

# The responsibilities of livestock transporters in terms of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984)

## Notice: All transporters of livestock



## InfoPak 1

### The current threat of foot and mouth disease virus

The single greatest risk of introducing **Foot and mouth disease (FMD)** into the Western Cape is with the introduction of infected livestock (cattle, sheep and goats), but anything that had contact with an infected animal or its environment can spread the disease. These include animal products (milk, meat, wool, etc.), their feed and bedding, people working or in contact with infected animals and their clothes, shoes, etc. and any object, including the vehicles and handling equipment that had contact with any secretions (dung, urine, saliva, milk) of FMD infected animals. Infected animals can be infectious to other cloven-hoofed animals, even though the animals may not appear sick.

The effect of introducing this highly infectious animal disease into our province will be catastrophic, not only for the affected animal and human populations, but also for the economy of this province. It endangers food security, trade, jobs and the mental well-being of animal owners and farming communities.

### The responsibilities of livestock transporters

Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984) assigns certain responsibilities, not only to the owners of animals, but also to the owners or managers of land on which animals are kept, as well as to their staff, agents and family.

For clarity, the relevant clauses related to livestock transport from Section 11 reads:

1. To take all reasonable steps **to prevent infection** of the animals with any animal disease or parasite.
2. To **prevent the spreading** thereof from that land or animals.
3. If there is a reasonable suspicion that it is controlled animal disease, **to report** it to the local state veterinarian.
4. To prevent/limit the spread of parasites such as ticks, animals may **only be moved** if they are **visibly free from external parasites**, as required in Regulation 20 (iii).

### The liability of livestock transporters

**Contravention** of the above legislated responsibilities by an animal owner and/or a land owner is described as an offence in Section 32 of Animal Disease Act. Through **vicarious liability** described in Article 34 (2) an employee, representative or agent of the principal (owner) can by an act or omission also contravene the Animal Disease Act. This include, therefore, a **livestock transporter** who transport animals when they are infected or deemed to be infected with a controlled animal disease, who will be guilty of an offence.

- Section 26 of Animal Disease Act, however, provides for an animal transport service to **refuse to transport** animals
- If they are known to be, or are suspected to be infected with a controlled animal disease; when the consignor is unable to provide a required permit or other document;
- if there is any prohibition to remove or transport an animal from its origin or detention of animals in accordance with a written direction by the Director.

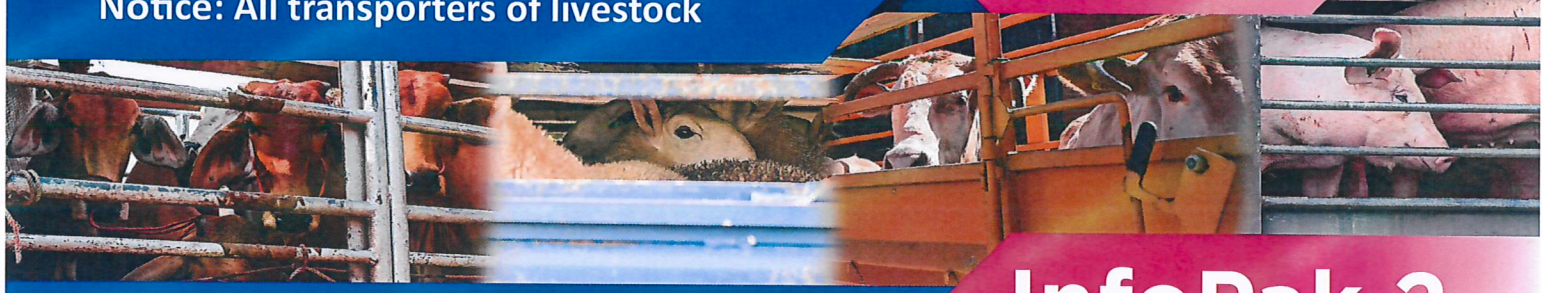
The livestock transporter **will thereby be released from liability** under the Act. The **animal owner will be liable** to the transport service for any cost incurred in connection with the detention or disposal of such animals.





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## InfoPak 2

### How can animal transporter mitigate the risk of spreading FMD?

To protect yourself and our province, every livestock transporter in the Western Cape Province should implement the following steps:

1. No cloven-hoofed animals should be purchased and moved from **Disease Management Areas (DMA)** or from properties under quarantine. The current FMD DMAs are declared in [Government Gazette Notice 50977 of 26 July 2024](#).
2. Cattle vaccinated against FMD in a DMA should be branded with an "F" mark, usually on the right-hand side of the neck, and should not be moved, except when it is directly to an abattoir for slaughter, under cover of a red-cross permit issued by their state veterinarian. Never transport such animals without a valid red-cross permit properly disinfect your truck directly after unloading such animals at the abattoir. If you see or hear of cattle in the Western Cape with such a brand, please report them immediately to the local state veterinarian.
3. Do not move animals if they may have a disease. The consignor and consignees of the animals are required to provide declarations in accordance with the July 2024 Government Gazette Notice. Both the **health declaration from the owner** (consignor) of the livestock, as well a **declaration by the recipient to isolate the animals at destination** (unless they are destined for direct slaughter) must accompany all consignments. The truck driver should require these documents in accordance with Section 26 (1) (ii) of the Animal Disease Act and he may refuse to transport the animals if they are not provided.
4. Keep your truck clean. Every truck should be washed to remove all organic material after every consignment of animals have been unloaded and before the next consignment is loaded, preferably before leaving the farm/abattoir where animals were unloaded, and at the Depot. This should be followed by disinfection with a disinfectant registered to kill the FMD-virus. The correct concentration and wetting times must be adhered to. A valid "**wash-certificate**" should accompany the truck and should be showed to the farmer before livestock are loaded.
5. To monitor and investigate possible high-risk livestock movements in and to our province the Western Cape Veterinary Services made an online cloven-hoofed movement notification portal available. Every truck driver should register and use the registration link to **report every consignment of livestock movement**. An automated reference number is emailed and can be used as proof of compliance and evidence that the livestock transporter is cooperating to protect our province. The link to register <https://smarttech.elsenburg.com/survey/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=558864&lang=en> or **QR code (right)**, is also available on the Department of Agriculture's website: <https://www.elsenburg.com/veterinary-services/animal-health-and-disease-control/>
6. If any person becomes aware of a suspect high-risk movement of livestock into our province or your area, **please report** it to the local livestock theft unit of the SAPS and to the local state veterinarian.
7. Should anyone see suspicious clinical signs (salivation, blisters in the mouth, limping or hoof lesions, severe mastitis in lactating dairy cows), it should be reported to the local state veterinarian immediately and such **animals must not be moved under any circumstances**. The contact details for the local state veterinary office are available at: <https://rb.gy/tii7zw>
8. **Traceability of animals** are not only useful to prove ownership, but it is a legislative requirement in terms of the Animal Identification Act, [Act No. 6 of 2002](#) and the Stock Theft Act, [Act No. 57 of 1959](#). It can also help to trace movements of animals, which is valuable for disease control purposes. As livestock transporter it is prudent to





# The responsibilities of animal owners in terms of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984)

## Notice: All owners of livestock



## InfoPak 2

require that the animals that you convey should be identified correctly with the registered brand of the animal owner.

Together we can prevent FMD from entering our province and the severe economic losses that can accompany this.

For further information and examples of all documents mentioned, please visit the Western Cape Veterinary Services website at <https://shorturl.at/Hxfeo>

To learn more about FMD, visit the WCDoA website: <https://bit.ly/3PpeK8R>

### Contacts:

TITLE	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	ADDRESS
State Veterinarian: George	044-803-3771/0	SVGeorge@westerncape.gov.za	4 Varing Avenue, George
State Veterinarian: Boland	021-808-5028/ 5253	SVBoland@westerncape.gov.za	Western Cape Department of Agriculture building, Muldersvlei road, Elsenburg
State Veterinarian: Swellendam	021-808-5059/ 028-425-4850	DOA.svswellendam@westerncape.gov.za	67 Voortrekker St, Swellendam
State Veterinarian: Beaufort West	023-414-9220/1	DOA.svbeaufortwest@westerncape.gov.za	Blyth St, Beaufort West
State Veterinarian: Vredendal	027-201-3514/-0	DOA.svvredendal@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Matzikama and Noord St. Vredendal
State Veterinarian: Malmesbury	022-433-8915/0	DOA.svmalmesbury@westerncape.gov.za	Cnr Spoorweg and Munisipale St, Malmesbury
State Veterinarian: Oudtshoorn	044-203-9443/5	DOA.svoudtshoorn@westerncape.gov.za	43 Van Der Riet St, Oudtshoorn
State Veterinarian: Worcester	021-808-5052	DOA.svworcester@westerncape.gov.za	30 Van Arckel St, Worcester

