

Sort and classify livestock for sale or despatch in food operations

Overview

This standard covers the skills and knowledge needed to sort and classify livestock for sale or despatch in food operations.

You need to understand how to and show you can sort and classify livestock for sale or dispatch, prepare materials and equipment and work within the animal health and welfare regulations and legislation.

This standard is for you if you work in food operations and the associated supply operations and if you work in meat and/or poultry operations and your role requires you to sort and/or classify livestock.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Sort and classify livestock

1. prepare the work area and the equipment to be used properly
2. sort the livestock according to instructions received
3. assess the condition of livestock in line with instructions
4. collect the selected livestock and move them to the allocated location
5. handle livestock in compliance with regulations and legislation and minimise stress throughout the sorting process
6. monitor all livestock to keep them in optimum condition
7. complete all relevant records
8. use safe working methods and practices in line with relevant legislation and industry codes of practice

Sort livestock for despatch

9. identify and sort livestock for loading in line with requirements
10. move the sorted livestock into a suitable area for collection
11. communicate information relating to the loading of livestock
12. identify any situations that prevent the loading of livestock and either stop the process or inform the relevant person
13. check that the site, equipment and materials are prepared ready for re-use
14. maintain effective communication throughout the sorting and loading process

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the type and condition of the equipment used for sorting livestock
2. how to prepare the area and equipment for sorting livestock
3. how to assess and classify different types of livestock and the reasons for using different methods
4. how livestock are collected and contained
5. how to identify and prepare livestock for sale and despatch, and why this is important
6. how to keep livestock in optimum condition
7. different methods for moving and sorting the livestock
8. methods for handling livestock, individually and in groups
9. how the sorting process might cause stress to livestock
10. what welfare and commercial considerations you need to take into account when the livestock become stressed
11. the optimum condition of the livestock during the sorting process and what problems can arise
12. what situations might prevent the livestock from being moved and what actions to take
13. why it is important to maintain effective communication throughout the process
14. the format and purpose of records used in the livestock market
15. your responsibilities under animal health and welfare regulations and legislation
16. your responsibilities under health and safety regulations and legislation

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