



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**EUROPEAN UNION
CATTLE
ACCREDITATION
SCHEME
INFORMATION FOR FARMS**

MARCH 2011

CONTENTS

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| CONTENTS..... | 1 |
| ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS | 2 |
| 1. INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| 2. FARM ACCREDITATION..... | 5 |
| 2.1 Accreditation procedure..... | 5 |
| 2.2 Cattle permitted on accredited farms..... | 5 |
| EUCAS cattle:..... | 5 |
| Non-EUCAS cattle..... | 6 |
| 2.3 Individual identification | 6 |
| 2.4 Lost individual identification | 7 |
| 2.5 Cattle movements | 7 |
| 2.6 Database recording requirements | 9 |
| 2.7 Record keeping..... | 9 |
| 2.8 Audits | 10 |
| 2.9 Obtaining EUVDs and Transaction Tail Tags | 11 |

Please visit the EUCAS website (<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/meat/elmer-3/eucas>) for up-to-date information and application forms for all EUCAS activities.

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

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| Accredited farm | A farm where only EUCAS cattle, non-EUCAS breeding bulls and approved non-EUCAS breeding females are held and which has been accredited under subclause 51.1 of Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005 |
| Accredited feedlot | An accredited feedlot that has been accredited under subclause 51.1 of Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005. |
| Accredited property | Either an accredited farm, accredited feedlot or accredited saleyard |
| Accredited saleyard | A saleyard that has been accredited under subclause 51.1 of Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005 to sell EUCAS cattle |
| Androgenic | Steroid hormones that control the growth and functioning of the male sex organs and the appearance of male secondary sexual characteristics, which may be natural or synthetic. |
| APVMA | Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority |
| AQIS | Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service – a unit of the Biosecurity Services Group within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. |
| AUS-MEAT | An Australian meat and livestock industry body responsible for developing and implementing industry standards |
| DAFF | Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry |
| Device | Electronic identification device approved under the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). |
| ECMMPOs | Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005 |
| Eligible destination | Eligible destinations include EUCAS accredited farms; EUCAS accredited feedlots; EUCAS accredited saleyard and EU listed abattoirs. Limited exemptions are in place for agricultural shows, camp drafts etc. |
| EU | European Union |
| EUCAS cattle | Cattle that meet all the eligibility criteria of the EUCAS and that an EU listed abattoir may slaughter to provide beef and beef products for the EU market. |
| EUVD | European Union Vendor Declaration |
| Feedlot | An area of land covered by a single property identification code (PIC) under relevant State or Territory legislation, where cattle are confined and fed high energy rations to maximise growth for the purpose of slaughter. |
| Gestagenic | Female hormones that supports the development and retention of a pregnancy. |
| HGP | A Hormonal Growth Promotant is a veterinary medicine product, registered in Australia to increase the growth or productivity of livestock through an oestrogenic, androgenic, gestagenic or thyrostatic effect. Examples include products containing oestradiol, progesterone, testosterone, zeranol and trenbolone acetate |
| Individually identified | For the purposes of EUCAS, means identified using an individual NLIS endorsed breeder or post-breeder RFID placed in the right ear of every animal, or with a rumen bolus and corresponding ear tag. |
| Manager of a property | The person responsible for the day to day running of the property |
| MLA | Meat and Livestock Australia |
| NLIS | National Livestock Identification Scheme |
| NLIS number | The visually read number on a transaction tag. The NLIS number consists of a PIC number, a manufacturer's code and the year of manufacture, as well as a management number. Each NLIS number is unique and identifies the animal to which it is assigned. The producer may use either the NLIS or RFID number to record movements of the animal on the NLIS database. |

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| Non-EUCAS breeding females | Non-EUCAS HGP free cows, heifers or pregnant females intended for use in breeding. Cows with calves at foot are not eligible to enter a property as non-EUCAS breeding females as the status of the calf may not be clear. |
| NVD | National Vendor Declaration |
| Oestrogenic | Steroid hormones that control the growth and functioning of the female sex organs and the appearance of female secondary sexual characteristics, which may be either natural or synthetic. |
| PIC | Property Identification Code |
| RFID number | The electronically read number encoded on a microchip inside an NLIS device. The RFID consists of a manufacturer's code and a unique number for each animal. Each RFID number is unique and identifies the animal to which it is assigned. The producer may use either the NFIS or RFID number to record movements of the animal on the NLIS database. The NLIS database includes both numbers and uses them to confirm the movements of the animal throughout its life. |
| Thyrostatic | Anti-thyroid agent |
| Transaction tag | The transaction tag is a lime green device attached to tail or ear of the animal. The tag bears a property identifier and any other information required by EUCAS or by the state/territory departments of agriculture for the purpose of transaction of animals. The purpose of the transaction tag is to ensure the traceability of EUCAS cattle throughout their life. |

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) Beef exported to the European Union (EU) must come from animals raised on properties accredited by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) under the EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS). These properties are referred to as ‘accredited farms,’ or ‘accredited feedlots’ and the animals must be sold in ‘accredited saleyards’.
- b) EUCAS is a national animal production scheme that guarantees full traceability of all animals through the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS), linking individual animal identification to a central database. Managers of accredited properties must register all movements of EUCAS cattle on the NLIS database. EUCAS allows Australia to meet the European Union market requirements for beef through a segregated production system that allows the production of a separate stream of cattle that have never been treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGPs).
- c) The legislative basis of EUCAS is the *Export Control Act (1982)* and the requirements of EUCAS are described in Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005. AQIS, as an operating group of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), has overall responsibility for the implementation and co-ordination of EUCAS administration.
- d) This document outlines the requirements for EUCAS accredited farms. AQIS will email all accredited farm managers when changes to this document occur, however it is the responsibility of managers to ensure that their cattle retain eligibility for the EU market.
- e) The current version of this document can be found on the AQIS website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/elmer-3/eucas>. For further information, please contact the EUCAS Helpline on 1800 305 544 between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) or by e-mail at EUCAS@daff.gov.au.
- f) Managers can obtain information on the products that are currently registered for use as HGPs from the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) website. The APVMA website is at <http://www.apvma.gov.au> and Pubcris, which is a database and allows you to search for all registered agricultural and veterinary products including those that contain HGPs, is at <http://seVICES.apvma.gov.au/PubcrisWebClient/welcome.do>

2. FARM ACCREDITATION

2.1 Accreditation procedure

- a) Farms must be EUCAS accredited in order to produce animals whose meat is eligible for export to the EU.
- b) Before AQIS can grant accreditation, the manager must:
- Remove any HGP treated cattle or cattle not permitted to be on an accredited property (see section 2.2 for cattle permitted to be on an accredited farm);
 - Remove any HGPs from the property;
 - Identify all cattle on the property with an NLIS device (see 2.3); and
 - Reconcile their account on the NLIS database.
- c) A farm manager can obtain an application form for accreditation from AQIS by contacting the EUCAS help line on 1800 305 544 or from the AQIS website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/elmer-3/eucas>. The manager must submit to AQIS a completed application form with the appropriate attachments. AQIS will assess the application and may in some cases seek clarification and confirmation of answers from applicants.
- d) If the application is approved, AQIS will accredit the farm. The fact that the property is EUCAS accredited will be identified on the NLIS database. AQIS grants accreditation initially for 12 months unless the manager relinquishes it in writing or AQIS revokes it. AQIS will send the manager a certificate of accreditation and a letter confirming accreditation.
- e) The farm manager who signed the accreditation application is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with all conditions of the property accreditation. This responsibility only ceases when the manager notifies AQIS in writing that they have relinquished that responsibility. If the farm manager changes and the new manager wants to continue EUCAS accreditation, they must re-apply immediately for accreditation using the application form from the AQIS website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/elmer-3/eucas>.

2.2 Cattle permitted on accredited farms

The only cattle permitted to be on accredited farms are:

EUCAS cattle:

- (a) cattle born on the farm and that have never been treated with HGPs

(b) cattle raised under one ownership that have never been treated with HGP (these cattle will be subject to detailed verification checks)

(c) cattle transferred from a property that was EUCAS accredited at the time of the transfer and the EUVD confirms that the cattle have not been treated with HGP.

Non-EUCAS cattle

(a) breeding bulls and up to five house dairy cows do not need to meet the above criteria of being born on the farm or transferred from a EUCAS accredited property, however they are not eligible for the EU market. Additionally, the progeny of the dairy cows are not EU eligible.

(b) non-EUCAS breeding females are not eligible to be slaughtered for the EU market; however, their progeny are EUCAS eligible. Non-EUCAS breeding females (cows, heifers or pregnant females)* are allowed to enter an accredited property for restocking purposes provided the manager performs the following:

(i) checks that the NVD confirms that the cattle must have been born and bred on the farm of origin, are identified with a breeder NLIS device and have whole-of-life traceability and have not been treated with HGP

(ii) notifies the NLIS database of the transfer, and

(iii) submits a formal application to AQIS in writing, and this application is approved

(iv) provides a list of the animals' RFID and NLIS device numbers to AQIS.

2.3 Individual identification

a) All weaned cattle (with the exception of mature breeding bulls) on a EUCAS accredited farm must be individually identified by the end of the first 12 months of accreditation.

b) In the following cases, cattle must be identified before the end of the first 12 months of accreditation:

(i) calves born on the farm after accreditation must be identified by the time they are weaned

* Cows with calves at foot are not permitted

(ii) EUCAS cattle consigned to an accredited farm, feedlot, saleyard or EU listed abattoir must be identified before they leave the farm

(iii) EUCAS cattle moved from the farm for limited periods to agricultural shows, camp drafting events etc.

2.4 Lost individual identification

a) The manager is responsible for replacing lost RFIDs at the earliest possible opportunity. If the manager cannot verify the identity of the individual animal by a secondary method of identification, the animal must be removed from the property and the NLIS database notified that the animal is no longer EU eligible.

b) The manager must keep the following records whenever replacement-RFIDs are used:

(i) NLIS or RFID number of replacement-RFID

(ii) NLIS or RFID number of lost device, if known

(iii) the date of replacement

(iv) colour of the replacement RFID

(v) if a white breeder RFID is used, the information required to establish the property on which the animal was born and

(vi) Details of any secondary method of identification used

2.5 Cattle movements

a) The manager is responsible for ensuring all movements of cattle transferred on and off an accredited farm have been recorded in the NLIS database. This is to ensure the integrity of the EUCAS and is additional to state or territory requirements. The classes of cattle that can be moved are:

i) EUCAS cattle originating on an accredited property, and

ii) Non-EUCAS breeding bulls and up to five house dairy cows and their progeny or approved breeding females, obtained from any property.

b) Managers of accredited farms may allow neighbours to move non-EUCAS cattle on to an accredited farm to enable the use of yards and similar equipment. Conversely, managers of accredited farms may use facilities on non-accredited farms for short-term purposes (including branding, vaccinating and loading). The manager must keep records of these movements.

c) Cattle in EUCAS may only move to ‘eligible destinations’ to maintain their status as EUCAS cattle.

Eligible destinations are:

(i) accredited farms

(ii) accredited feedlots

(iii) accredited saleyards for designated EU eligible cattle sales[†]

(iv) EU listed abattoirs for slaughter

(v) agricultural shows, camp-drafting competitions or any other events where the cattle move temporarily and remain under the supervision of the manager of the accredited farm or someone authorised by the manager to tend the cattle on their behalf. The manager must verify the individual identity of cattle on their return.

Managers unsure whether a particular destination or purpose is allowed under EUCAS should contact AQIS on 1800 305 544 or by e-mail for advice.

d) Under special circumstances and only with prior approval from AQIS, managers may move EUCAS cattle from the accredited property for emergency agistment. AQIS has developed procedures for short-term and long-term agistment to assist producers in drought or similar ‘natural disaster’ situations. For further guidance, see agist and stock route guidelines on the AQIS webpage at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/meat/elmer-3/eucas/agistment>. An agist application form can be obtained from the same webpage.

e) A correctly completed, original EUVD must accompany EUCAS cattle moved from an accredited farm to another accredited farm, feedlot or saleyard or EU listed abattoir for EU slaughter.

f) A lime green transaction tag must be attached to all EUCAS cattle moved from the farm to accredited saleyards or EU listed abattoirs for slaughter, unless the abattoir has been approved to accept lime green ear tags.

g) If a manager moves cattle to a non-accredited saleyard, the cattle become ineligible for slaughter for the EU market. However, AQIS recognises that exceptional circumstances apply if the cattle are passed in for sale. In this particular case, the cattle may be returned to the accredited farm and remain as EUCAS cattle provided

[†] The manager must arrange for a lime green transaction tag to be attached to all EUCAS cattle moved from an accredited farm to accredited saleyards or to EU listed abattoirs for EU slaughter.

the manager has maintained an auditable record of the movement that demonstrates that the traceability of the cattle was not breached.

2.6 Database recording requirements

a) The manager of an accredited property is required to ensure (and verify) that the NLIS database includes details of the following:

(i) cattle moved on to the accredited farm, including cattle passed in at sale and returned to the farm

(ii) EUCAS cattle moved from the accredited farm to a non-eligible destination have been recorded on the NLIS database

(iii) deceased animals

(iv) replacements for lost identification devices.

b) The manager must keep records of the NLIS device numbers of breeding bulls, dairy house cows and their progeny and breeding females that confirm that the animals are ineligible for EU slaughter.

c) A manager is not required to notify the NLIS database when EUCAS cattle move to an eligible destination – notification is the responsibility of the receiving manager. However, all managers must check the NLIS database to verify the cattle movements have been recorded.

d) Should there be a need to make corrections to the NLIS database, the manager must apply in writing to AQIS before carrying out any transfer deletions or corrections..

e) Prior to accreditation the manager must demonstrate that records of the numbers of devices on the property can be reconciled with the numbers of devices shown on the NLIS database.

f) The manager must conduct a reconciliation of devices on the property with the NLIS database on an annual basis (as close as possible to the anniversary of accreditation) and maintain a record of the reconciliation on site for audit purposes.

2.7 Record keeping

Managers must keep the following records, including details such as, the departure date and return date, if necessary and the RFID and NLIS numbers of the cattle. Managers must also comply with state or territory legislation concerning database notification requirements

- (i) documentation supporting the HGP-free status of all introduced cattle on the property – eg vendor declarations
- (ii) documentation verifying that HGP treated cattle have been removed from the farm, and that unused HGP doses have been disposed of (unused doses should be returned to either an HGP retailer or wholesaler, or to a local agricultural office). This is only necessary on farms where HGPs have been used in the past, or HGP-treated cattle have been reared
- (iii) a list of people allowed to sign EUVDs on the manager’s behalf, complete with a specimen signature
- (iv) details of all EUCAS cattle moving off the accredited farm to eligible destinations, including a copy of the accompanying EUVD
- (v) information on all ineligible breeding bulls, dairy cows and their progeny and approved restocking females moving on to the accredited farm (eg NLIS numbers)
- (vi) details of all cattle moving off the accredited farm to non-eligible destinations
- (vii) details of all EUCAS cattle that were sent to saleyards, passed in and returned to the accredited property, and
- (viii) information on replacement RFIDs as set out in section 2.4.

Under EUCAS, managers must keep records for a minimum of two years. State and territory requirements for record maintenance may differ. Managers should consult their state or territory authorities to ensure that they also meet their requirements.

2.8 Audits

- a) AQIS will audit farms on a random and targeted basis. AQIS has authorised AUS-MEAT auditors to carry out most EUCAS audits in accordance with checklists developed in consultation with AQIS.
- b) In most cases, EUCAS auditors will contact the farm to ensure that the manager or another responsible person will be present to assist in the audit. Auditors will have a report from the NLIS database that shows the transactions that the property has reported to the NLIS. The auditor will refer all refusals to allow an audit to take place without due cause, to AQIS.

c) Auditors will discuss the outcome of the audit with the manager or their representative; in particular, auditors are required to outline any non-compliance detected and discuss the acceptability of any proposed corrective actions. Critical non-compliances will be referred directly to AQIS who may decide to revoke the accreditation.

2.9 Obtaining EUVDs and Transaction Tail Tags

All requests or enquiries regarding EU Vendor declarations (EUVDs) should be directed to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) on free-call number 1800 654 743, or visit <http://www.mla.com.au/Meat-safety-and-traceability/On-farm-assurance/LPA>. MLA will keep details on the number of EUVD pad/s issued to EUCAS producers and their serial numbers.

All requests or enquiries regarding lime green transaction tags should be directed to the local Department of Agriculture office in your state, or for NSW residents your local Rural Lands Protection Board.