



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System Regulatory Performance Report

1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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Overview

The Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) requires exporters to have arrangements with supply chain partners (i.e. importers, feedlots, abattoirs) in importing countries to provide humane treatment and handling of feeder and slaughter livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, deer, buffalo and camelids) from arrival through to point of slaughter. As ESCAS only applies to feeder and slaughter livestock, the statistics in the report refer only to feeder and slaughter exports. ESCAS does not apply to the export of breeder livestock. ESCAS is underpinned by the following key principles – control, traceability and animal welfare – whereby the exporter must demonstrate, through a system of reporting and independent auditing of their supply chains:

- the exporter has control of all supply chain arrangements (including having agreements in place with supply chain partners) for the transport, management and slaughter of livestock, and that all livestock remain in the supply chain (control)
- the exporter can account for all livestock through the supply chain (traceability)
- animal handling and slaughter meets World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) animal welfare standards (animal welfare).

If issues arise, ESCAS requires exporters to address any non-compliance matters within their supply chains. This may be managed by undertaking additional steps or corrective actions at facilities (for example delivering training or upgrading infrastructure), removing non-compliant facilities from a supply chain, or not exporting any further livestock to a supply chain.

Additionally, the ESCAS regulatory framework enables the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) to assess information about reported non-compliances with ESCAS requirements and take regulatory action where appropriate. Reports are generally received through one of four pathways: self-reported by exporters, reported by third parties (for example, animal welfare organisations or private citizens in an importing country), reported by industry, or identified by the department itself. Reports are assessed by the department using the [guideline for the management of non-compliance](#).

In response to ESCAS non-compliance, the department may apply regulatory actions to an ESCAS, or in more serious instances, to an exporter or an entire market. This may include revoking an ESCAS, varying an ESCAS to remove facilities or apply additional conditions, or suspending or cancelling an exporter's licence. Regulatory action is applied based on the nature of the non-compliance, and any corrective actions implemented by the exporter are taken into consideration.

1 Period summary: 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

Below is a summary of the number of feeder and/or slaughter livestock exported, number of reports received, and number of assessments completed during this period (1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024).

1.1 Livestock exported

During this period 337,283 livestock were exported under ESCAS arrangements to 12 countries. The number by species exported to each country is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of livestock exported – 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

Country	Buffalo	Cattle	Goats	Sheep	Total
Brunei	342	819	–	–	1161
Indonesia	–	76840	–	–	76840
Israel	–	2728	–	27809	30537
Jordan	–	2081	–	69819	71900
Kuwait	–	287	–	59612	59899
Malaysia	–	–	2015	1252	3267
Oman	–	–	–	5000	5000
Philippines	–	5068	–	–	5068
Qatar	–	–	–	11500	11500
Saudi Arabia	–	–	–	22625	22625
United Arab Emirates	–	396	–	27000	27396
Vietnam	–	22090	–	–	22090
Total	342	110309	2015	224617	337283

1.2 Reports received and completed

No reports of non-compliance with ESCAS requirements were received during this period. A summary of notifications received and completed is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Summary of reports received and completed – 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

Report type	Outstanding reports as at 31 December 2023	Reports received in current period	Assessments completed in current period	Assessments remaining in progress as at 1 April 2024
ESCAS	0	0	0	0
Exporter notifications ^a	2	1	2	1
Total	2	1	2	1

^a Exporter notifications are detailed in Section 3 of this report.

2 Summary of ESCAS non-compliance assessments

No ESCAS non-compliance assessments were completed in this period.

3 Exporter notifications: issues identified and addressed by exporters

One exporter provided two reports to the department regarding its supply chain in Israel. The reports complied with the department's ESCAS self-reporting requirements and were received within the required time frame. Appropriate corrective actions were implemented by the exporter and no additional regulatory action was taken by the department.

One issue was identified in Brunei by an exporter during this period and is still under investigation.

4 Summary of assessments in progress as at 31 March 2024

Table 3 provides an overview of all regulatory performance assessments in progress as at 31 March 2024. The status of all reviews can be found at [ESCAS Investigations](#).

Table 3 Summary of ESCAS investigations in progress as at 31 March 2024

#	Date reported	Type	Market	Species	Report
-	February 2024	Self-report	Brunei	Cattle	-