

ICOS National Conference

- Derisking Co-operative Businesses



Best Practice in Safe Management of Marts

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Protection. It's in our nature.



Why is a Good Risk Management so Important?

- Because the cost of accidents are high (human / financial).
- The implementation of an effective Safety Management System is the only way that the health and safety of employees and members of the public can be securely managed.
- *“The safety of members of the public must not be left to chance.”*



Introduction

- Livestock marts are a hazardous environment for employees and members of the public and there are many serious accidents involving the **interaction of livestock and members of the public and employees**.
- They present a unique set of health and safety hazards and risks. **Especially considering that the actions of livestock and members of the public is often unpredictable.**
- Cattle are getting larger and wilder and this means that the goal post is continuously changing.
- The level of hazards and risks can be greatly reduced with a combination of good management, good facility design, well trained competent handlers and the implementation of **safe systems of work**.
- **As a general principle, the interaction between people and livestock should be kept to a minimum.**

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Introduction

- The continuing upward trend in the number and severity of serious accidents in marts is of serious concern.
- Livestock marts are core part of the farming community and FBD want to continue to offer insurance cover to the industry.
- It is a very challenging sector form an insurance perspective.
- Ultimately the cost of claims will decide the insurance premium.
- As a company we invest heavily in Risk Management Surveying and Developing Risk Management Tools to help improve safety within marts.
- We have worked very closely with the HSA and ICOS on the development of a BeSmart Risk Assessment specifically for mart, the new mart safety training and the short safety ad for members of the public.
- [Voluntary Code of Practice for Safe Mart Management \(Mart Lockdown\)](#)

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Main Cause of Liability Claims

- Injury caused by Livestock (kick, crush, impact, attack)
- Loading & Unloading & Passageways & Penning
- Member of the Public or Employee hit by Gate
- Member of the Public Slips / Trips / Falls

There are a number of elements that must be implemented to help ensure that safe operation of a mart. These include:

- Strong Management providing clear direction, communication and leadership.
- Competent, physically fit and trained stockmen and sufficient employee numbers to complete the work required in a safe manner.
- Clearly identifiable employees who strongly communicate to members of the public to move to safe areas before livestock are moved.
- Well designed and safely maintained facilities that encourage the safe and easy flow of livestock and which also provide safe refuge areas for employees and members of the public.
- Well defined safe systems of work.



Mart Design and Layout



- The layout and design of the mart has a significant impact on the ease of moving the cattle and hence on the safety of the workers and other persons present. Well designed and maintained facilities **should** have lower accident rates.
- A well designed facility **facilitates** the calm and ordered movement of cattle.





Height of Railings

- The height of railings and gates would normally vary according to the class of cattle being handled.
- However, the “**Precautionary Principle**” suggests that both Marts should be overbuilt rather than ‘just enough’.
- Standard railings should be at least 1.8m in pens and races and at least 2.1m around the sale ring and public viewing areas.



**How we manage livestock marts now
needs to be reviewed in light of the
significant claims.**

**This is a very significant challenge
that livestock managers face.**

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Voluntary Code of Practice for Safe Mart Management (Mart Lockdown)



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Voluntary Code of Practice for Safe Mart Management (Mart Lockdown)



1. A Safety Officer must be appointed. His or her role will be to manage safety on mart days. The Safety Officers duties will include; ensuring the safety of members of the public and employees; ensuring the safe handling of livestock and enforcement of safe systems of work.

“Every aspect of safe handling of livestock at any mart requires that someone is in charge of the activities and has management authority, without this ‘Safe Systems of Work’ will not be achieved.”





Voluntary Code of Practice for Safe Mart Management (Mart Lockdown)

2. All employees must be provided with mart identification jackets and the wearing of these jackets must be enforced.
3. All loading and unloading of animals must be carried out under the supervision of a mart employee.
Safe refuge pens may need to be provided in the loading bay pens.
4. The movement of livestock to or from the loading area must be undertaken by mart employees only.





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5. Members of the public must not be allowed access to the penning and passageways beyond the unloading/loading bay, other than to place lot numbers on their livestock in the livestock identification race, and this will only be allowed where direct access to the livestock identification race is provided without interaction with livestock.

Many marts have introduced a 30 minute viewing time, where all access points to the livestock penning area and passages are locked during the viewing time and the good supervision is provided.

6. Catwalks and livestock viewing areas must be provided as appropriate so as to prevent members of the public from accessing livestock penning and passageways.
7. Prohibition signage must also be erected so as to clearly identify areas that members of the public are not allowed access to.
8. All livestock leaving the mart must be taken from the holding pen and driven to the loading bay by mart employees. The loading of livestock must be carried out by and in the supervision of a mart employee and the owner/buyer of the livestock.



Challenge

- Implementation, Supervision and Enforcement of Safety Systems of Work.

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Safe Unloading / Loading of Cattle



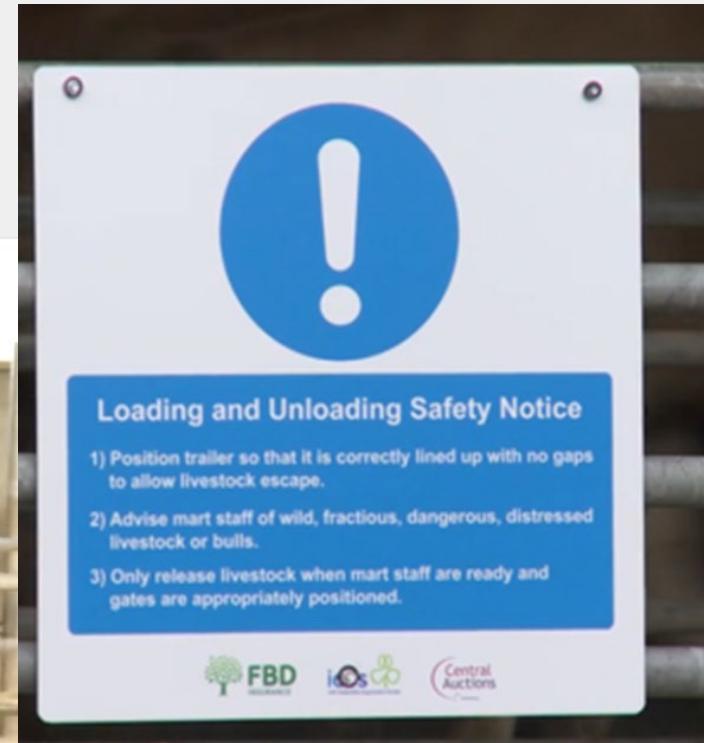
- Unloading and loading of cattle at Marts has frequently resulted in injuries to both staff and those transporting them, and escapes.

- Mart employees must take charge of unloading and loading of the cattle. Cattle must not be released from the transport until a Mart employee has authorised their release and is ready to receive them.



Policy on Dangerous Livestock

- Mart employees should be told if there are wild, fractious, distressed, injured or horned cattle, or bulls present before they are released from the transport.
- Information about dangerous cattle must be given to all relevant persons. Safe systems for handling wild and fractious animals must be put in place.



Conclusion



The question that mart management must ask themselves is:

- Are we prepared to implement and enforce **radical change** so as to reverse the upward trend in the number and severity of serious accidents in marts?