

FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS AND DRIVERS OF LIVESTOCK



1. FOREWORD

The Farm Assured Namibian Meat (FAN Meat) Scheme was developed in a collaborative effort between the Meat Board of Namibia (MBN) and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) following and Industry decision for the safeguarding of Namibian meat markets.

The need for livestock traceability and farm assurance in Namibia arose from an outbreak of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in humans in the United Kingdom from 1986 to 2001. The Namibian Livestock and Meat Industry and DVS acted pre-emptively through the development of an extensive livestock identification and traceability system (NamLITS) which is utilized by the FAN Meat scheme to provide assurance regarding the safety, wholesomeness and quality of Namibian meat.

The FAN Meat Scheme Logo was published on 29 September 1999, Government Notice number 195, Gazette number 2193. The cabinet during the same sitting pronounced the FAN Meat Scheme as a National Scheme. The Meat Board is the mandated administrator of the FAN Meat Scheme.

The FAN Meat Scheme was developed to include all Namibians and the rules and standards of the scheme are based on National Legislation combined with Good Agricultural Practice and Animal Welfare principles.

The FAN Meat value chain includes Producers at farm level, and non-producers, which are: Livestock Feed Manufacturers, Agents and auctioneers, Transporters, Export Abattoirs and Feedlots.

The Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme Logo symbolizes assurance for safety, wholesomeness, quality and traceability of Namibian export meat. Meat produced under this scheme, is:

- Naturally produced in extensive free range conditions OR grain fed;
- Hormone free;
- Antibiotic residue free;
- Carries Negligible risk for Mad Cow Disease;
- Originates from livestock which were humanely treated;
- Traceable from abattoir to the farm of origin.

This document sets out the standards for livestock transport operators and drivers of livestock under the FAN Meat scheme.

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3. DEFINITIONS

FAN MEAT FREE RANGE / PASTURE RAISED Means all livestock are raised under extensive conditions with continuous and unrestricted access to pastures that are suitable as fodder for their entire life. Short term confinement is restricted to times of inclement weather, veterinary treatment or giving birth. Feed supplements can be given to ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. Concentrates may be given at a maximum of 1% of bodyweight to prevent substitution of pasture.

Meat derived from free range / pasture raised livestock have a specific taste and colour expectation and have positive health benefits in terms of low fat content, higher protein content, a higher Omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acid content and carries a positive image in terms of animal welfare and environmental impact.

In the case of drought conditions and where an adequate amount or quality natural pasture is not available, suitable fodder and feed supplements should be provided to ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. A full feed containing concentrates at a maximum of 1% bodyweight may be given. This includes the feeding of “boskos” as a complete feed, where bush biomass should constitute the main ingredient of the feed and added concentrates within the limits of this standard.

A period of rounding off of livestock prior to slaughter in kraals without unrestricted access to pastures constitutes feedlotting and will disqualify livestock as free range / pasture raised. Feeding concentrates in excess of 1% bodyweight during rounding off, even with unrestricted access to pasture will be regarded as substitution of pasture, and will disqualify livestock as free range / pasture raised.

FAN MEAT GRAIN FED Means livestock are kept in an area for fattening and are fed a nutritionally balanced ration of a high energy content, meaning concentrates are fed in excess of 1% bodyweight, for a minimum period of 40 days.

Meat derived from grain fed livestock have a specific taste and colour expectation, with higher levels of intramuscular fat.

In order to be marketable as FAN MEAT GRAIN FED the area in which livestock are kept for fattening should be approved by FAN Meat. Livestock raised under extensive conditions with continuous and unrestricted access to pasture, but receiving feed containing concentrates in excess of 1% bodyweight will also qualify as FAN Meat Grain Fed.

HORMONE FREE Means free from any growth promoter as defined and listed as a prohibited or controlled substance in the Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act (Act 21 of 1991) and its Regulations, notices and amendments. Livestock never received any remedy in any form for the

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purpose of growth or fattening. In the case of controlled substances protocols for application as well as prescribed withdrawal periods were adhered to.

Further, prohibited substances in food producing animals as per the Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act includes the active ingredients phenylbutazone, clenbutarol and chloramphenicol in any form.

ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUE FREE Means antibiotics (antimicrobials) are only used when prescribed by a veterinarian registered to practice in Namibia and only in accordance with veterinarian and manufacturer instructions. Antibiotics are not used preventatively or for the purposes of growth or fattening. Livestock are only presented for slaughter after the prescribed withdrawal period for meat.

HUMANE TREATMENT Means livestock are reared, kept, transported, handled and slaughtered in accordance with the five freedoms which form the basic principles for animal welfare and applies to all links in the FAN Meat value chain.

4. REGISTRATION

4.1 FAN Meat

All transport operators and their respective drivers of livestock should register with the FAN Meat office of the Meat Board of Namibia. FAN Meat compliant livestock must be transported by a FAN Meat registered transporter and driver in order to maintain FAN Meat status. Registered transport operators and their respective drivers of livestock will receive a FAN Meat Transporter membership Certificate, registration number and a membership card which is renewable **annually**.

4.2 Registration of vehicle and drivers

Vehicles need to be registered and certified roadworthy. The driver must be in possession of a valid driver's license appropriate to the class of vehicle driven. Certified copies of the vehicle's roadworthy certificate and driver's license of the respective driver/s must be submitted at registration and during annual renewal to the FAN Meat office.

4.3 Proof of knowledge

Drivers must be experienced with animal handling and have knowledge of animal welfare and health. This expertise will be verified through self-declaration done in the course of application for FAN-Meat registration and during audits conducted by FAN Meat appointed auditors.

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5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRANSPORT OPERATOR OR DRIVER

5.1 Livestock

The driver is responsible for the care and welfare of the livestock during transport, even if an attendant appointed by the owner travels with the consignment.

Upon arrival at the destination, the person in charge of the consignment must notify and transfer the responsibility to a suitable person.

5.2 Vehicle

The vehicle used for the transport of livestock must be designed, constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and suffering and to ensure the safety of the livestock. The transport operator or driver is responsible for the condition and maintenance of the transport vehicle and its compliance with the rules laid out in detail in these standards.

5.3 Planning

The transport operator or driver is responsible for planning the transport. The driver must ensure that he/ she is provided with the name and telephone number of the owner of the livestock or the owner's representative (whichever is appropriate) and of the consignee.

It must be assured that adequate time is provided to allow for calm and orderly loading/offloading and responsible driving.

This includes a contingency plan for the case of unforeseeable events (e.g. breakdown of the vehicle, blocked roads, injured/ dead livestock during transport, fire emergency). The driver must have emergency contact numbers of Police, MVA Accident number, ambulance, Med-Rescue, SPCA and Regional State Veterinary Offices.

5.4 Contingency Plan

The Transport Operator/Driver must have a written contingency plan for the unforeseeable events (e.g. breakdown of the vehicle, accidents, blocked roads, injured/dead livestock during transport fire emergency) The Contingency Plan must include a means of contact with the outside world, (cell phone or radio phone) and list of emergency contact numbers. The vehicle must also be equipped with a serviced fire extinguisher.

Each Driver shall be able to demonstrate that he is aware of the contingency plans and provide such a contingency plan to the appointed FAN Meat auditor or authorized person upon request.

5.5 Animal Welfare

The basic principles for animal welfare are the "Five Freedoms":

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease

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4. Freedom to express normal behavior
5. Freedom from fear and distress

6. VEHICLE

6.1 General

Vehicles must be in roadworthy condition and suitable for the type of livestock to be transported. They should be clearly and visibly marked indicating the transport of livestock. They must be robust enough to withstand livestock movements without causing injuries.

6.2 Inspection Facilities

Vehicles must have adequate provision for inspection at floor level of all livestock being transported.

Vehicles must have a suitable method of providing adequate light so that livestock can be inspected at any time.

6.3 Ventilation

Vehicles must provide proper ventilation and be designed to protect livestock from inclement weather, extreme temperatures and adverse changes in climatic conditions.

6.4 Construction

Materials used in the construction of partitions, side-rails, sidewalls, gates and ramps must be sturdy, robust and not liable to breakage or splintering. Vehicles must be free from projections and sharp edges that can cause injuries and bruises to livestock.

All doors, tailboards and drop sides must close firmly and not open automatically.

Sidewalls must be high enough to prevent livestock from escaping or falling out of the vehicle:

- Minimum 76cm from floor level for calves, sheep/goats (small stock) and pigs
- Minimum 127cm from floor level for cattle

Floors inside the vehicle and on the ramp must be non-slippery, solid and impervious and allow proper drainage and easy cleaning/ disinfecting.

There must be the possibility to erect segregating walls inside the vehicle and to fix/ leash livestock securely.

Spaces in side walls must not be so wide that they can cause injury when livestock stick out their heads or other parts of the body.

Roofing is advisable to prevent sun exposure and heat stress, but ventilation must not be compromised.

If necessary, vehicles must carry suitable equipment for loading/ offloading.

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6.5 Cleaning and disinfection of vehicles

All livestock must be transported in cleaned vehicles. When transporting livestock to an Export Abattoir or any destination outside of Namibia, transport vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected by authorized person(s). This is certified by the responsible state veterinarian or approved agent. The cleaning and disinfection certificate is valid for 8 days and only if the vehicle has not been used for transport of livestock since the date of disinfection until loading of livestock destined to the Export abattoir or destinations outside of Namibia.

7. LOADING/ OFFLOADING

7.1 Livestock Identification Verification

During loading, the driver should assist in the verification of the livestock identification according to the relevant legislation and animal movement notice. All identification numbers as well as the total number of livestock should be verified.

7.2 Segregation of livestock

When preparing livestock for loading, it must be kept in mind that incompatible livestock must be transported separately on different truck/ trailer or separated by a segregation wall. Alternatively, adequate provisions must be made for effectively segregating such livestock when loading them. Possible examples for such animal groups are:

- livestock of different species
- weak and strong livestock,
- very small and fully grown livestock (mothers and offspring are exempt from this clause)
- horned and dehorned / polled cattle
- calves and unfamiliar older cattle
- bulls

Livestock known for aggressive behavior must be segregated and transported in a separate compartment.

If un-weaned livestock are transported they must be conveyed together with their mothers. If lactating females are transported without their offspring; they must be milked at intervals not exceeding 12 hours.

7.3 Livestock unfit for transport

- Livestock that cannot stand up unaided, as well as weak and poorly conditioned livestock that go down after little exercise should not be transported. They must be watered and fed until fit for transport or destroyed humanely.
- Visibly dehydrated livestock.
- Livestock showing visible signs of severe injury or distress;
- Livestock that are not of sufficient health and vigor;

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- Cattle pregnant for more than 8 months (past 90% gestation) must not be transported. After calving, cattle should not be transported for the following 4 days. Also, cows with udders distended with milk should not be loaded. Recently born livestock should only be transported once their navel has healed properly.
- Sheep or goats pregnant for more than 4 months (past 90% gestation) must not be transported. After lambing, sheep or goats should not be transported for the following 4 days. Recently born lamb and kids should only be transported once their naval has healed properly.

Exceptions can be made if these livestock are being transported to obtain veterinary treatment and after agreement with the veterinarian. In this case, provisions must be made for minimizing further stress or pain for these livestock.

7.4 Loading/ offloading facilities

When livestock are being loaded onto a truck by means of a ramp, the loading ramp should be designed in such a way as to facilitate the safe loading of livestock onto the truck.

The floor of the ramp must be constructed such that it minimizes livestock from slipping. Ideally, at the top of the ramp should be a flat platform, at level with the deck of the transport vehicle. The ramp must have side panels or bars adequate to prevent livestock from escaping or falling off. The incline of the ramp must not be steeper than 25 degrees for cattle and 30 degrees for sheep and goats.

When livestock are being loaded by means of a load bank, the height must be equal to the height of the floor of the vehicle and, at off-loading not more than 300mm below the level of the offloading vehicle. The incline of the bank should not exceed 30 degrees. If an onboard removable loading ramp is used, the same maximum steepness applies. Animal welfare must not be compromised by the use of removable loading ramps. The distance from the ground to the heel of the ramp must not exceed 120mm.

Flaps and filler boards must be used to cover any gap between the loading ramp and floor of the stock crate.

Before unloading, drivers and personnel at unloading ramp should check the condition of the receiving area and make sure arrangements are in place for penning of livestock and that the stock crate gate is properly aligned with the loading ramp to ensure minimal injury and smooth movement of livestock.

7.5 Moving of livestock during loading/ off-loading

Livestock must be handled calmly at all times and the loading of livestock shall also be performed in a quiet, calm manner.

Livestock should be moved onto the ramp and the vehicle at their own pace.

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The use of goads must be limited to the minimum while handling and moving livestock. Goads should be considered an extension of the human arm rather than a means to increase the physical power of the person. Goads should be made of plastic, canvas or leather. Metal or wooden pickets, pipes or fencing wire are not acceptable for animal use as it is capable of harming livestock.

The use of electric goads (prodders) should be avoided. Moreover, the use of electric goads on livestock with no room to move is not acceptable. If necessary, as a last resort, electric goads must only be used on the hind quarters of cattle over 6 months of age in the event of cattle refusing to move forward where there is space for them to do so. Goads must not be applied for more than 1 second at a time. Electric goads must NOT be used on sheep, goats or pigs.

The lifting/ twisting of a cattle's tail to make the animal move forward should not be done with strong physical power as this may cause pain, tail fracture and dislocation of tail vertebrae.

If a sheep needs to be carried, it should not be lifted by the wool.

If a goat needs to be lifted, it should be lifted up bodily, not by its hair or its horns.

The journey must commence as soon as possible after the livestock have been loaded. Accordingly, livestock should be promptly offloaded on arrival at the destination.

8. LOADING DENSITY

The livestock transport driver, after consultation with the owner, owner's representative or agent is responsible for ensuring that the loading densities are respected.

Loading densities must be appropriate to the species, size, weather conditions and length of the journey. Livestock must not be loaded in a manner that causes injury or compromises animal welfare. Loading livestock either too loosely or too tightly exposes them to injury.

Loading density must be decreased in hot weather.

Space allowed must at least comply with the guidelines provided herewith:

8.1 Cattle

Cattle	
Weight (kg)	Loading Density (m ²)
Up to 250	0.5 – 0.6
250	0.77
300	0.86
350	0.98
400	1.05

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450	1.13
500	1.23
550	1.34
600	1.47
650	1.63

8.2 Sheep and Goat

Weight (kg)	Loading Density (m ²)	
	Sheep	Goats
Up to 20kg	0.17	0.15
30	0.19	0.17
40	0.22	0.18
50	0.27	0.20
60	0.29	0.24

Livestock must have sufficient head room to provide natural ventilation and the livestock shall be able to stand in a natural standing position.

9. JOURNEY AND STOPS

9.1 Conduction of vehicle

The driver must at all times drive in strict compliance with the requirements of the Road Traffic Ordinance. Being aware of the responsibility of transporting livestock and of the stress the transport poses to the livestock, a smooth and careful driving style must be ensured. The vehicle must not be stopped abruptly and corners must be taken slowly and gently. The driver must assure surveillance and visual observation of the livestock regularly.

The consignment should be inspected 30 min after commencing a journey and, after that, at least every 2-3 hours.

9.2 Duration of transport

The duration of journey without stop from the beginning of loading to the end of offloading should not exceed 8 hours. If this time span is exceeded before reaching the destination, livestock must be fed and watered and be allowed to rest for at least one hour. If after that break the further journey exceeds again 8 hours, livestock must be offloaded at a suitable and safe place, given water and feed and be allowed to rest and move for at least 24 hours.

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9.3 Stops

If possible the driver should not stop during the journey for longer than 30 min. If recommendations as laid out in 9.2. require a stop, livestock must be watered with clean water and fed with appropriate feed. It must be verified that all livestock in the vehicle are watered and fed.

While livestock remain in the vehicle during a 1 hour stop, it must be made sure that they are not exposed to strong heat. When livestock are offloaded for a longer break, they must be offloaded on suitable ground where no animal can escape and, fed and watered appropriately.

9.4 Diseased or injured livestock and emergency slaughter

In the case of an animal that becomes unfit or severely injured in the course of a journey, it must be made sure that the animal is not carried for periods longer than necessary to transport it to the nearest veterinarian, other suitable facilities or abattoir. If necessary, the animal must be emergency slaughtered in a humane manner.

9.5 Birth during transport

In the case of an animal giving birth during transport, the driver must immediately take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the mother and offspring from being trampled or otherwise injured or harassed by the other livestock. It is again emphasized that heavily pregnant livestock should NOT be transported.

10. DOCUMENTS/ RECORDS

All relevant movement documentation as is legally required must accompany livestock during transportation.

10.1 Journey log book

The driver should complete a journey log book listing the following details:

- date of journey
- place and time of departure and arrival
- number and species of livestock
- breaks (cause, length)
- comments

10.2 Animal Movement permit

Livestock being transported must be accompanied by a valid animal movement permit. At destination, the animal movement permit is handed over to the responsible person, who is required to submit it to the destination DVS office within 14 days from the date of issue. In the case of individually identified livestock, the movement permit must be accompanied by the completed animal movement notice.

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10.3 Animal Movement Notice

Individually identified livestock being transported must be accompanied by animal movement notice. At arrival, the document, together with the Animal Movement Permit is handed over to the responsible person which, after verification of the number and identification of the arrived livestock, signs and completes the animal movement notice. All documents (the completed animal movement notice and the fully endorsed Animal Movement Permit), have to be returned to the State veterinarian within 14 days from the date of issue.

10.4 Removal Certificate

According to the Stock Theft Act, a driver transporting livestock must have a Removal Certificate issued to him by the owner of the livestock or the duly authorized agent of the owner and must be able to present it to any authorized person upon request during the journey.

10.5 Certificate of cleaning and disinfection

All livestock transport vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected with approved disinfectants before and after the transport of livestock.

When transporting livestock to an Export Abattoir or any destination outside of Namibia, transport vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected by authorized person(s). This is certified by the responsible state veterinarian or approved agent. The cleaning and disinfection certificate is valid for 8 days and only if the vehicle has not been used for transport of livestock since the date of disinfection until loading of livestock destined to the Export abattoir or destinations outside of Namibia.

The certificate must be attached to the animal movement permit.

10.6 Complaint Record

A record of any complaints received by the Transporter relating to the vehicle, the driver or livestock during transport must be kept together with details of actions taken to resolve the problem and preventing re-occurrence thereof.

Even if there have been no complaints to date, a means of recording complaints in future is required.

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