

MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2014

LSS SUPPORTS A STRONG SUPPLY CHAIN IN JORDAN

Livestock Shipping Services (LSS) has spent several months preparing key markets across the Middle East and North Africa to ensure the integrity of their supply chain and to deliver best-practice animal welfare training in the lead up to the Islamic religious festival, Eid al-Adha.

LSS has routinely over the last year recorded, investigated and reported on low levels of livestock leakage existing in the Jordan market confirming the source of identified leakage as not having been related to the LSS supply chain. LSS has more recently become aware of reports of a large number of Australian sheep outside of known supply chain facilities in livestock markets around Jordan. Managing Director of LSS, Mr Ahmad Ghosheh, strongly refutes any assertion that the current allegations of leakage in Jordan relate to the LSS supply chain.

“LSS has conducted a thorough investigation around its supply chain in Jordan over the past fortnight. LSS is confident that the current leakage does not relate to the LSS HGG supply chain and is isolated to other supply chains operating in the Jordan region.

“In the lead up to this year’s Eid al-Adha Festival, LSS and our importer in Jordan have put in place robust measures to protect the integrity of our Australian sheep supply chain. These measures ensure that not just the basic principles of the ESCAS framework of animal welfare, independent auditing, accountability and traceability are met, but that standards over and above those are strived for through infrastructure improvements, structured training programs and consistent support and advice on achieving positive animal welfare outcomes,” Mr Ghosheh said.

Throughout 2014 LSS has predominantly operated only one closed loop facility in the Jordan supply chain. This facility is located in an area controlled by a Ministry of Agriculture Custom Directorate Free Zone Authority, , and is a highly regulated environment where stock movements are accurately recorded and tightly controlled.

LSS has developed a comprehensive supply chain management program for the Jordan market in order to meet the standards of best-practice live export management. The program involves comprehensive sheep identification processes, compiling detailed stock records, including reconciliation and physical counts, and regular independent auditing in the lead up to Eid Festival.

LSS actively monitors the Jordan livestock market for any appearance of Australian sheep. Throughout 2014 LSS has identified and been able to eliminate a number of alleged leakage situations as not having originated from the LSS supply chain.

Mr Ghosheh stated that the current leakage allegations relating to the Jordan market were extremely disappointing and concerning for LSS.

“Any threat to the credibility of Australian supply chains in Jordan as a whole through non-compliance is a threat to the long term sustainability and viability of the Australian sheep market in Jordan, to Australian livestock producers, and the substantial company investment by LSS in the region.

LSS is currently operating in 6 countries that participate in the Festival. A significant amount of time, resources, and management has gone into preparing the region for the Festival and all efforts have been made at both a management and operational level to ensure compliance with the principles of ESCAS are maintained.

LSS has been working directly with its key stakeholders over the past fortnight to deliver a best-practice animal welfare workshop covering training and handling techniques, humane slaughter practices, and meat quality assurance processes.

In addition to the workshop, LSS has provided additional representatives to support their Middle East and North African teams on the ground throughout the Festival to assist with any issues that may arise.

LSS is committed to supporting the ESCAS principles as a framework within which it can work closely with both the Department of Agriculture and other participants in the live export industry to continue to improve the way Australian livestock are transported and handled around the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LSS:

www.livestockshipping.com.au

MEDIA CONTACT

Tara Taubenschlag

P: +61 2 6161 8627

M: 0404 887 804