

The recent amendments to the Export Control (Animals) Order legislation do not change the role of AQIS Accredited Veterinarians (AAVs) in the export process. As before, a veterinarian must be accredited by AQIS to complete AAV tasks outlined in an Approved Export Programme (AEP).

AQIS issues AEPs to exporters preparing livestock consignments for export that contain tasks which must be completed by an AAV. The tasks included in an AEP could involve preparation of animals before export or during an export voyage.

An AEP generally includes the following:

- Treatments and testing procedures that must be completed by an AAV after the livestock enter pre-export isolation or quarantine;
- Treatment and testing specified by the importing country to be done by an AAV
- Inspections of livestock to evaluate them for signs of disease and fitness to travel.

Treatments and testing that must be undertaken by a registered veterinarian, but not included in an AEP, can be completed by any registered veterinarian.

All veterinarians working with livestock for export should receive a copy of the AEP from the exporter contracting them to undertake the work before commencing any treatments or procedures.

Veterinarians who do not wish to undertake work specified in an AEP do not need to complete the new accreditation and can continue to provide any services in relation to the preparation of livestock for export that are not listed in the AEP such as on-farm testing.

Some exporters specify AAVs undertake all testing and treatments required to prepare a consignment of livestock for export even though some of the tasks are not included on the exporter's AEP. Please note that this is a commercial arrangement and not an AQIS requirement.