

Meat Standards Australia™

Standards Manual

Section 6: Saleyards



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1 Introduction

The Meat Standard Australia (MSA) Standards Manual is divided into a number of sections. Each section is a standalone document that is issued and amended independently of each other section.

Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee (AMILSC) are custodians of the Meat Standards Australia (MSA) Standards (refer to Section 1: Foreword and Introduction, page 3).

This section outlines the Saleyard requirements for MSA.

All sections of the Meat Standard Australia (MSA) Standards Manual must be used collectively. Certain sections may not be applicable for a specific business, operation, facility or activity. It is the user's responsibility to determine and justify why a sections does not apply.

1.1 Instructions for control of this document

This Standards Manual, available online from MSA, is a controlled document.

Updates to this Standard will occur from time to time. All printed and/or saved copies are uncontrolled and may not be the latest version.

1.2 Owner confirmation

The owner or controller, as registered with the Authorised Authority, shall be informed of any updates relating to the information contained in this Standard. Attached to any updates regarding this Standard will be a form for notification of changes to the owner or controller of the Standard.

1.3 Amendments and updates

Amendments to this standard will be issued by way of a formal amendment notification where required.

1.4 Document control confirmation

CHANGE HISTORY

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6 Saleyards

6.1 MSA minimum requirements and responsibilities

6.1.1 Agent

Agents are required to;

- a) Register with MLA for MSA;
- b) Complete training to conduct the sale of MSA Eligible consignments of livestock; and
- c) Adhere to the relevant sections of these Standards.

6.1.2 Saleyard

Saleyards are required to;

- a) Be licensed with MLA;
- b) Complete training as defined by the Authorised Authority;
- c) Have systems in place that will be monitored from time to time to verify compliance against these Standards as determined by the Authorised Authority;

In addition;

- a) MSA vendor declarations for cattle and LPA National Vendor Declarations for sheep are to accompany livestock to and from Saleyard;
- b) Eligible Consignments to be clearly identified at all times;
- c) Cattle groups are not to be mixed at any point from farm to slaughter;
- d) Best practice that sheep not to be mixed where possible;
- e) No livestock that have been severely sick or injured at the time of sale should be sold as MSA eligible;
- f) Livestock shall be held on soft standing, and preferably under cover within the Saleyard facility other than the minimum period of time required for the actual sale;
- g) Cattle within the Saleyard shall have access to water at all times; and
- h) Sheep shall have access to water other than the time required to sell.

6.1.3 Training

The Enterprise must ensure that all staff and agents associated with the selling centre are aware of the Authorised Authority's requirements for handling eligible consignments. A training register must be completed immediately after training and kept up to date.

6.1.4 Monitoring

All records of MSA program related activities within the Saleyard are required to be fully maintained and available to the Authorised Authority or representatives of the Authorised Authority.

The Authorised Authority or its nominated agent will instigate random monitoring procedures against the requirements as determined by the Authorised Authority.

6.2 Pathways

6.2.1 Receiving of livestock

The Enterprise must ensure that, upon receipt of MSA eligible livestock, the following are verified and corrective action taken where required:

- a) Details on the MSA beef Vendor Declaration and/or LPA National Vendor Declaration are correct and complete; and
- b) The eligibility of consignments (where appropriate) are verified.

6.2.2 Yarding of livestock

Pens approved by the Authorised Authority as suitable to hold Eligible Consignments must be clearly identified.

6.2.3 Preparation for sale – beef

Eligible Consignments may have the following conditions applied by the Authorised Authority prior to sale:

- a) Reduction in size of the Eligible Consignment mob (or splitting) for purposes of yarding (not to be confused with drafting or mixing);
- b) Once split, these animals may remain as separate mobs or re-joined as the original mob; and
- c) No mixing.

6.2.4 Preparation for sale – sheep

Eligible Consignments may have the following conditions applied by the Authorised Authority prior to sale:

- a) Best practice calls for no or minimal drafting in saleyards; and
- b) Best practice is to keep these animals together as a single mob where possible.

6.2.5 Sale of eligible consignments

Eligible consignments must be clearly identified from other livestock.

6.2.6 Presentation at time of sale

Eligible Consignments of cattle must have details clearly displayed as required by the Authorised Authority.

These must clearly display;

- a) Eligibility under these Standards;
- b) Dispatch time from farm; and
- c) Maximum time until slaughter.

Eligible Consignments of sheep must have details clearly announced or displayed as required by the Authorised Authority.

These must clearly be announced or displayed;

- a) Eligibility under these Standards;
- b) Time off feed: and

- c) Maximum time until slaughter.

6.2.7 Dispatch of eligible consignments

Where authenticating documentation is lost or damaged, livestock cease to be classified as eligible for MSA.

Where an Eligible Consignment is sold to an Enterprise, authenticating documentation must continue with the Consignment (or a copy of it).

Where an Eligible Consignment is not sold to an Enterprise, authenticating documentation is not required to be supplied with the livestock after the sale.

Where an Eligible Consignment is sold directly to a producer, authenticating documentation is not required to be supplied with the livestock.

6.2.8 Non-conforming livestock

Eligible Consignments must, at all times, be handled in accordance with the requirements of the Authorised Authority. Any failure to do so will render the livestock ineligible to be sold as an Eligible Consignment.

The Enterprise must ensure that non-conforming product is prevented from unintended use or dispatch. All non-conformances must be documented.

6.2.9 MSA Coordinator

The Enterprise must appoint one or more management or agent representative as MSA coordinators whom will have the responsibility and authority to ensure the integrity of the MSA program is maintained within the Enterprise.

The MSA coordinator must ensure;

- a) That the Enterprise conforms with all MSA program requirements;
- b) That the Enterprise has systems in place to ensure MSA program requirements;
- c) That a program of internal monitoring takes place to verify the effectiveness of the procedures;
- d) That all livestock which does not conform to these Standards are rejected;
- e) Maintenance of an approved training program and records to ensure that sufficient trained staff are available to undertake work when required for the MSA program;
- f) That prompt action is taken in accordance with all notifications from an Authorised Authority; and
- g) That they accompany and assist the Auditor during each audit.

6.2.10 Record keeping

The Enterprise must maintain documentation for a minimum of 12 months after the date of each transaction. A list of controlled MSA documents as specified by an Authorised Authority must be maintained.

The Enterprise must maintain documentation to ensure that processes which directly affect the Enterprise's MSA systems and Eligible Consignments are carried out under controlled conditions.

Record keeping procedures may be integrated within existing procedures or systems, for example NSQA.