



MSA Standards Manual

Livestock supply

Section



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1 Introduction

The Meat Standards Australia (MSA) Standards Manual is divided into a number of sections. Each section is a standalone document that is issued and amended independently of 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
20 March 2015	Second release – inclusions of Led Steer Pathway Requirements as approved at Taskforce (Feb 15) and AMILSC (Mar 15)	2.0
15 November 2016	Third release – Update to 5.1.21 MSA beef carcass 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 requirement of a minimum of 5mm wool length	4.0
March 2020	Updated to reflect release of MSA beef model V2.0 Update to livestock supply requirements for sick and injured cattle	5.0
July 2025	Update to reflect addition to supply recommendations, requirements for supply and changes to the MSA saleyard pathway.	6.0
August 2026	Update to include long duration transport pathway for cattle and update to direct consignment requirements for boat cattle and the led steer pathway.	7.0

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 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.

• Long duration land transport including truck and rail

Long duration land transport is defined as a road and/or rail journey longer than 48 hours from original property of dispatch to slaughter. This pathway needs to comply with *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines*.

Requirements

1. Slaughter is to occur within 120 hours from the cattle leaving the property of dispatch and the following requirements are to be met:
 - a. The total truck/rail journey from the property of dispatch to the abattoir does not exceed 84 hours.
 - b. Lairage does not exceed 48 hours prior to slaughter, and it is recommended that it be at least six hours.
2. Cattle are to have access to good quality hay or dry feed and water at all rest points longer than two hours where cattle are not on the truck or train.
3. The number of total load/unload events cannot exceed three events in total. A loading event includes cross-loading of trailers.

Recommendations:

1. Time where cattle are held on a stationary truck after loading is to be kept to a minimum e.g. standard/routine stock check time.

Note: These Standards and recommendations are based on research involving Bos indicus influenced cattle from Northern Australian production systems. These Standards apply to cattle that need to be moved long distances due to a lack of proximity to abattoir facilities.

1. Cattle are to be slaughtered within 48 hours from property of dispatch.

- In addition to the above on-farm responsibilities:

- #### 5.1.1.4 Led Steer Pathway

- a. All animals are to be on full feed and water prior to dispatch from the showground

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- 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 carcass specifications

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

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

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 ≥ 2 (GR ≥ 6 mm)
- d. HSCW ≥ 16 kg for young lamb, HSCW ≥ 18 kg 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 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.

Recommendations

5.2.1.2 Growth rates

- 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. All categories except ram are eligible.

5.2.1.4 Saleyard consignment

- a. 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

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 permanent 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 LPA National Vendor Declaration

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

- Time from dispatch to slaughter
- The breed content of animals
- Hours off feed to slaughter
- Month of shearing
- Producer MSA registration number to be identified in Part A, Section 7.

NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATION (SHEEP AND LAMBS) AND WAYBILL S0720 38888888

Part A To be completed by the owner or person who is responsible for the husbandry of the sheep or lambs.

Owner of sheep or lambs (FULL TRADING NAME)
Property/place where the journey commenced (ROAD ADDRESS)
(ADDRESS CONTINUED) (TOWN/VISUALS) (STATE)
Property Identification Code (PIC) of this property This MUST be the PIC of the property that the stock is being moved from ABCD1234
Description of sheep or lambs
Number Year born (PROP) Description (BREED, SEX & TYPE E.G. DISCOLORATED, WITHIN, LAMB) Month of shearing PIC or Brand on Ear Tags (IF DIFFERENT TO PIC SHOWN ABOVE) Earmarks (IF PERSON OR REQUIRED)
Total Use the Attachment Forms for consignments that require more lines to describe the stock. (See Explanatory Notes)

A. Have PICs on all of the NLIS tags only on sheep in this consignment been listed in the Description table above (other than the PIC printed on this NVD)? - Yes ☐ OR
B. Have all sheep in this consignment been tagged with an NLIS tag with the PIC printed on this NVD or the associated WA brand as listed in the description table above - Yes ☐ AND/OR
Number of electronic NLIS devices in this consignment
Hours off feed and water before transporting
Consigned to (NAME OF PERSON OR BUSINESS) (TOWN/VISUALS) (STATE)
Destination (if different) of sheep or lambs (LOCATION/ADDRESS)
Destination PIC (REQ. WA & TAS)
Details of other statutory documents relating to this movement e.g. health statement (DOCUMENT TYPE) (NUMBER) (OFFICE OF ISSUE) (EXPIRY DATE)

1. Have these sheep or lambs been raised consistent with the rules of an independently audited QA program on the property the PIC of which is shown above?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: NAME OF PROGRAM ACCREDITATION OR LICENSE NO.
2. Have all the sheep or lambs in this consignment been treated with a Scabby Mouth Vaccination either at marking or at least 14 days prior to their presentation for sale?
Yes ☐ No ☐
3. 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? (If purchased at different times, tick the box corresponding to the time of the most recent purchase.)
A. Less than 2 months ☐ B. 2-6 months ☐ C. 6-12 months ☐ D. more than 12 months ☐

4. Are any of the sheep or lambs in this consignment still within a Withholding Period (WHP) or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) as set by APVMA or SAFEMEAT, following treatment with any veterinary drug or chemical?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 7)
CHEMICAL PRODUCT / DATE APPLIED / WHP / ESI (IF SET)
5. In the past 60 days, have any of the sheep or lambs in this consignment consumed any material that was still within a withholding period when harvested, collected or first grazed?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: / DATE APPLIED / GRAZING WHP / DATE FIRST FEED GRAZED / DATE FEEDING/GRAZING CEASED
6. Have the sheep or lambs in this consignment ever in their lives been fed feed containing animal fats? (See Explanatory Notes)
Yes ☐ No ☐
7. Please include any additional information below eg: vaccination programs, animal health certification, additional declarations, etc.

Declaration
I, FULL NAME, FULL ADDRESS, LPA declare that, I am the owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep or lambs and that all the information in part A of this document is true and correct. 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, the sheep or lambs were not fed restricted animal material (including meat and bone meal) in breach of State or Territory legislation.
Signature* Date* / / 20
*Only the person whose name appears above may sign this declaration, or make amendments which must be initialed.
Tel no. Fax no.
Email.

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.
Movement commenced: / / 20 : (am/pm)
Vehicle registration number(s):
I, FULL NAME, am the person in charge of the sheep or lambs during the movement and declare all the information in Part B is true and correct.
Signature Date / / 20 Tel no.
*When more than one truck is carrying the sheep or lambs, other vehicle registration numbers are to be recorded.