

Project overview



Improving standing stun restraint in Indonesia

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Brief summary

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) has over many years invested time and money to assist the Indonesian meat and livestock industry improve its handling and processing of Australian cattle. Specifically, MLA has developed, designed and tested several different types of manually and later mechanically operated restraining boxes to assist the abattoir operator in humanely restraining and processing Australian cattle. This has allowed for appropriate Halal ritual slaughter, which is an essential part of the Islamic religion. Whilst it has been recognised that the Mark 1 restraining box did improve the handling of livestock prior to slaughter compared to the traditional methods, it still had the potential if used incorrectly, to not comply with international animal welfare guidelines. To address this issue and to provide support to the Indonesian abattoir operators, a design upgrade or retrofit of the Mark 1 restraining box was undertaken.

Objectives

1. Design, build and test a retrofit to the existing Mark 1 cattle restraining box to allow it to be used for stunning of cattle in an upright position with the inclusion of a manually operated head restraint in Indonesia.
2. Ensure reference and compliance with OIE animal welfare guidelines as described in Chapter 7.5 of slaughter of animals and Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS).
3. Develop and document design fabrication drawings to retrofit components to existing Mark 1 restraining boxes in Indonesia with inclusion of the ability to use a full range of stunning equipment including pneumatic and handheld non penetrating devices.
4. Fabricate and test stunning box in Australia.
5. Install, retrofit and trial in an abattoir in Indonesia making modifications where necessary.
6. Update final fabrication drawings where necessary to reflect the final working version as trialed in Indonesia.
7. Submit final fabrication drawings and operations manual to MLA.

Project outcomes

The output from this project is the design of a robust standing stun slaughter box that complies with OIE guidance for the slaughter of animals that can be installed in abattoirs throughout Indonesia. It will supersede the Mark I cattle restraining box and can be integrated into existing abattoir infrastructure.

Benefits to industry

The application of this restraining box in Indonesia aims to encourage the use of stunning. The design of this restraining box is a humane method of capturing and restraining an animal and is superior to the Mark I box where non-stun stick application occurs. This standing stun slaughter box is fully compliant with ESCAS requirements.

Future research and recommendations

The original Mark 1 restraining box was not designed to provide a standing stun nor a head capture device. This standing stun box delivered as an output of this project is fully compliant with the requirements of ESCAS, therefore it's installation throughout the market is encouraged.