



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS)

Feedlot Rules

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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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Acronyms and Definitions

Term or Acronym	Definition
Accredited farm	A farm where on EUCAS cattle, non-EUCAS breeding bulls and non-EUCAS breeding females are held and which has been accredited under chapter 3 of the <i>Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021</i>
Accredited feedlot	An accredited feedlot that has been accredited under chapter 3 of the <i>Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021</i>
Accredited property	Either an accredited farm, accredited feedlot or accredited saleyard
Accredited saleyard	A saleyard that has been accredited under chapter 3 of the <i>Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021</i>
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
AUS-MEAT	An Australian meat and livestock industry body responsible for developing and implementing industry standards
Device	Electronic identification device approved under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)
Eligible Destinations	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 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 support the development and retention of a pregnancy
HGP	A Hormone Growth Promotant is a veterinary medicine product, registered in Australia to increase the growth of 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 System
NLIS Number	The visually read number on the 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
Non-EUCAS breeding females	Non-EUCAS HGP free cows, heifers or pregnant females are intended for use in breeding. Cows with calves at foot are not eligible to enter a property as non-EUCAS breeding females

Term or Acronym	Definition
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 NLIS 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
The department	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Thyrostatic	Anti-thyroid agent

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) Beef exported to the European Union (EU) must come from animals raised on properties accredited by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under the European Union 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 System (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 (HGP)s
- c) The legislative basis of EUCAS is the *Export Control Act (2020)* and the requirements of EUCAS are described in Chapter 3 of the *Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021*. The department has overall responsibility for the implementation and co-ordination of EUCAS administration.
- d) This document outlines the requirements for EUCAS accredited feedlots. The department will advise all accredited feedlots managers when changes to this document occur, however it is the responsibility of the manager to ensure that their cattle retain eligibility for the EU market.
- e) The current version of this document can be found on the department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/eucas>. For more 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@aff.gov.au.
- f) Managers can obtain information on the products that they are currently registered for use as HGP)s from the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) website. The APVMA website is <http://www.apvma.gov.au> and Pubcris. Pubcris, which is a database and allows you to search for all registered agricultural and veterinary products include those that contain HGP)s, is at <https://www.portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>.

2 FEEDLOT ACCREDITATION

2.1 Accreditation Procedure

- g) Feedlots must be EUCAS accredited in order to produce animals the meat of which is eligible for export to the EU. Feedlots may contain both EUCAS and non-EUCAS cattle provided they are segregated (held in separate pens)
- h) Contact the department for advice (EUCAS helpline on 1800 305 544) prior to making an application for accreditation of a feedlot that is contained within the property boundary of a EUCAS farm.
- i) A feedlot manager can obtain an application form for accreditation from the department by contacting the EUCAS helpline on 1800 305 544 or from the department's website at <http://agriculture.gov.au/eucas>. The manager must submit to the department a completed application form and include a management plan that meets EUCAS needs for segregation, individual identification and traceability. Before the department can grant accreditation, the manager must reconcile the feedlot account on the NLIS database.
- j) The feedlot manager who signed the EUCAS accreditation application is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with all conditions of the property accreditation. This responsibility only ceases when the manager notifies the department in writing that they have relinquished that responsibility. If the feedlot manager changes and the new manager wants to continue EUCAS accreditation, they must re-apply immediately for accreditation using the application form from the department's website <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/eucas>.
- k) The department will review the feedlot management plan to ensure that it addresses all conditions of accreditation. If the department believes that the management plan will not meet EUCAS requirements, the coordinator will inform the applicant of its shortfalls in writing or by email and ask the applicant to submit a plan that addresses the deficiencies.
- l) When the management plan satisfactorily addresses the conditions of accreditation, the department will arrange an initial on-site accreditation audit to assess the property and available records to ensure that the management plan is practical. The auditor will pay particular attention to the documentation supporting the HGP free status of cattle designated as EUCAS cattle, the records of past HGP use where applicable, and the segregation arrangements proposed for non-EUCAS cattle and any proposed HGP use (unused doses must be kept securely with access restricted to persons nominated in the management plan). 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. The department will arrange a follow-up audit within five to seven weeks from the initial pre-accreditation audit to verify that the applicant has implemented the required changes.
- m) If the auditor believes that the manager has the ability to implement the management plan appropriately, notwithstanding any outstanding matters to be addressed, they will inform the department, including any additional recommendations. The department will approve the application and send the newly accredited manager a certificate of accreditation and a letter confirming accreditation.

2.2 Cattle Permitted on Accredited Feedlots

An accredited feedlot may fatten both EUCAS and non-EUCAS cattle.

- i) An accredited feedlot must obtain EUCAS cattle from accredited farms, feedlots or saleyard. The manager must confirm that the cattle have an EUVD attesting that the cattle are HGP free and that the property transferring the cattle is EUCAS accredited.
- ii) The manager must restrict EUCAS cattle to clearly designated pens as documents in the approved management plan.
- iii) The manager must designate pens for EUCAS cattle in a continuous single block; the pens of non-EUCAS cattle must not intrude between pens for EUCAS cattle. It is recommended that the manager separate the EUCAS pens from non-EUCAS pens by physical barriers such as laneways.
- iv) The manager may vary the number of EUCAS and non-EUCAS pens. The manager must include all such variations in the feedlot records, which the manager must make available to the EUCAS auditor.

2.3 Lost Individual Identification

- a) The feedlot manager must include a procedure for replacing lost RFIs in their management plan, including a procedure for verifying the identity of an animal that has lost its RFID, such as using a secondary method of identification. If the manager is unable to identify the animal by a secondary identification method, the animal is no longer EU-eligible and the manager must remove it from the EU designated area of the feedlot. The manager must notify the NLIS database of any changes brought about by the loss of an RFID.
- b) The following records must be maintained whenever replacement RFIDs are used:
 - i) NLIS or RFID number or replacement RFID
 - ii) NLIS or RFID number of lost device (must be able to be determine for the animal to remain eligible)
 - iii) The date of replacement and
 - iv) Details of any secondary method of identification used.

2.4 Cattle Movements

- a) Accredited feedlot managers can only obtain EUCAS cattle from EUCAS accredited properties (farms, feedlots and saleyards)
- b) Only cattle moved within the EUCAS system retain eligibility for the EU market. Managers of accredited feedlots may move EUCAS cattle from the accredited feedlot to an accredited destination and retain EU-eligibility. Manager unsure whether a particular destination or purpose is allowed under EUCAS should contact the department on 1800 305 544 for advice prior to transfer.
Destinations include:
 - i) Accredited farms;
 - ii) Accredited feedlots;
 - iii) Accredited saleyards;
 - iv) EU listed abattoirs; and
 - v) Agriculture shows, camp-drafting competitions or any other events where the cattle move temporarily and remain under the supervision of the manager of the accredited feedlot or someone authorised by the manager to tend the cattle on the manager's behalf.
- c) The manager of an accredited feedlot must ensure that all EUCAS cattle consigned to an EU eligible abattoir for slaughter have an individual visual identifier that will clearly separate them from non-EUCAS cattle. Managers should ensure that they meet all state/territory regulations regarding transaction tags.
- d) Managers must keep the records of the transfer and must ensure that they record the movement in the NLIS database and that all EUCAS management procedures are included in their management plan.
- 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.

2.5 NLIS Record Keeping Requirements

- a) The manager of an accredited feedlot is required to notify the NLIS database of the following:
 - i) Cattle moved on to the accredited feedlot, including cattle passed in at sale and returned to the feedlot: within 7 days of arrival or in compliance with state / territory legislative reporting requirements, whichever is the lesser;
 - ii) EUCAS cattle moved from the accredited feedlot to a non-eligible destination: on the days of departure;
 - iii) Cattle that arrive dead or die whilst under control of the farm: within 24 hours of discovery of a deceased animal;
 - iv) Replacements for lost identification devices; and

- v) The downgrading of any EUCAS cattle to non-EUCAS cattle: within 24 hours.
- b) An accredited 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, managers must check the NLIS database to verify cattle movements have been recorded.

2.6 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 EUCAS cattle on the property (vendor declarations or other)
- ii) For past and current HGP users, documentation demonstrating the disposition of treated cattle and unused doses
- iii) A list of people allowed to sign EUVDs on the manager's behalf, completed with a specimen signature
- iv) Details of all EUCAS cattle moving from the accredited feedlot, including a copy of the EUVD (or NVD if destined for a non-EU market)
- v) Information on all EUCAS cattle reassigned as non-EUCAS cattle, including the dates and record of the notification to the NLIS database
- vi) Information on all EUCAS cattle moving on to the accredited feedlot and the notification to the NLIS database
- vii) Details of EUCAS cattle that were sent to saleyard and passed in and returned to the accredited property
- viii) Information on replacement RFIDs, and
- ix) Records of variations made to EUCAS pens.

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 to ensure that they also meet their requirements.

2.7 Audits

- a) The department will audit feedlots at least annually following accreditation. Renewal of accreditation will depend on a successful audit outcome. Additional audits may be required if the department believes that there are specific issues to be assessed.
- b) In most cases, EUCAS auditors will contact the feedlot manager to ensure that the manager or another responsible person will be present to assist 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 the department.

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

2.8 Obtaining EUVDs

European Vendor Declarations (EUVDs) can be ordered online at <http://www.integritysystems.com.au/nvd> or call 1800 683 111.