

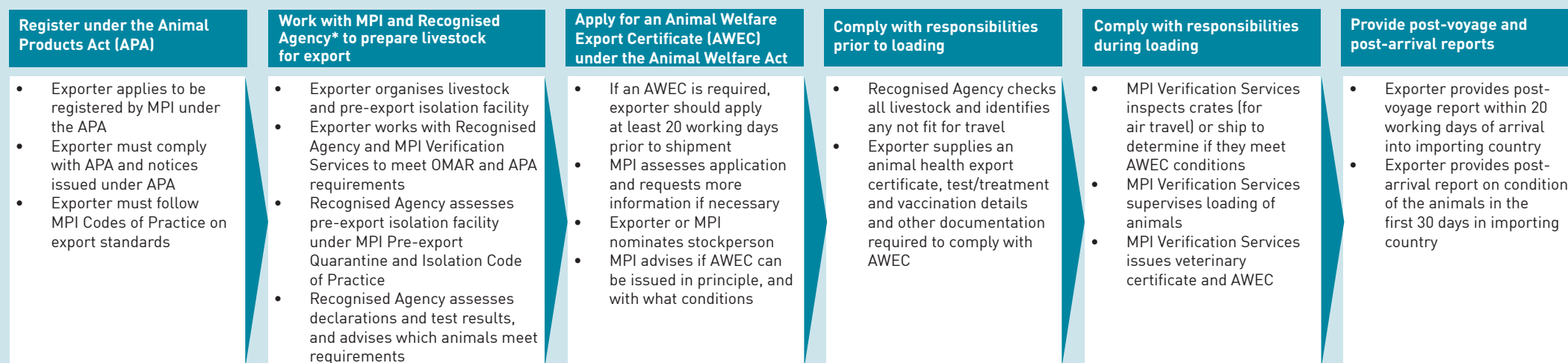
Overview of the livestock export control system



The livestock (cattle, deer, goats, and sheep) export control system is comprehensive. Exporters need to demonstrate they have met all requirements under domestic and international legislation and guidelines before exports are approved.

Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs) may be required before an export can happen. Most countries importing livestock require government guarantees, in the form of veterinary certificates, that animals are healthy and suitable for export. The requirements for getting a veterinary certificate must be agreed between MPI and the importing country. They are then issued as OMARs under the Animal Products Act 1999.

Exporters must meet these requirements



Animal Welfare Export Certificate applications

All livestock AWECs require the applicant to make a statutory declaration that the livestock is not being exported for slaughter.

The Director-General of MPI may exempt certain species or types of animals from the requirement to get an AWEC, where risks to animal welfare are considered to be low. There is an exemption for livestock travelling less than six hours.

When assessing an AWEC application, MPI considers:

- the applicant's previous export history;
- stock type, number, and physiological state;
- stocking density during the voyage;
- the length and nature of the journey;
- details about the stockpersons accompanying the animals;
- information on post-arrival management of the animals, including their final destination and transport arrangements.

Large consignments of livestock usually travel by ship.

For exports by sea, MPI also considers details of the vessel's:

- ventilation;
- power sources;
- drainage;
- pen design;
- fodder and water supply arrangements.

When the vessel arrives in port in New Zealand, MPI Verification Services inspect the vessel to ensure it meets the requirements of the AWEC and any OMAR. A Marine Surveyor from Maritime New Zealand inspects the vessel to ensure it is fit for purpose and complies with maritime and marine protection rules. When the vessel has passed inspections, MPI Verification Services advises that the livestock can be loaded.

Livestock can be transported in cargo planes, and small consignments can be transported in the holds of commercial passenger planes.

For exports by air, MPI also considers:

- transport crate design: livestock travel in custom crates designed and manufactured to International Air Transport Association (IATA) specifications. MPI Verification Services inspects the crates to ensure they comply with IATA specifications and AWEC conditions;
- any intermediate refuelling stops.

*A Recognised Agency is an individual or body recognised by MPI to carry out certain functions and activities under the Animal Products Act, for example verifying that export requirements have been met.

To read the full discussion paper and make a submission go to: www.mpi.govt.nz/livestock-consult