



MEAT STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

# Standards Manual

**Section 8:**  
**Independent boning rooms and  
portion cutting operations**

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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 sections.

The 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 from time to time.

## 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	Version 2 – updated to include tamper evident label requirements as approved by taskforce (Feb 2015) and AMILSC (Mar 2015). Version details updated V2.0 Release 20.03.2015	2.0
March 2020	Updated to reflect release of MSA beef model V2.0	3.0

## 8 Independent boning rooms and portion cutting operations

Independent boning rooms and portion cutting operations are to be licensed with MLA within the MSA program.

### 8.1 Quality Management System

Each Enterprise as defined by the licence application must incorporate these Standards and maintain a Quality Management System as and where required by an Authorised Authority.

An Authorised Authority must approve all Quality Management System documentation related to MSA. The Enterprise must ensure that the documentation is reviewed in accordance with updates to the MSA Standards, to conform to any variations in these Standards or an Authorised Authority's requirements.

The MSA program requirements of the Enterprise may be integrated into existing quality system manuals and procedures of the Enterprise. It is not a requirement to establish a separate Quality Management System Manual.

#### 8.1.1 Trained personnel

The Enterprise is required to provide sufficient trained personnel to ensure that all requirements of the MSA program are effectively maintained.

Details of the training and staff records must be identified in the Quality Management System Manual and approved by an Authorised Authority.

Trained Operatives must have completed one or more of the following modules of MSA training.

- B3. MSA product integrity (beef)
- S5. MSA sheepmeat integrity
- B5. MSA independent boning room training beef
- S9. MSA independent boning room training sheep

The Enterprise must nominate an MSA coordinator, with the responsibility and authority to ensure that the integrity of the MSA program is maintained in the Enterprise.

The appointed MSA coordinator must have completed the applicable training modules.

### 8.2 Carcase identification

The Enterprise will require access to accurate and current labelling specifications related to the carcasses as identified. This includes, but not limited to, being able to produce the cut by cook report as per the Plant Boning Run supplied by the Processor.

The Enterprise will require the capability to adjust labelling systems to reflect the current specifications for carcasses purchased.

### 8.3 MSA identification

MSA inserts issued, tamper evident labels, or printed packaging and/or approved by an Authorised Authority may only be applied at the Enterprise to which the inserts were issued.

MSA inserts, approved tamper evident labels or other approved identification are to be placed in/on packaging of all MSA eligible primals and portion cut products.

Enterprises using approved tamper evident labels to identify MSA Certified Primals must adhere to the following requirements:

Each label must:

- be tamper evident
- have the establishment number, where the product originated, printed on it
- have a unique sequential identification code printed on it
- have minimum of 47mm x 36mm dimensions
- have removal perforations and label 'face cuts'.

For an example of an acceptable tamper evident label, refer to 8.7.2 p 73

The Enterprise must:

- have an effective system for recording the sequence numbers used for any production, including a minimum of, the first number used, the last number used and the production date
- have an effective system, for control of use and traceability of labels, documented within their Quality Management System Manual and approved by MSA prior to implementation.

All use of tamper evident labels must be approved by MLA prior to implementation.

An Authorised Authority may withdraw from the Enterprise, for a period determined by the Authorised Authority, all MSA inserts, approved tamper evident labels and/or other approved identification issued by the Authorised Authority.

Without limiting the circumstances in which this action may be taken, it may be taken where the Authorised Authority considers that the MSA integrity of the product is at risk.

## 8.4 MSA carton label specifications

AUS-MEAT accredited Enterprises licensed in the MSA program are able to include the MSA grade, cooking method(s) and required days ageing or release date within the carton label or carton panel trade description information. MSA information is additional to existing mandatory and optional trade description information and will be subject to the same verification process used during routine AUS- MEAT audits.

Non AUS-MEAT accredited operations are required to apply appropriate product labelling that includes the MSA grade, cooking method(s) and required days ageing or release date.

Refer to section 8.7.3 Examples of MSA descriptions (p 74) on carton labels for examples.

## 8.5 Cutting / fabrication / preparation

MSA product must at all times be cut, fabricated and prepared in accordance with the MSA standards. If there is any failure to do so, product must not be sold as MSA product.

For portion cutting operations:

- If portions are cut and presented in the required cooking method/s, the cooking method/s does not have to be stated on the authenticating documentation (e.g. steaks for grill, strips for stir-fry and cubes for casserole).
- Where portions have met the required ageing requirements to meet a MSA eating quality grade, ageing information does not have to be stated on the authenticating documentation.
- Where the Enterprise prepares MSA product for consumption, the Enterprise should use the recommended cut dimensions below.

Cook method	Software descriptions	Alternate label descriptions	Recommended cut dimensions	Cook style	Beef	Sheepmeat
Grill	GRL	GRL, Grill	Beef – minimum 21 mm Sheepmeat – minimum 15 mm	Dry	X	X
Roast	RST	RST, Roast	Whole primal	Dry	X	X
Roast combi	RSC	RSC, Roast combi	Whole primal	Steam	X	
Stir fry	SFR	SFR, Stir fry	10mm(W) x 10mm(H) x 75mm(L)	Dry	X	X
Thin Slice	TSL	TSL 2mm, thin slice 2mm	2mm thin slice	Dry	X	
Roast thin slice cold	RC2	RC2mm	2mm thin slice	Dry	X	
Roast slice cold	RCT	RCT	10mm slice	Dry	X	
Slow cook	SC2	CASS, Cass, Casserole	20mm cube	Wet	X	X
Sous vide dice	SVD	SVD	20mm cube	Wet	X	
Corn	CRN	CRN, Corn	Whole primal	Wet	X	
Yakiniku	YAK	YAK, Yakiniku	4mm thin slice	Dry	X	
Shabu Shabu	SSB	SSB, Shabu Shabu	2mm thin slice	Wet	X	

### 8.5.1 Beef product packaged in Modified Atmospheric Packaging (MAP)

Where MSA beef product is to be packaged in 80:20 oxygen:carbon dioxide MAP, the Enterprise should prepare the MSA Certified Product as follows:

Cook method	Software descriptions	Alternate label descriptions	Recommended cut dimensions	Cook style
Grill	GRL	MAP GRL, MAP Grill	Beef – minimum 21 mm	Dry
Roast	RST	MAP RST, MAP Roast	Whole primal	Dry
Roast combi	RSC	MAP RSC, MAP Roast combi	Whole primal	Steam
Stir fry	SFR	MAP SFR, MAP Stir fry	10mm(W) x 10mm(H) x 75mm(L)	Dry
Thin slice	TSL	MAP TSL 2mm, thin slice 2mm	2mm thin slice	Dry
Roast thin slice cold	RC2	MAP RC2mm	2mm thin slice	Dry
Roast slice cold	RCT	MAP RCT	10mm slice	Dry
Slow cook	SC2	MAP CASS, MAP Cass, MAP Casserole	20mm cube	Wet
Sous vide dice	SVD	MAP SVD	20mm cube	Wet
Corn	CRN	MAP CRN, MAP Corn	Whole primal	Wet
Yakiniku	YAK	MAP YAK	4mm thin slice	Dry
Shabu Shabu	SSB	MAP SSB	2mm thin slice	Wet

The Enterprise must ensure that the product:

- is identified as MAP eligible for the appropriate cook method on the carton end panel; or
- the cut by cook report is provided by the supplier for the corresponding products
- has been aged to the minimum days age for the relevant cut by cook and eating quality outcome prior to being packed into MAP.

If the cut by cook report, or MAP-eligible information is not available, beef products in MAP are not permitted to carry the MSA trade mark.

### 8.5.2 Freezing of MSA beef and sheepmeat

Where MSA beef and/or sheepmeat is to be delivered and/or sold as frozen, the minimum ageing requirements for the cut to become MSA eligible must be met prior to freezing. This includes the mandatory five day ageing period required to be MSA eligible.

## 8.6 Dispatch / sale

Where MSA products are delivered and sold as MSA Certified Product, authenticating documentation identifying the eating quality outcome must accompany the product.

If the Enterprise does not distinguish between eating quality outcomes, for example MSA 3, 4 or 5 star, the authenticating documentation must still state MSA or MSA graded and product description. Without limiting this, MSA carton labels or MSA plant carton labels must be attached to the cartons and all primals and portions must include MSA inserts, approved tamper evident labels or approved printing.

The use of CMQ4 (eating quality scores) is not permitted on labelling or marketing claims.

Where authenticating documentation is lost or damaged, product must not be sold as MSA product.

Where MSA primals are sold to an MSA supplier, authenticating documentation must be supplied with the product together with details of the appropriate cook method for the grade and ageing requirements.

Where MSA product is on-sold to an Enterprise, which is not an MSA licensee, it must not be sold as MSA product.

Where branded products are underpinned by MSA and the MSA trade mark is used, these products must contain only MSA product.

## 8.7 Reference material

### 8.7.1 MSA generic insert



### 8.7.2 Example of an acceptable MSA tamper evident label



### 8.7.3 Examples of MSA descriptions on carton labels

**BONE-IN BEEF**  
**PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA ANY MEAT WORKS Co 6557**



(01)99327111065576(3102)001856(13)020417(21)41457354 Batch: 477  
**\*YG\* SHORTLOIN MSA** 2 PC  
 IW/VAC  
 GRL MSA 3 @ 5 days MSA 4 @ 14 days  
 RST MSA 3 @ 5 days MSA 4 @ 14 days  
 SFR MSA 4 @ 5 days  
 PACKED ON: 19 SEPT 2011  
 BEST BEFORE: 19 OCT 2011  
**18.56kg 40.94lb**  
 NET WEIGHT 41457354 KEEP CHILLED



**BONE-IN LAMB**  
**PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA ANY MEAT WORKS Co 6557**



(01)99327111065576(3102)001856(13)020417(21)41457354 Batch: 224  
**\*L - LEG\* CHUMP ON**  
**OVER 3kg**  
 IW/VAC  
 RST MSA @ 5 days  
 PACKED ON: 19 SEPT 2011  
 BEST BEFORE: 19 OCT 2011  
**17.9kg**  
 NET WEIGHT 41457354 KEEP CHILLED



**BONE IN BEEF**  
**PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA** ANY MEAT WORKS Co  
**\*EQG\* SHORTLOIN** LONG FLAT ROAD  
 IW/VAC ANYTOWN NSW  
**32307**  
 KEEP REFRIGERATED



(01) 9 931671012345 3 (3101) 000262 (13) 140110 (21) 41457354

PACKED ON 22 - SEP - 2017 GRL MSA 3 @ 5 days MSA 4 @ 14 days  
 BEST BEFORE 30 - NOV - 2017 RST MSA 3 @ 5 days MSA 4 @ 14 days  
 TSL MSA 4 @ 5 days

**26.2kg 57.8lb** NET WEIGHT  
 BATCH: 448 CARTON ID: 41457354



EST. NO.9999

**BONE IN BEEF**  
**PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA** ANY MEAT WORKS Co  
**SHORTLOIN MSA** LONG FLAT ROAD  
 IW/VAC ANYTOWN NSW  
**32307**  
 KEEP REFRIGERATED



(01) 9 931671012345 3 (3101) 000262 (13) 140110 (21) 41457354

PACKED ON 22 - SEP - 2017 GRL MSA 3 @ 5 days MSA 4 @ 14 days  
 BEST BEFORE 30 - NOV - 2017 RST MSA 3 @ 5 days MSA 4 @ 14 days  
 TSL MSA 4 @ 5 days

**26.2kg 57.8lb** NET WEIGHT  
 BATCH: 448 CARTON ID: 41457354



EST. NO.9999

### 8.7.4 MSA invoice examples

**Aussie Meat Trading Company**  
 ABN: 11 222 333 444

Level 1, 40 Mount Street Meat Standards Australia  
 North Sydney NSW 2059 Licensed supplier A123  
 Email: meatsales@meat.com.au

Invoice number 287795

Johnny's Quality Meats Ship To:  
 PO Box 3 64 Smith Road  
 Sydney NSW 2000 Sydney NSW 2000

Salesperson: ST				Transport: MAC
Customer code	Date	Order number	Terms	Delivery
JQM	28/06/2018	119819	21 days	

Code	Description	No.	Weight (kg)	Unit price	Amount
EQGBC	EQG beef carcass	2	480	\$7.50	\$3600
YGBC	YG beef carcass	1	185	\$6.30	\$1165.5
LCMSA	L lamb carcasses-MSA	5	110	\$6.00	\$660
HC012	H hogget carcasses	3	75	\$5.00	\$750.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>Total weight</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>Amount Ex. GST \$6175.50</b>
				GST	0.00
				Freight	\$50.00
Terms: Strictly as above				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6225.50</b>

**Aussie Meat Trading Company**  
 ABN: 11 222 333 444

Level 1, 40 Mount Street Meat Standards Australia  
 North Sydney NSW 2059 Licensed supplier A123  
 Email: meatsales@meat.com.au

Invoice number 287795

Johnny's Quality Meats Ship To:  
 PO Box 3 64 Smith Road  
 Sydney NSW 2000 Sydney NSW 2000

Salesperson: ST				Transport: MAC
Customer code	Date	Order number	Terms	Delivery
JQM	28/06/2018	119819	21 days	

Code	Description	No. cartons	Weight (kg)	Unit price	Amount
CUR610	YG MSA Cube roll 2.2kg+	5	122.5	\$20.50	\$2511.25
RMP513	PR Rump	4	102.4	\$6.50	\$665.60
OYST300	PR MSA Oyster blade	2	34.6	\$17.00	\$588.20
LEG100	L Lamb leg chump on-MSA	3	48	\$10.00	\$480.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>Total weight</b>	<b>307.5</b>	<b>Amount Ex. GST \$4245.05</b>
				GST	0.00
				Freight	\$50.00
Terms: Strictly as above				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4295.05</b>