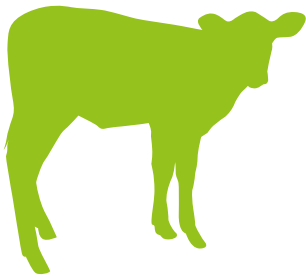


NEW

# Young calf regulations are now in place



The welfare of young calves is our priority and at the heart of any good farming business.

Seven new regulations have been developed to strengthen the rules around young calf welfare with a range of fines and infringements. Four of the seven regulations take effect from 1 August 2016.

You may already be following these requirements in your daily work as most are similar to the minimum standards in the codes of welfare. However, the regulations now introduce new penalties for those who do not comply.

## Regulations taking effect on 1 August 2016

This is a summary of the regulations. For all details please read the full regulations at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz).

If you own or are in charge of young calves, several of the regulations require you to have systems in place to ensure all of the rules are followed. Check that you know what to do and have put the right plans in place to meet the requirements.

### Prohibition on killing calves by blunt force to the head

This applies to any calf that has not been weaned off milk, or a milk replacement.

A person must not kill a calf by using blunt force to the head unless:

- > the calf is in severe pain or distress and, as a result, requires immediate humane destruction; and
- > there is no reasonably practicable alternative to the use of blunt force available.

*Any person who does not follow this regulation may be liable on conviction for a fine of:*

- > up to \$3000 for an individual; or
- > up to \$15,000 for a body corporate.



## Fitness for transport

This applies to any young calf that is up to 14 days old and has been separated from its mother.

An owner or a person in charge of a young calf must not transport or permit the calf to be transported, off farm for the purposes of sale or slaughter or as a result of sale unless the calf is at least 4 full days (96 hours) of age. Responsibility for meeting the age requirement will fall on the owner or person in charge of the calf on farm, not a person who is only in charge for the purpose of its transport.

An owner or a person in charge of a young calf must not transport the calf, or permit the calf to be transported, off farm for the purposes of sale or slaughter or as a result of sale unless:

- > the calf is free from signs of any injury, disease, disability, or impairment that could compromise the calf's welfare during the journey;\*
- > the calf is alert and able to rise from a lying position, stand and bear weight evenly on all 4 limbs, move freely and protect itself from being trampled and from being injured by other calves;\*
- > the calf's hooves are firm, worn flat, and not bulbous with soft unworn tissue; and
- > the calf's navel cord is shrivelled and not pink or red coloured, raw, or fleshy.

Responsibility for ensuring that a young calf meets all of the physical and behavioural requirements in the list above will fall on the owner or person in charge of young calves who permit the animals to be transported, and also on the transporters who load those calves.

- \* This does not apply if the owner or person in charge of the young calf has a veterinary declaration that the calf is fit for transport.

*Any person who does not follow this regulation will be issued an infringement fee of \$500.*

## Maximum duration of transport

This regulation applies to any young calf that is up to 14 days old and has been separated from its mother.

A person in charge of a young calf must not transport the calf unless the total duration of the journey from the point of loading the calf onto the vehicle to the point of arrival at the final destination of the journey is no more than 12 hours.

*Any person who does not follow this regulation may be liable on conviction for a fine of:*

- > up to \$5,000 for an individual; or
- > up to \$25,000 for a body corporate.

## Prohibition on transport by sea across Cook Strait

This applies to any young calf that is up to 14 days old and has been separated from its mother.

A person in charge of a young calf on a vehicle must not permit the calf to be transported by sea across Cook Strait.

*Any person who does not follow this regulation may be liable on conviction for a fine of:*

- > up to \$5,000 for an individual; or
- > up to \$25,000 for a body corporate.

## Regulations taking effect at later dates

Three regulations will be introduced later to allow you time to make any necessary adjustments to processes and facilities.

- > **Maximum time off feed before slaughter (no more than 24 hours after the calf was last fed on farm)** – taking effect on 1 February 2017.
- > **Requirements for loading and unloading facilities** – taking effect on 1 August 2017.
- > **Shelter requirements before and during transportation and at points of sale or slaughter** – taking effect on 1 August 2017.

## More information

Please visit [www.mpi.govt.nz/calves](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/calves) for more information on the new regulations.

If you have any queries about the regulations, please contact our Animal Welfare team by email [animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)

If you are concerned about the welfare of any animals, please contact us to report these anonymously by phoning 0800 00 83 33 and select option 1.

