

Livestock Production Assurance
– Level 1 On Farm Food Safety

APPROVED STANDARDS

*Approved by the Livestock Production Assurance
(LPA) Steering Committee*

2010

© 2010 AUS-MEAT Limited

Copyright protects this publication. Except for purposes by the Copyright Act, reproduction by whatever means is prohibited without prior written permission of AUS-MEAT Limited.

CONTENTS

1.0 STANDARDS	3
2.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	4
ELEMENT 1. - PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT.....	4
ELEMENT 2. – SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENT.....	4
ELEMENT 3. – FODDER CROP, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS AND STOCK FOODS.....	5
ELEMENT 4. – PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK.....	5
ELEMENT 5. – LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS AND MOVEMENTS	6
APPENDIX 1 - PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST	7
ELEMENT 1. - PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT.....	7
ELEMENT 2. - SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENTS	8
ELEMENT 3. – FODDER CROP, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS AND STOCK FOODS.....	10
ELEMENT 4. – PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK.....	12
ELEMENT 5. – LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS AND MOVEMENTS	13

1.0 STANDARDS

The *Livestock Production Assurance - Level 1 On Farm Food Safety* scheme comprises **five (5) standard elements**. Each element describes the food safety **outcomes** that an accredited property must meet to maintain certification in the program.

	STANDARD ELEMENT	OUTCOMES
1	Property Risk Assessment	On Farm systems have been implemented to minimise the risk of livestock being exposed to sites that are unacceptably contaminated with organochlorine or other persistent chemicals.
2	Safe And Responsible Animal Treatments	On Farm systems have been implemented to ensure that animal treatments are administered in a safe and responsible manner to minimise the risk of chemical residues and physical hazards in livestock intended for human consumption.
3	Fodder Crop, Grain and Pasture Treatments and Stock Foods	On Farm systems have been implemented to manage the exposure of livestock to foods containing unacceptable chemical contamination to minimise the risk of chemical residues in livestock and to eliminate the risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock intended for human consumption.
4	Preparation For Dispatch Of Livestock	On Farm systems have been implemented to ensure that the selected livestock are fit for transport and that the risk of stress and contamination of livestock during assembly and transport is minimised.
5	Livestock Transactions And Movements	A system has been implemented to enable traceability of the current status of all livestock with respect to treatment or exposure to relevant food safety hazards for all livestock movements between livestock production enterprises including to slaughter and live export.

2.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

To demonstrate compliance with the required outcomes of the *Livestock Production Assurance - Level 1 On Farm Food Safety* scheme, an enterprise must achieve performance indicators specific to each code element.

ELEMENT 1. - PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to minimise the risk of livestock being exposed to sites that are unacceptably contaminated with organochlorine or other persistent chemicals.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. All potentially contaminated sites have been identified.
2. All identified sites are managed to restrict access of livestock to prevent exposure and contamination.
3. Potentially exposed animals are identified and managed in a manner to minimise the risk of contamination of livestock intended for human consumption in accordance with relevant legal requirements.

ELEMENT 2. – SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENT

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to ensure that animal treatments are stored and administered in a safe and responsible manner to minimise the risk of chemical residues and physical hazards in livestock intended for human consumption.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Animal treatments are administered only by trained and competent staff in accordance with label and/or written veterinary directions and relevant legal requirements.
2. Chemicals are stored securely to in accordance with label/manufacturers' directions, to prevent exposure to livestock.
3. Sufficient records are maintained to enable, the traceability of the status of treated livestock, including introduced livestock, with respect to relevant WHP/ESI and/or presence of broken needles and to enable the correct/controlled use of chemicals to be demonstrated.

ELEMENT 3. – FODDER CROP, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS AND STOCK FOODS

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to manage the exposure of livestock to foods containing unacceptable chemical contamination to minimise the risk of chemical residues in livestock and to eliminate the risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock intended for human consumption.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Agricultural chemicals are applied to fodder crops, grain and pasture only by trained and competent staff in accordance with label directions and/or relevant approvals in accordance with relevant legal requirements.
2. Chemicals are stored securely in accordance with label/manufacturers directions, to prevent exposure to livestock.
3. Exposure of animals to fodder crops, grain and pasture, and introduced stock feed that have been treated with or exposed to agricultural chemicals is managed to minimise the risk of unacceptable chemical residues in livestock for human consumption. Sufficient records are maintained to enable the traceability of the status of exposed livestock, including introduced livestock, with respect to relevant WHP/ESI.
4. Exposure of animals to stock feed is managed to eliminate the risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock, with the exception of approved exemptions.
5. Sufficient records are maintained to enable the traceability of the status of fodder crops, grain and pasture, and introduced stock feed intended to be fed to livestock with respect to relevant WHP/ESI from slaughter or grazing/harvest as applicable and to enable the correct/controlled use of chemicals to be demonstrated.

ELEMENT 4. – PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to ensure that the selected livestock are fit for transport and that the risk of stress and contamination of livestock during assembly and transport is minimised.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Only animals that are in a condition fit for travel are selected, to minimise potential disease and/or contamination related to transport conditions.
2. On farm assembly practices and transport arrangements are managed to minimise the risk of stress and contamination of animals.

ELEMENT 5. – LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS AND MOVEMENTS

OUTCOME: A system has been implemented to enable traceability of the current status of all livestock with respect to treatment or exposure to relevant food safety hazards for all livestock movements between livestock production enterprises including to slaughter and live export.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. All livestock transactions and movements including between properties (Property Identification Codes) are accompanied by a current, correctly completed LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD).
2. Sufficient records are maintained to enable the declarations on an accompanying LPA NVD concerning the food safety related status of livestock introduced to and dispatched from the property to be reconciled with the livestock traceability system adopted.

Footnote:

Persons responsible for the use of chemicals must be able to demonstrate at audit a level of competency equivalent to the Level 3 competencies of “Preparation and Application of Chemicals”; and the “Transport, Handling and Storage of Chemicals” under the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF).

APPENDIX 1 - PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

The following **Performance Checklist** identifies a number of activities that will assist in meeting the Performance Indicators for Element 1. 'Property Risk Assessment' of the *Livestock Production Assurance - Level 1 On Farm Food Safety* scheme.

ELEMENT 1. - PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to minimise the risk of livestock being exposed to sites that are unacceptably contaminated with organochlorine or other persistent chemicals.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST:

1. Has the enterprise completed a risk assessment to identify if there are any sites on the property that may have been contaminated with organochlorines or other persistent chemicals with the potential to result in unacceptable chemical residues in livestock?
2. Has the risk assessment process considered prior land use including agricultural activities, old dip sites, old rubbish sites, treatment of power poles, adjacent enterprise activities and the relevance of any existing contamination to each current livestock and agricultural activity undertaken?
3. Are sufficient records available to enable the enterprise to demonstrate the process undertaken to complete the risk assessment? This might include (where appropriate) letters from relevant authorities or soil test results.
4. Does your risk assessment adequately relate to the enterprise's current activities including any changes to activities over time such as lotfeeding?
5. Can the enterprise demonstrate that all contaminated sites/facilities been identified and recorded eg. location of old dip sites on a farm map?
6. Can the enterprise demonstrate that contaminated sites are responsibly managed eg. can livestock gain access to any contaminated sites and if so, have management practices been put in place to stop this occurring?
7. Can the enterprise demonstrate that any persistent chemicals on the farm are stored and disposed of in a manner to prevent risk of exposure to livestock eg. chemicals are stored in a secure manner?
8. Where a feedlot is on-site, can the enterprise demonstrate that the risk assessment conducted is sufficient to ensure that the feedlot is not established on a contaminated site (eg. soils test or animal fat test results)?
9. Can the enterprise demonstrate through other procedures or practices that outcomes and performance indicators for this element have been met?

The following **Performance Checklist** identifies a number of activities that will assist in meeting the Performance Indicators for Element 2. 'Safe and Responsible Animal Treatments' of *Livestock Production Assurance - Level 1 On Farm Food Safety* scheme.

ELEMENT 2. - SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENTS

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to ensure that animal treatments are stored and administered in a safe and responsible manner to minimise the risk of chemical residues and physical hazards in livestock intended for human consumption.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST:

1. Can the enterprise demonstrate that all veterinary chemical application and handling is conducted by trained and competent persons eg. persons applying or handling chemicals either hold or are under the supervision of a person/s with a current veterinary chemical user's certificate?
2. Can the enterprise demonstrate that the intended use, application method and dose rates of veterinary chemicals are understood prior to use eg. by ensuring that chemical labels are read prior to use and that chemicals are applied in accordance with manufacturer's instructions?
3. Can the enterprise demonstrate that equipment used to administer or measure veterinary chemicals delivers the correct dose eg equipment is calibrated and checked for operational efficiency prior to use and thoroughly cleaned after use?
4. Can the enterprise demonstrate that only approved veterinary chemicals are used to ensure that livestock receive the appropriate treatment eg chemicals are approved by the national chemical registration body (APVMA)?
5. Can the enterprise demonstrate that veterinary chemicals are stored securely in accordance with label directions and exposure of livestock is prevented?
6. Can the enterprise demonstrate that all chemicals are used in accordance with label directions eg. where chemicals are used in an extra-label manner that written directions are available from the veterinarian?
7. Can the enterprise demonstrate that management systems are in place to prevent cross – contamination between treated and non-treated animals (e.g. cross contamination through urine or milk).
8. Can the enterprise demonstrate that the administration site of all veterinary chemical injections takes into consideration the relative value of the meat cut eg. injections are administered into the neck region unless they are site specific?
9. Can the enterprise demonstrate that injection site damage is minimised in all livestock eg ensuring that no more than 10 ml of intramuscular injection is administered in any one site, with the exception of those that are site specific?
10. Can the enterprise demonstrate that adverse reactions to chemicals are monitored to minimise the risk of unknown chemical residues eg. adverse reactions of livestock to veterinary chemical treatments are recorded?
11. Can the enterprise demonstrate that sufficient records of veterinary chemical treatments are maintained to ensure that the treatment status of livestock can be evaluated prior to shipment? For example records could include:

- Treatment date
- Animal/mob ID
- Chemical/drug used
- Dosage
- Withholding Period (WHP) and/or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI)
- Date of expiry of the WHP and/or ESI
- Batch Number and Expiry Date

12. Can the enterprise demonstrate that livestock knowingly exposed to physical contaminants are permanently identified to maintain traceability eg. in the event that a broken needle remains in an animal after treatment, that the animal is permanently identified?
13. Can the enterprise demonstrate that a current WHP and/or ESI chart is available for reference when completing treatment records?
14. Can the enterprise demonstrate that management practices minimise the risk of providing incorrect information at point of sale in relation to chemical status of livestock eg. treated livestock and/or animals all treated and/or contaminated livestock are identified and/or segregated for the duration of the WHP and/or ESI and records are available to demonstrate that all livestock of unknown residue status are identified and evaluated?
15. Can the enterprise demonstrate that where WHP and/or ESI information is not available on a chemical label, that additional enquiries are made with the chemical manufacturer, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and/or other relevant authority, to determine the WHP and/or ESI that needs to be applied to that chemical?
16. Where livestock are sold by direct consignment, can the enterprise demonstrate that the WHP and ESI status of treated livestock is provided to the purchaser to ensure that livestock are not processed for human consumption whilst within a WHP/ESI eg where livestock are sold by direct consignment to another producer whilst within a WHP and/or ESI, the buyer should be advised in writing details of the treatment, the relevant WHP and/or ESI and the date on which the WHP and/or ESI expires. The LPA NVD can be used for this purpose.
17. Can the enterprise demonstrate that where **cattle** have been transported and require tick treatment to cross tick lines, that treatment information is provided to the receiver of the livestock to minimise the risk of unknown chemical residues eg the purchaser is advised of treatment details in writing including WHP/ESI periods?
18. Can the enterprise demonstrate through other procedures or practices that outcomes and performance indicators for this element have been met?

The following **Performance Checklist** identifies a number of activities that will assist in meeting the Performance Indicators for Element 3. 'Fodder Crops, Grain and Pasture Treatments and Stockfoods' of the *Livestock Production Assurance - Level 1 On Farm Food Safety* scheme.

ELEMENT 3. – FODDER CROP, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS AND STOCK FOODS

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to manage the exposure of livestock to foods containing unacceptable chemical contamination to minimise the risk of chemical residues in livestock and to eliminate the risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock intended for human consumption.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST:

1. Can the enterprise demonstrate that treated paddock areas and any contaminated sites/facilities have been identified and recorded eg. location of old rubbish sites on a farm map?
2. Can the enterprise demonstrate that all agricultural chemical application and handling is conducted by trained and competent persons eg. persons applying or handling chemicals either hold or are under the supervision of a person/s with a current agricultural chemical user's certificate?
3. Can the enterprise demonstrate that equipment used to apply or measure agricultural chemicals delivers the correct application rate eg. equipment is calibrated and checked for operational efficiency prior to use and thoroughly cleaned after use?
4. Can the enterprise demonstrate that only approved agricultural chemicals are used for the treatment of pasture, crops, fodder and grain to ensure that livestock are not exposed to unacceptable chemical residues eg. chemicals are approved by the national chemical registration body (AP&VMA)?
5. Can the enterprise demonstrate that agricultural chemicals are stored securely in accordance with label directions and exposure of livestock is prevented?
6. Can the enterprise demonstrate that agricultural chemicals are used in accordance with label directions eg.
 - according to label directions;
 - below label rates where permitted by relevant legislation; or
 - under off-label permits issued by the Australian Pesticide & Veterinary Medicines Authority (AP&VMA)?
7. Can the enterprise demonstrate that where WHP and/or ESI information is not available on a chemical label, that additional enquiries are made with the chemical manufacturer, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and/or other relevant authority, to determine the WHP and/or ESI that needs to be applied to that chemical?
8. Does the enterprise maintain sufficient records of agricultural chemical treatments (including spray drift) to ensure that the chemical residue status of pastures, crops and post-harvest product and facilities can be evaluated prior to exposure to livestock. For example records could include:
 - Treatment date

- Location/Size/Quantity of feed treated
 - Chemical used - type and quantity
 - Application rate and method
 - Withholding period
 - Name of person conducting treatment
9. Can the enterprise demonstrate that all introduced stockfeed is evaluated for chemical residue risk prior to feeding to livestock eg. does the enterprise require all introduced stockfeeds to be accompanied by a Commodity Vendor Declaration (CVD) or other statement indicating that the risk of spray drift contamination and/or the risk of OC contaminated soil has been addressed?
10. Can the enterprise demonstrate that records of introduced stockfeeds are maintained to enable traceback in the event that chemical residues are detected in the introduced feed eg. records enabling traceback include:
- Date received
 - Stockfeed description
 - Supplier/origin
 - Residue analysis (if obtained)?
11. Can the enterprise demonstrate that stockfeeds of known unacceptable chemical contaminants (above APVMA standards) are not fed to livestock? This may include test analysis results of stockfeeds if appropriate.
12. Can the enterprise demonstrate that livestock do not have access to paddocks treated with chemicals prior to the expiry of the withhold from graze period eg. is a system in place of securing treated paddocks and identifying treated paddocks with signs?
13. Can the enterprise show that in the event that livestock have accessed treated paddocks that they are managed to address risk of residue contamination eg. by meeting the relevant withholding period (WHP) or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) period?
14. Does the enterprise have a system in place for ensuring that withholding periods are observed where storage facilities and/or post-harvest product have been treated with fungicides, insecticides, fungicides or other chemicals prior to feeding to livestock? This may be achieved by ensuring that facilities and treated product is identified by signage.
15. Can the enterprise demonstrate that ruminant livestock are not fed or have access to feed containing animal products with the exception of exemptions that may be applied from time to time by statutory authorities. Current exemptions include tallow, gelatin, milk and milk products of Australian origin. This may be achieved by ensuring that the enterprise does not purchase product that may contain animal products or by keeping records of feed fed to other species.
16. Can the enterprise demonstrate through other procedures or practices that outcomes and performance indicators for this element have been met?

The following **Performance Checklist** identifies a number of activities that will assist in meeting the Performance Indicators for Element 4. 'Preparation for Dispatch of Livestock' of the *Livestock Production Assurance - Level 1 On Farm Food Safety* scheme.

ELEMENT 4. – PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK

OUTCOME: On Farm systems have been implemented to ensure that the selected livestock are fit for transport and that the risk of stress and contamination of livestock during assembly and transport is minimised.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST:

1. Can the enterprise demonstrate that the risk of stress associated with transport is minimised by ensuring that only those livestock that are fit for travel are transported?
2. Can the enterprise demonstrate that the potential for contamination of livestock is minimised during transport? This may be achieved by implementing the following practices:
 - ensuring that the construction of upper decks minimises soiling of cattle on lower decks;
 - ensuring that decks are as clean as practicable before loading;
 - ensuring that **Cattle** destined for slaughter are subjected to a minimum six (6) hour pre-consignment curfew, unless specified otherwise by the customer;
 - ensuring that **Sheep/Goats** destined for slaughter are subjected to a minimum twelve (12) hour dry curfew, unless specified otherwise by the customer?
3. Can the enterprise demonstrate that transporters are selected to minimise stress during transport eg. preference is given to the engagement of livestock transport companies that transport livestock in accordance with a recognised quality assurance program such as Truckcare?
4. Can the enterprise demonstrate that feedback/complaints from processors/purchasers in relation to excessive soiling of livestock are investigated to prevent reoccurrence? This might include records of feedback/complaints and details of steps implemented to address the issue.
5. Can the enterprise demonstrate through other procedures or practices that outcomes and performance indicators for this element have been met?

The following **Performance Checklist** identifies a number of activities that will assist in meeting the Performance Indicators for Element 5. 'Livestock Transactions and Movements' of the *Livestock Production Assurance - Level 1 On Farm Food Safety* scheme.

ELEMENT 5. – LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS AND MOVEMENTS

OUTCOME: A system has been implemented to enable traceability of the current status of all livestock with respect to treatment or exposure to relevant food safety hazards for all livestock movements between livestock production enterprises including to slaughter and live export.

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST:

1. Can the enterprise demonstrate that all introduced livestock transactions and movements are accompanied by a **correctly and fully completed** LPA NVD to enable the traceability of the status of livestock in relation to chemical residue and disease (Food Safety hazards) by retaining records of LPA NVDs?
2. Can the enterprise demonstrate that all LPA NVDs are completed accurately and signed to ensure the integrity of the paddock to plate food safety chain? This can be achieved through the retention of records and being able to accurately complete NVDs.
3. Are sufficient records maintained to enable the enterprise to demonstrate the traceability of stock purchased/introduced onto the property with respect to chemical treatment status? Records should include the following information:
 - Date of purchase/introduction
 - Vendor's name and address or property identification code (PIC)
 - Description of livestock (number, age, sex)
 - Name of selling agent and sale (if purchased at auction)
4. Are sufficient records maintained to enable the enterprise to demonstrate that stock dispatched for sale or slaughter can be traced that include the following information:
 - Description of livestock (number, age, sex)
 - Transaction date
 - Name of purchaser/selling agent
 - Name of transport operator and vehicle registration
5. Can the enterprise demonstrate that the status of livestock, in regards to chemical residues and the ruminant feed ban, is reviewed prior to sale or slaughter enabling the accurate completion of LPA NVDs and traceability of the current food safety status of livestock?
6. Can the enterprise demonstrate where livestock have been sold within a WHP/ESI, that the buyer was advised in writing of the stocks WHP/ESI and their expiry date? For example retained LPA NVDs or written correspondence.
7. Can the enterprise demonstrate that livestock traceability system adopted identifies all livestock that have been exposed to chemical residues?

Identification may be individual or mob based systems. NLIS is an example of a suitable identification system.

8. Can the enterprise demonstrate through other procedures or practices that outcomes and performance indicators for this element have been met?