



MSA Standards Manual

Saleyards

Section

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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	Issue 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
March 2020	Updated to reflect the release of MSA beef model V2.0.	2.0
July 2025	Updated to reflect release of MSA Sheepmeat model V3.0 and changes to beef saleyard pathway to 48 hrs.	3.0

6 Saleyards

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

6.1 MSA minimum requirements and responsibilities

6.1.1 Agent

Agents are required to:

- a. Register with MSA
- b. Complete training to conduct the sale of MSA eligible consignments of livestock
- c. Adhere to the relevant sections of these Standards.

6.1.2 Saleyard

Saleyards are required to:

- a. Hold an MSA saleyard licence agreement to be able to sell MSA eligible livestock
- 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 with current MSA producer number 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 is that sheep are not to be mixed where possible
- e. No livestock that have been severely sick or injured at the time of sale are to be sold as MSA eligible
- f. Livestock shall be held on soft standing floor, 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
- h. Sheep shall have access to water other than the time required to sell
- i. Animals are to be processed at a MSA licensed processor within 48 hours of dispatch from property of origin including time at the saleyards / livestock exchange.

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 after training and kept up to date.

Training requirements	Licensed saleyard	Registered agent
Mod-11 MSA saleyard requirements (cattle)	✓	
Mod-S6 MSA saleyards for sheep	✓	
Mod-13 MSA livestock agent training (cattle)		✓
Mod-S7 MSA sheepmeat livestock agent training		✓
Other Enterprise requirements	Licensed saleyard	Registered agent
Initial saleyard survey	✓	

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 audit procedures against the requirements as determined by the Authorised Authority. Audits will be conducted yearly.

6.2 Pathways

6.2.1 Receival of livestock

The Enterprise must ensure that, upon receival 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
- 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 as MSA eligible.

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)
 - i. Once split, these animals may remain as separate mobs or re-joined as the original mob
- b. No mixing of different groups of cattle.

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
- 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

6.2.6.1 Cattle

Eligible consignments of cattle must have details clearly displayed as required by the Authorised Authority. Details displayed must include:

- a. Eligibility under these Standards
- b. Farm dispatch time
- c. Maximum time until slaughter.

6.2.6.2 Sheep

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
- c. Farm dispatch time
- d. 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.

The Enterprise must ensure that non-conforming livestock are 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/s 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 do 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
- 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.