

AQIS Notice Number MEAT 2004 / 02		European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS) Requirements for EU Listed Abattoirs	
NSFS Ref 17			
		Contact Officer: Barbara Cooper	
Date of Effect: 01/03/04	Date of Expiry: Until Further Notice	Senior Veterinary Officer Food Services Operations Ph (02) 6272 4628 Fax (02) 6272 5442	
Distribution Category	Last Notice this Category	Distribution Category	Last Notice this Category
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central & Regional Office	2001/18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managers, Export Meat Establishments	2001/18
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OIC Inspection Staff Meat Establishments	2001/18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managers, Export Slaughtering Establishments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meat Inspection Staff	2001/18		
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (to be completed by the On Plant Supervisor on the AQIS file copy)			
Date Received: _____ Date Discussed With Management: _____			
Initial Implementation Date: _____ Date Completed: _____			
Initials: _____			

Purpose

To advise all export registered EU beef slaughtering establishments of the European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS) responsibilities:

- The company's responsibility for reading National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) devices and notifying NLIS database regularly.
- The company's responsibility for the collection and security of used NLIS devices.
- AQIS's responsibility to monitor and verify that export abattoirs are complying with EUCAS rules.

Scope

This notice applies to all EU listed Export establishments slaughtering beef.

Background

The European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS) assures the traceability of all HGP free cattle slaughtered for the export of meat to the European market. AQIS Meat Notice 2000/08 describes the requirements for the sourcing of EU eligible cattle (Scheme Cattle) for slaughter for EU markets. These animals are identified with NLIS Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFIDs) in the form of ear tags or rumen boluses.

The focus of the scheme is animal identification in the EU supply chain from the farm to the abattoir (through the approved separation programme). It was agreed that **all EU eligible cattle** must be removed from the NLIS database once they are slaughtered, regardless of the market for which they are slaughtered. This gives credibility to the NLIS, upon which identification and traceback assurances are based.

The NLIS tag information for all Scheme cattle presented for slaughter at EU beef slaughtering establishment must be:

- At pre-slaughter: Check the EU eligibility against the information in NLIS database: and
- At post-slaughter: Notify the NLIS database for tag(s) as **“Deceased”**

Please note EUCAS rules stipulate that EU accredited farms, feedlots and saleyards must notify NLIS database of all EU eligible cattle leaving the EUCAS system. This includes Scheme cattle that were deceased, lost their identification and/or moved to non-EU farms, or EU eligible cattle destined for non-EU listed and/or domestic abattoirs. Where Scheme cattle slaughtered at EU listed abattoir it is the responsibility of that abattoir to read the RFID devices and make necessary updates in the NLIS database.

Recent advances in technology have resulted in the commercial availability of reliable reading devices for abattoirs. Non-EU beef slaughtering establishments are also encouraged to use this technology so that the important information regarding the scheme cattle leaving EUCAS can also be captured.

Recovery of rumen boluses continues to be a contentious issue for abattoirs. The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) participated in a study to develop a recovery process for rumen boluses. AQIS has agreed that the moratorium on non-recoverable rumen boluses will continue while the study's findings are considered by all participants. Where rumen boluses are recovered, abattoirs should make arrangements to read them for notifying the NLIS database.

Responsibility of the EU Listed Establishments' Management

- Supply copies of all EUVDs with the daily kill-sheet to the OPV.
- At pre-slaughter confirm eligibility of cattle presented for EU slaughter by querying the NLIS database; and
- Provide OPV with information of EU eligible cattle slaughtered for EU and non-EU markets with the kill sheet.
- Develop a system whereby all EU eligible cattle slaughtered are notified to NLIS database as “DECEASED” if destined for EU market on the day of slaughter or if not destined for EU market at least once a week.

The contact phone number for creating a user ID and password to access NLIS DATABASE is 1800 654 743.

Responsibility of AQIS OPV/OPS

- Determine the EU kill based on kill-sheet information and monitor EU kill for correct identification and separation.
- Identify on the kill sheet all EU eligible cattle not slaughtered for the EU.
- Record, on the NPMS Form-3, the property identification code (PIC) and RFID number of at least one animal selected at random each week from animals EU eligible but not specifically slaughtered for EU market.
- Provide the PIC/RFID data from the NPMS Form 3 collected over the previous 4 weeks to central office coordinator upon request.
- Issue CARs if required through NPMS Form-6.

Responsibility of ATM

- Ensure OPVs have read this notice, understood the requirements, discussed the notice with establishment management and are complying with the direction.
- During the monthly audit, undertake audit of a NLIS tag number selected randomly and reconcile it with the information on kill sheet and EUNVD.
- Endorse NPMS Form-3 entries by OPV as valid by signing and dating relevant Form-3 folios.

Responsibility of Central Office EU coordinator for Establishments

- Select at random each month one EU registered abattoir and request the OPV to provide the PIC and RFID numbers recorded during the previous 4 weeks
- Verify the NLIS database is updated by checking the status of the PIC and RFID on the database.

Responsibility of Meat Program Manager

In response to notification of serious non-compliances by AQIS auditors, the National Manager may:

- Notify OPV/ATM to open a CAR addressing a non-compliance.
- Refer to AQIS Compliance and Investigation Unit (AQIS Compliance).
- Suspend EU listing/operations.

Carol Sheridan

A/g National Manager

Meat Program

Food Inspection Operations Group

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