



MSA Standards Manual

Livestock supply



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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 the other sections.

Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee (AMILSC) is the custodian of the MSA Standards.

All sections of the 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 which section is appropriate for their operation.

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

Date	Change description	lssue no.
03 May 2013	Initial draft	0.1
18 July 2013	Second draft	0.2
03 September 2013	Third draft	0.3
27 November 2013	Initial release	1.0
20 March 2015	Second release – inclusions of Led Steer Pathway Requirements as approved at Task- force (Feb 15) and AMILSC (Mar 15)	2.0
15 November 2016	Third release – Update to 5.1.21 MSA beef carcase specifications, to remove meat colour 1B-3 and update numbering	3.0
14 March 2017	Fourth release – Section 5.2.1 MSA minimum requirements updated to remove the re- quirement of a minimum of 5mm wool length	4.0
March 2020	Updated to reflect release of MSA beef model V2.0. Updated to livestock supply require- ments for sick and injured cattle.	5.0
July 2025	Updated to reflect additions to supply recommendations, requirements for supply and changes to the MSA saleyard pathway.	6.0

5 Livestock supply

Producers/feedlots and agents are required to be registered with MSA to supply eligible livestock through the MSA system.

5.1 Cattle

5.1.1 MSA minimum requirements

5.1.1.1 On-farm responsibilities

Requirements

- a. Producers are required to be registered with MSA prior to cattle leaving property of dispatch to be eligible to supply cattle for grading.
- b. MSA vendor declarations must be delivered with cattle.
- c. All cattle must reside on the property of dispatch for a minimum of 30 days prior to dispatch.
- d. No entire males or animals showing secondary sexual characteristics are eligible for MSA grading.
- e. Where cattle are transported including the use of third-party transport companies, cattle are not to be mixed during transport.

Recommendations

- a. Cattle should be managed as a single mob for a minimum of 14 days prior to dispatch for slaughter, this includes no mixing or drafting.
- b. Cattle should be on a rising plane of nutrition for at least the last 30 days prior to slaughter.
- c. Cattle are to have access to water outside of transport.
- d. Handle and muster animals quietly to reduce stress.
- e. Load cattle quietly, preferably with no use of goads and/or electric prodders.
- f. Cattle to have access to feed prior to dispatch.
- g. No cattle of poor temperament.
- h. No cattle that are severely sick or injured at point of transport.

5.1.1.2 Direct consignment

In addition to on-farm responsibilities listed above:

- Road transport
 - a. Slaughter is to occur within 48 hours from the cattle leaving the property of dispatch providing the following requirements are met for road transport:
 - i. The total truck transport time from property of dispatch to the abattoir does not exceed 36 hours
 - ii. Included in the 36 hours transport time, a rest period of up to 12 hours may occur.
 - b. This pathway allows for a lairage period at the plant of up to 12 hours prior to slaughter.
- All other modes of transport slaughter is to occur no later than the day after dispatch.

5.1.1.3 Saleyard consignment

- In addition to the above on-farm responsibilities:
 - a. Slaughter is to occur within 48 hours of dispatch from property.

5.1.1.4 Led Steer Pathway

- In addition to the above on-farm responsibilities:
 - a. All animals are to be on full feed and water prior to dispatch from the showground.
 - b. All animals to be slaughtered within 24 hours of dispatch from the showground.
 - c. MSA vendor declaration must accompany cattle to the showground and be submitted to the organising committee.
 - d. The showground or other venue must have a MSA producer registration number and provide an MSA vendor declaration for the entire consignment to the abattoir.
 - e. Unled cattle associated with competitions are ineligible for this pathway.

5.1.2 Reference material

5.1.2.1 MSA beef carcase specifications

- Ultimate pH equal to or less than 5.70
- Rib fat minimum 3mm
- Adequate fat coverage over the entire carcase.

5.1.2.2 MSA vendor declaration – beef

- The MSA vendor declaration needs to be the approved form from a paper pad or electronic online version
- Each declaration must have a unique identifier number
- Producers/feedlots must keep one copy.

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CATTLE VENDOR DECLARATION

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Form 3.4.1 Release date: October 2019 MSA participants must fully complete this declaration accurately for cattle to be eligible for MSA grading. This declaration must accompany the cattle and be delivered to the person responsible for livestock receival at the processor or saleyard.

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Vendor:			MSA registration	no. of vendor:	
Address:			Property Identific (PIC) of vendor:		
			MSA registration owner (if differen		
Phone no.:			cation Code f different):		
Date of dispatch:			Time of dispatch	:	
No. of cattle	e eligible for MSA grading) Males:	Female	is:	Total:
	ese cattle contain tropica content? (please tick the re		ahman, YES Gertrudis	e.g. Ang Hereford	jus, NO
Have any of (If unsure tick `	f the cattle ever been tro Yes)	eated with a Horn	nonal Growth Pron	notant?	Yes No
	als in this lot milk fed vo milk fed vealers, calves must		must be sent direct to s	laughter)	
Has this lot	of cattle been sold thro	ugh an MSA licen	sed saleyard?		
Additional in declaration ab	formation (optional): You car pove.	n record any individual	I animals here that diffe	r from the tropical br	reed content
	clare that the informa I and abide by the MS				nave read,
Signature:				Date:	
Name:					
Please sig	n (where applicable)				
Saleyard v	erification	Processor verifi	cation	Grader verifica	tion
Sign:	n: Sign: Sign:				

Date:

Grader code:

Date:

Date:

MSA licence no:

5.2 Sheep

5.2.1 MSA minimum requirements

5.2.1.1 On-farm responsibilities

Requirements

- a. Producers are required to be registered with MSA prior to sheep leaving property of origin to be MSA eligible.
- b. Minimum two weeks off shears.
- c. Fat score \geq 2 (GR \geq 6mm).
- d. HSCW \geq 16kg for young lamb, HSCW \geq 18kg for all weaned lambs, hogget and mutton.
- e. Total time off feed not greater than 48 hours before slaughter.
- f. Animals to have access to water prior to dispatch other than the time required for preparation for transport. Total time off water not to exceed 20hrs including transit time. to have access to water at all times while not in transit.
- g. Minimum of two weeks at consignment property before dispatch.
- h. Maximum time in transit 24 hours.
- i. National Vendor Declaration (sheep and lambs) and waybill to be correctly filled out prior to consignment and accompany consignment to saleyards or processor.
- j. Entire males or animals showing secondary sexual characteristics are not eligible for MSA grading.

5.2.1.2 Growth rates recommendations

- a. 1st and 2nd cross a minimum of 100 grams/day for two weeks prior to consignment
- b. Merinos a minimum of 150 grams/day for two weeks prior to consignment.

5.2.1.3 Direct consignment

a. Refer to tables 5.2.2.1 and 5.2.2.2 for eligibility.

5.2.1.4 Saleyard consignment

In addition to the above on-farm responsibilities:

- a. Sheep shall be slaughtered within 48 hours after dispatch from the farm or property
- b. Animals through this pathway must meet pH/temperature window requirements and pHu requirements as outlined in MSA Standards Manual (Section 7 Processors MSA Standards).

5.2.1.5 Processor specifications

a. The use of the MSA Sheepmeat program may vary by processor. Please contact your processor for their specifications.

5.2.2 Reference material

5.2.2.1 MSA sheepmeat carcase specifications for 2005 Lamb and Sheepmeat Pathway

Carcase specifications						
Category/cipher	Dentition	HSCW	Fat score	GR		
Young lamb *YL*	Carcase derived from a young female or castrate sheep that has 0 permanent incisor teeth; has no eruption of permanent upper molar teeth.	≥ 16kg	≥2	≥6mm		
Lamb *L*	Young sheep under 12 months of age or does not have any per- manent incisor teeth in wear.	≥ 18kg	≥2	≥6mm		
Hogget *H*	Carcase derived from female or castrate male sheep that: has 1 but no more than 2 permanent incisor teeth in wear; in male has no evidence of secondary sexual characteristics	≥ 18kg	≥2	≥6mm		
Mutton *M*, *W*, *E*	Carcase derived from female sheep that has 1 or more permanent incisor teeth in wear; or a castrated male sheep that has at least one permanent incisor tooth in wear and shows no evidence of secondary sexual characteristics.	≥ 18kg	≥2	≥6mm		
Ram *R*	Ineligible					

5.2.2.2 MSA sheepmeat carcase specifications for MSA Sheepmeat cut x cook Model V3.0

Category/cipher	Dentition	HSCW	Fat score	GR
Young lamb *YL*	Carcase derived from a young female or castrate sheep that has 0 permanent incisor teeth; has no eruption of permanent upper molar teeth.	≥ 16kg	≥2	≥6mm
Lamb *L*	Young sheep under 12 months of age or does not have any per- manent incisor teeth in wear.	≥ 18kg	≥2	≥6mm
Hogget *H*	Carcase derived from female or castrate male sheep that: has 1 but no more than 2 permanent incisor teeth in wear; in male has no evidence of secondary sexual characteristics	≥ 18kg	≥2	≥6mm
Mutton *M*, *W*, *E*	Ineligible			

Ram *R* Ineligible

5.2.2.2 LPA National Vendor Declaration

The following will be extracted from the National Vendor Declaration (Sheep and Lambs) for the purposes of MSA:

- a. Time from dispatch to slaughter
- b. The breed content of animals
- c. Hours off feed to slaughter
- d. Month of shearing
- e. Producer MSA registration number to be identified in Section 7.

NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATION (SHEEP AND LAMBS) AND WAYBILL \$0720 388888888						Are any of the sheep or lambs in this consignment still within a Withholding Period (WHP)
(SHEEP AND LAWIDS) AND WATBILL SUIZU SOOODOO						or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) as set by APVMA or SAFEMEAT, following treatment with any veterinary drug or chemical?
Part A To be completed by the owner or person who is responsible for the husbandry of the sheep or lambs.						Yes No If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 7)
Owner of sheep or lambs						/ /20 // /20 // // // // // // // /// //
Property/place where the journey commenced						In the past 60 days, have any of the sheep or lambs in this consignment consumed any
(HOW AUCHESS) AUDRESS CONTINUED) (COM/, SUBURE) (STATE)						material that was still within a withholding period when harvested, collected or first grazed?
		ation Code (PIC) of this				Yes No If Yes, give details:
		the property that the stock is being	moved from	ABCD12	34	/ /20 / /20 / /20 CHEMICAL PRODUCT DATE APPLED DRV2/NG WIP DISE FED (GRAZE) DATE FED NG/GRAZING CEASED
		Description (BREED, SEX & TYPE	Month of	PIC or Brand on Ear Tags	Earmarks	6 Have the sheep or lambs in this consignment ever in their lives been fed feed containing
	(DROP)	E.G. CROSS-BRED, WETHER, LAMER	shearing	(IF DIFFERENT TO PIC SHOWN ABOVE)	(IF PRESENT OR REQUIRED)	animal fats? (See Explanatory Notes)
					<u>SD</u>	Yes No
					SD.	Please include any additional information below eg: vaccination programs, animal health certification, additional declarations, etc.
						eg, vaccination programs, annual nearth certification, autonomal declarations, etc.
	Total	Lise the Attackment Forme	for considements th	at require more lines to describe the sto	ck (See Exclonator: Nator)	
		all of the NLIS tags only ther than the PIC printed		is consignment been listed	in the Description	Declaration
				an NLIS tag with the PIC p	rinted on this	
NVD	or the as	sociated WA brand as lis	ted in the des	cription table above – Yes 🗋	AND/OR	
Number	of electro	onic NLIS devices in this	consignment			LPA declare that, I am the owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep or lambs
Hours o	off feed an	d water before transport	ing			and that all the information in part A of this document is true and correct.
Consigr	ned to		INAME OF P	RSON OR BUSINESS)		I also declare that I have read and understood all the questions that I have answered, that I have read and understood the explanatory notes, and that, while under my control.
ADDRESS (STATE) (STATE)					(STATE)	the sheep or lambs were not fed restricted animal material (including meat and bone meal)
Destination (if different) of sheep or lambs						In breach of State or Territory legislation.
Destina	tion PIC (REQ: WA & TAS)				Signature* / /20 *Only the person whose name appears above may sign this declaration, or make amendments which must be initialied.
Details	of other s	tatutory documents rela	ting to this m	ovement e.g. health stateme	ent / /20	Tel no. Fax no.
DOCUMENT					EXPIRY DATE	Email.
		rogram on the property	the PIC of w		pendently	Part B To be completed by the person in charge of the sheep or lambs while they are being moved. Completion of this part is optional in SA and VIC.
Yes		No If Yes, give	details:	NAME OF PROGRAM AC	CREDITATION OR LICENSE NO.	Movement commenced: / /20 : (am/pm)
				been treated with a Scabb		Vehicle registration number(s)*:
Vaccination either at marking or at least 14 days prior to their presentation for sale?					for sale?	
Yes No						I am the person in charge of the sheep or lambs during
Were all of these sheep or lambs bred by the owner or vendor? Yes No If No, how long ago were the sheep or lambs obtained or purchased?					or purchased?	the movement and declare all the information in Part B is true and correct.
(If purchased at different times, tick the box corresponding to the time of the most recent purchase.)						Signature Date / /20 Tel no.
A. Less than 2 months 🗌 B. 2-6 months 🗌 C. 6-12 months 🗌 D. more than 12 months 🗌						*When more than one truck is carrying the sheep or lambs, other vehicle registration numbers are to be recorded.