: Transport of Animals. Canadian Food Inspection Agency. <https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/health-of-animals-regulations-part-xii/eng/1582126008181/1582126616914> (Accessed Jan 24, 2024)