



STANDARDS MODULE

Advanced Carcase Fat Measurement Program

JANUARY 1996

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Aim of the Program

This program aims to recognise the skills of carcass fat measurers by way of certification as Advanced Carcass Fat Measurers.

1.2 Scope of the Program

The ACFM program applies to any Establishment that employs ACFM certified staff, and in particular Establishments where Over the Hooks traded stock is processed.

1.3 Value of the Program

Establishments that pay and trade on the basis of carcass fat measurement need highly trained and skilled measurers to ensure that carcass fat depth is accurately measured and accurately recorded.

Carcass fat measurers can attain recognition of measuring skills through ACFM certification and maintain certification through annual updating by AUS-MEAT.

Establishments that participate in this program as a requirement of the A+ Category, or voluntarily as A Category establishments can promote themselves as having AUS-MEAT Certified Advanced Carcass Fat Measurers. This, in turn should encourage agents and vendors to sell their livestock to these Establishments on a carcass weight and fat basis.

To assist in the promotion of the ACFM program AUS-MEAT will from time to time publish a list of participating Establishments.

2. DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION

2.1 Definitions

In this Module, where commencing with a capital letter:

“**ACFM**” means Advanced Carcase Fat Measurement;

“**ACFM Certified Measurer**” means a person who has successfully completed the AUS-MEAT ACFM examination;

“**ACFM Identification Number**” means an identification number allocated to an ACFM Certified Measurer;

“**AUS-MEAT**” means the Authority for Uniform Specifications Meat and Livestock;

“**Establishment**” means an abattoir accredited by AUS-MEAT;

“**Feedback Sheet**” means a form on which the mandatory feedback information is recorded;

“**Quality System**” means the system prepared and adopted by an Establishment to comply with the AUS-MEAT requirements;

“**Standards Officer**” means a person who is responsible for product description and the Quality System in one or more sections of the Establishment;

2.2 Application

2.2.1 This Module supersedes and replaces Appendix A in the ACFM workbook and Advice 25/91.

2.2.2 AUS-MEAT may from time to time by notice to each Establishment vary this Module. A variation takes effect 7 days after AUS-MEAT sends the notice or from any other date specified in the notice and has effect despite any accidental failure to give notice to any Establishment.

2.2.3 Establishments wishing to participate in the ACFM Program are required to apply in writing to AUS-MEAT using the form provided. (Refer App. ii.)

3. STANDARDS FOR THE ACFM PROGRAM

3.1 ACFM Certified Staff

- 3.1.1 The Establishment must employ that number of current ACFM certified persons which in AUS-MEAT's opinion is required to measure carcass fat and monitor carcass fat measurements on an ongoing basis. (It is recommended a minimum of two measurers and two Standards Officers are certified.)
- 3.1.2 The identification number of each ACFM Certified Measurer is to be recorded in the Establishment's Quality System.
- 3.1.3 Identification numbers will be issued by AUS-MEAT to those persons successfully completing the ACFM examination. An ACFM Certificate of Proficiency however is only issued upon written request from Establishment management to AUS-MEAT.
- 3.1.4 To remain current ACFM certified persons must be updated by AUS-MEAT annually. Each ACFM certified person must if required by AUS-MEAT successfully complete an annual practical examination prior to updating. The annual practical examination will be conducted in the same manner as the initial practical examination referred to in paragraph 5.2.

3.2 Vendor Feedback

The Establishment must identify the ACFM Carcass Measurer, by way of his/her ACFM identification number preceded by the *symbol* 'ACFM' on Feedback Sheets. This is in addition to any other mandatory vendor feedback requirements.

The *symbol* "ACFM" may only be used by Establishments participating in the AUS-MEAT ACFM Program and signifies to the vendor that the Establishment is participating in the AUS-MEAT ACFM Program.

For example a beef Feedback Sheet may display:

'ACFM P8 000'

where P8 000 represents the measurer's ACFM Identification Number; and

the *symbol* "ACFM" identifies that the carcass fat measurements have been taken by a current ACFM Certified Measurer and measurements have been monitored by a current ACFM Certified Standards Officer in accordance with the Establishment's Quality System.

3.3 Carcass Fat Measurement

All carcass fat measurements must:

- (i) be performed in the manner described in the AUS-MEAT ACFM workbook;
- (ii) fall consistently within the specified tolerances (refer appendix i);
- (iii) be performed by a current ACFM Certified Measurer; and
- (iv) be monitored in the manner described in the Establishment's Quality System by a current ACFM Certified Standards Officer.

4. ACFM Training

The training options available to Establishment staff wishing to achieve ACFM certification are as follows:

4.1 Self Training

AUS-MEAT supplies the ACFM workbook that the applicant uses to prepare themselves for examination. When the applicant is satisfied that he/she is ready for examination a suitable time will be arranged with an Area Manager.

4.2 AUS-MEAT Training

Establishments selecting this option deal directly with an Area Manager who will arrange for formal on plant training sessions that will prepare the applicant for examination.

4.3 Training Fees

The ACFM training fees will be discussed with the Establishment upon application.

5.0 ACFM Examination

AUS-MEAT will conduct theory and practical examinations at the Establishment where the applicant is employed. Prior to or during examination an inspection of the Establishment will be carried out by AUS-MEAT to ensure that the facilities and equipment provide for accurate carcass fat measurement and monitoring of carcass fat measurements.

Where the applicant is a carcass fat measurer, that person must successfully complete the ACFM exam for all carcass fat measurement instruments used at the Establishment for the nominated species. Where the applicant is a carcass fat monitor, that person must successfully complete the ACFM exam for the instrument used when monitoring carcass fat measurements. (It is recommended that monitors have a sound understanding of all carcass fat measurement instruments used at the Establishment.)

5.1 Theory Exam

The theory exam is a 'closed book' exam that is supervised and marked by an AUS-MEAT Area Manager. A suitable place for sitting the exam should be provided by the Establishment.

Theory Examination Standard

80% or more.

5.2 Practical Exam

The practical examination may only proceed once it has been established that the applicant has passed the theory examination. Applicants are required to measure 60 carcasses and the measurements obtained must fall inside the specified tolerances.

If an applicant fails a sample of 20 during the practical assessment, he/she is given the opportunity to measure a further sample of 20 carcasses. Each applicant will be allowed a maximum of 100 carcasses to meet the practical performance standard.

Practical Examination Standard

60 carcasses measured within the tolerances specified in App. i.

5.3 Where an applicant fails an examination:

- (a) AUS-MEAT will advise the applicant and the Establishment, and the applicant will not be certified, or will not be updated, as the case may be; and
- (b) the applicant may undertake a further examination within 7 days or at a later agreed date, and until the applicant successfully completes a further examination, the applicant must not act as an ACFM certified person.

6. Notification of ACFM Participation

An Establishment that has forwarded an ACFM application in the form of appendix ii. and, in AUS-MEAT's opinion, employs a sufficient number of current ACFM certified persons to measure carcass fat and to monitor carcass fat measurements on an ongoing basis will be notified by AUS-MEAT in writing of its admission into the ACFM Program. Admission becomes effective on receipt by the Establishment of the notice.

7. Auditing

AUS-MEAT will audit vendor feedback, carcass fat measurement and Establishment compliance to the ACFM Program Standards as part of the procedure and detailed audit process.

8. Withdrawal From The ACFM Program

8.1 Voluntary Withdrawal

An Establishment may by written notice to AUS-MEAT request to withdraw from the ACFM Program. Withdrawal is effective on receipt by AUS-MEAT of the notice.

8.2 Withdrawal by AUS-MEAT

AUS-MEAT may by notice to an Establishment withdraw that Establishment from the ACFM Program if:

- a) it considers that there has been any failure to comply with the ACFM Program requirements;
- b) it considers that the Establishment has applied incorrect ACFM Identification Number(s) to Feedback Sheet(s);

- c) it considers that the Establishment has failed to maintain the approved Quality System for monitoring carcass fat measurement and vendor feedback;
- d) it considers that the Establishment has or is likely to undermine the ACFM Program or the reputation or integrity of AUS-MEAT; or
- e) a written complaint from a vendor or vendor's agent in regard to inaccurate carcass fat measurement is substantiated.

AUS-MEAT will notify the Establishment of its decision in writing.

8.3 Withdrawal of ACFM Certification

AUS-MEAT may withdraw a measurer's ACFM certification where in the opinion of AUS-MEAT the measurer has or is likely to undermine the credibility of the ACFM Program or the reputation or integrity of AUS-MEAT.

AUS-MEAT will notify the Establishment and the measurer of its decision in writing.

9. ACFM Program Re-entry

Where an Establishment has been removed from the ACFM program for any of the reasons stated in paragraph 8.2, application must be made in the form of App.ii. and must be accompanied by a corrective action plan. A decision on whether to admit the Establishment into the ACFM Program will be made by AUS-MEAT taking into consideration the reason(s) which lead to withdrawal and the information contained in the corrective action plan.

AUS-MEAT will notify the Establishment of its decision in writing.

Where a measurer has had his/her ACFM Certificate withdrawn the process for re-certification will be the same as for initial certification.

App. i. Carcass Fat Measurement Tolerances

BEEF

Fat Depth

Tolerance

Up to and including 5 mm	+ or - 1 mm.
Over 5 up to and including 10 mm	+ or - 2 mm.
Over 10 mm	+ or - 3 mm.

PIGS

Consistency

The sum of the differences of the measurements (ignoring whether the measurements are higher or lower) between the measurer and the monitor is to be no more than 14 mm.

Bias

The sum of the differences of the measurements between the measurer and the monitor for 20 carcasses, taking into account whether the measurements of the measurer are higher or lower than the monitor's is to be no more than plus or minus 5.

App.ii.



ACFM Program Application Form

(Company name) _____, Establishment number _____
wish to participate in the AUS-MEAT ACFM Program and will adhere to all requirements for
the ACFM Program as detailed by AUS-MEAT from time to time.

a) Name of signatory : (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

If applicant is a body corporate

b) Position in the body corporate * _____

c) ACN : _____

(* must be Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer, General Manager or other authorised
person.)

Address : _____

Contact Person : _____ Title: _____

Phone : _____ Fax : _____

Details of ACFM Certified Measurers/Applicants

Name	Identification No.	Instrument(s)
1.....
2.....
3.....
4.....
5.....
6.....
7.....

Preferred Training Option(circle one) Option One Option Two Not Applicable

Office use only

Date received

Date Processed

Person Responsible