



## LPA Requirements: #7

# Animal welfare



LIVESTOCK  
PRODUCTION  
ASSURANCE

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm assurance program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity. It is part of the integrity system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. Customer confidence in Australian red meat underpins the success and growth of Australia's livestock industry, and protects the livelihoods of more than 200,000 producers.

When producers become LPA-accredited, they are promising to meet LPA's requirements and fulfil their responsibility in the production of safe and ethical red meat. **Animal welfare** is just one of seven elements that producers need to satisfy in order to become LPA accredited.

**Every LPA-accredited producer should follow the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* for cattle, sheep or goats.**

### Why?

Livestock producers care for their animals. Livestock care is fundamental to the success and sustainability of every farm.

Australia's red meat customers and consumers, both domestically and overseas, seek reassurance that livestock are cared for humanely and ethically.

Under LPA, on-farm systems must be implemented to ensure the management and handling of livestock is consistent with the requirements of the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* for cattle, sheep and goats.

This provides customers with the evidence that the animals have been treated ethically.

### How?

LPA accredited producers are required to keep a current copy of the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* for cattle, sheep and/or goats (as applicable) accessible as a reference. People involved with animal husbandry should be familiar with its content.

Anyone responsible for the management of livestock handling on your property must have successfully completed training in these *Standards and Guidelines* through the LPA Learning tool ([www.mla.com.au/LPAlearning](http://www.mla.com.au/LPAlearning)) or an equivalent training program. Those managing livestock handling are also required to have trained any staff (where relevant) in a way that is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines.

The *Standards and Guidelines* can be downloaded from the Integrity Hub website ([www.mla.com.au/integrity](http://www.mla.com.au/integrity)), see Integrity Tools and Resources page.

### LPA requirements

- #1 Property risk assessment
- #2 Safe & responsible animal treatments
- #3 Safe livestock feed
- #4 Preparation for dispatch
- #5 Livestock transactions & movements
- #6 Biosecurity
- #7 Animal welfare



## What?

The *Standards and Guidelines* were developed to harmonise and streamline livestock welfare legislation in Australia, resulting in improved welfare in a way that is practical for industry.

The *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* cover producers' responsibilities and set out animals' needs in relation to feed and water; risk management in extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation; facilities and equipment; handling and management/ husbandry; breeding management; and humane killing. For cattle, the *Standards and Guidelines* also cover castration, dehorning and spaying; calf-rearing systems; dairy management; and beef feedlots. For sheep, additional chapters address tail docking and castration; mulesing; and intensive sheep production systems.

## When?

From 1 October 2017 all Australian red meat producers are required to confirm that they manage, handle and treat livestock in their care appropriately to ensure comfort and quality of life is maintained, in adherence with the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines*, as a requirement of LPA.

## Checklist:

- 1 **Do you have a copy of the current version of the 'Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines' for cattle, sheep or goats (as applicable to your property) accessible as a reference?**

This document can be downloaded from the Integrity Hub website ([www.mla.com.au/integrity](http://www.mla.com.au/integrity), see Integrity Tools and Resources page), and kept available as a ready reference where you and your livestock handlers can access it easily.

- 2 **Has the PIC representative or person responsible for the handling of livestock successfully completed training in relation to the 'Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines' through the LPA Learning tool or an equivalent?**

Animal welfare is one of the seven modules contained within LPA Learning – an online education tool for producers. As part of your LPA accreditation you should have successfully completed the animal welfare module in LPA Learning or an equivalent training program.

- 3 **Are staff involved in animal husbandry familiar with the content of the current version of the *Standards and Guidelines* for cattle, sheep and/or goats (as applicable)?**

It is important that your version of the *Standards and Guidelines* is accessible on-farm and is kept up to date. Whenever a new edition of the document is released, a fresh copy should be downloaded and read by the people responsible for livestock husbandry on your property, then stored where it can be accessed again from time to time as needed.

- 4 **Do you maintain any other procedures or practices that contribute to improved animal welfare outcomes in your operation?**

If you have any other procedures or practices in place on your property above and beyond those required by the *Standards and Guidelines*, record those and add them as a supplement to your copy of the official document.

## Learn more

A dedicated module within LPA Learning ([www.mla.com.au/LPALearning](http://www.mla.com.au/LPALearning)) explains what you need to know regarding LPA's requirements for animal welfare. Information is also provided on the Integrity Hub website ([www.mla.com.au/integrity](http://www.mla.com.au/integrity) – see LPA pages).

See also the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines website ([www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au](http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au)).