

MEAT STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Amendment Advice 1/2026 – September 2026

TO: All licensed Meat Standards Australia (MSA) licensed Processors

ATTENTION: MSA Coordinator

It is a requirement of a Meat Standards Australia (MSA) licensed Processors to adhere to the relevant sections of the current MSA Standards Manual for the processing of beef and/or sheepmeat that follow MSA pathways.

MSA advises an amendment relevant to your business has been made to the MSA Standards,

- **MSA Standards, Section 7 – Processors** and
- **MSA Standards, Section 11 – Compliance and Audit Requirements**

SUMMARY OF MAJOR AMENDMENTS

Section	Amendment
Section 7.5.1 Direct Consignment (beef)	Update to direct consignment boat transport. b. Boat Transport i. Cattle are to be slaughtered within 48 hours from property of dispatch. ii. No mixing of unfamiliar mobs is to occur. Rejoining of familiar mobs is permitted in lairage for the purpose of rest and feeding.

Section 7.5.1.1 - Long duration land transport including truck and rail (beef)

Inclusion of new section for 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 6 hours (see lairage time recommendations in the below table).
2. Cattle are to have access to feed and water at all **rest points** longer than 2 hours where cattle are not on the truck or train.
3. The number of total load/unload events cannot exceed 3 events in total. A loading event includes cross-loading of trailers.
4. **Lairage** requirements are to ensure cattle have access to water. If time in lairage exceeds 4 hours cattle are to have access to both good quality hay or dry feed and water.
5. Plants must be able to provide documentary evidence of compliance to the above requirements. The evidence must include identification of a person responsible for ensuring compliance.

Recommendations:

1. Table 1. Provides recommended guidelines for lairage requirements for adequate pre-slaughter rest period.

Time from property to plant (hrs)	Minimum lairage (hrs)
48	6
64	12
84	24

2. 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.

Section 11.8.2 Processors – beef

Inclusion of new CCPs in table.

CCP3. Livestock transport

- The total number of load/unload events exceeds three for long duration cattle.

CCP12. Lairage



	- No access to feed in lairage if time in lairage exceeds 4hours for long duration transport cattle resulting in compromised grading outcomes. Update to CCPs in table. CCP15. Cattle not slaughtered within 48 hours from dispatch for direct consignment road and boat transport and saleyard pathway or within 120 hours for long duration direct consignment.
Section 11.9.2 Processors – beef	Updated audit requirements 7.2 During the transport of cattle under the long duration transport pathway, the total number of load/unload events must not exceed 3. 7.3 Cattle consigned under the long duration transport pathway must be on feed if time in lairage is greater than 4hours. 7.3 Cattle must be slaughtered within 48 hours from dispatch of property for direct consignment by boat transport. Cattle must be slaughtered within 120 hours from dispatch of property for long duration direct consignment by road and/or rail. Cattle must be slaughtered within 48 hours after dispatch from the property via the saleyards pathway.

MSA processors will have immediate access to the revised documents within [myMSA](#).

MSA licensed Processors should note the changes to relevant sections of this publication and update any electronic or printed copies maintained on file. The revised Standards will be effective immediately. If you have any queries on the amendment information contained in this advice or wish to update your contact details, please contact Meat Standards Australia on 1800 111 672 or email msaenquiries@mla.com.au.

Kind regards,



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