



Export Meat Operational Guideline

1.4 Gunshot wound incident reporting - wild game processing establishments

Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to provide export registered wild game processing establishments with revised requirements for reporting kangaroo non-fatal gunshot wounds (GSWs) to the relevant state or territory regulatory authority (state authority). This guideline replaces Meat Notice 2021/01.

Scope

This guideline applies to Tier 1 and Tier 2 export registered wild game processing establishments.

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Background

The humane harvesting of kangaroos supports the acceptability of kangaroo meat and meat products by the Australian public and overseas trading partners. The [National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes](#) (the National Code) provides kangaroo shooters with guidance to ensure that the shooting of free-living kangaroos and wallabies is conducted in a manner that minimises pain and suffering.

Export registered wild game processing establishments are responsible for monitoring and verifying that kangaroos arriving for processing are harvested humanely and in accordance with the National Code.

Lesion assessment, evidence collection and reporting

Establishment personnel responsible for determining whether GSWs are present in the carcase should make a note and collect evidence where a GSW lesion appears to be:

- a result of harvest activity; or
- a result of pre-harvesting activities.

Note: Indicators of a lesion being caused pre-harvest include signs of age of the lesion, for example, healing has commenced, pus has formed, tissues around the wound track have died back, or signs that otherwise indicate the animal was alive for a reasonable period of time after the wound occurred.

For all GSW carcases, photographs of the whole carcase showing the carcase tag and close-up images of the GSW lesions must be provided with the incident report. Photographs must be clear, have good resolution and be a sufficient size to enable compliance inspection and follow-up interviews, ideally with no more than two images per page. Close-up images should include a reference object adjacent to the lesion to enable accurate assessment of size. A ruler or tape measure is preferred; however, if unavailable, a common object of known size, such as a pen or pencil, may be used.

A GSW incident report ([Attachment 1](#)) must be completed for every GSW incident. Details of GSW lesions due to pre-harvest activities should be described in adequate detail as 'additional information' under *Section D: Incident description* of the incident report.

Responsibilities

Tier 1 Establishments

Establishment management must:

- Include a kangaroo GSW incident reporting system in the establishment's Approved Arrangement (AA) that addresses all the requirements outlined below.
- Identify carcases with GSWs and remove them from processing.

Note: GSW carcases are not eligible for either human consumption or pet food production. Skins from GSW carcases must also be condemned.

- Complete a GSW incident report ([Attachment 1](#)) and email it, together with photographic evidence, within one business day to:
 - the relevant state authority for the state in which the kangaroo was harvested
 - the establishment's Field Operations Manager (FOM)
 - the Food Safety Unit (foodsafetyunit@aff.gov.au)
 - the relevant state authority for where the establishment is located.

State authority contact details are at [Attachment 2](#).

Note: Kangaroos may be harvested in one state and transported to another state for processing. Establishment management must report GSW incidents to both the state authority where the kangaroos were harvested and the state authority where the processing establishment is located.

- Retain GSW carcasses under appropriate control until otherwise advised by the relevant state authority.
- Liaise with the relevant state authority as required.

Field Operations Managers will:

- Provide establishment management with a copy of this guideline as soon as possible.
- Review and approve the establishment's AA.
- Verify through audits the occupier's compliance with relevant export legislation, importing country requirements and Australian standards.

Tier 2 Establishments

Establishment management must:

- Include a kangaroo GSW incident reporting system in the establishment's AA that addresses all requirements outlined below.
- Identify carcasses with GSWs and remove them from processing.
Note: GSW carcasses are not eligible for either human consumption or pet food production. Skins from GSW carcasses must also be condemned.
- Complete a GSW incident report ([Attachment 1](#)) and email it, together with photographic evidence, to the On-Plant Veterinarian (OPV) within one business day.
- Retain GSW carcasses under appropriate control until otherwise advised by the relevant state authority.

Departmental OPVs will:

- Provide establishment management with a copy of this guideline as soon as possible.
- Verify that the establishment's responsibilities and actions under this guideline are documented in the establishment's AA.
- Verify the establishment's ongoing compliance with the requirements of this guideline.
- Advise establishment management of any GSW carcasses not identified by the establishment operators and request completion of a GSW incident report ([Attachment 1](#)).
- Consult with establishment management on any GSWs that appear to be related to pre-harvest activities and provide written comments on these as 'additional information' in *Section D: Incident description* of the incident report.
- Review GSW incident reports submitted by establishment management and verify they contain all the required information and clear photographic evidence.
- Ensure carcasses condemned due to GSW are recorded in the Meat Export Data Collection (MEDC) system as a condemned 'non-headshot'.
- Forward completed GSW incident reports within one business day of receiving them to:
 - the relevant state authority for the state in which the kangaroo was harvested
 - the Area Technical Manager (ATM)
 - the Food Safety Unit (foodsafetyunit@aff.gov.au)
 - the relevant state authority for where the establishment is located.

State authority contact details can be found at [Attachment 2](#).

Note: Kangaroos may be harvested in one state and processed in another. OPVs must report GSW incidents to both the state authority where the kangaroos were harvested and the state authority where the processing establishment is located.

- Liaise with the relevant state authority as required.

Area Technical Managers will:

- Review and approve the establishment's AA.
- Verify through audits the occupier's compliance with relevant export legislation, importing country requirements and Australian standards. This task is to be performed by the auditing ATM.

State regulatory authorities will:

- Verify through audits the occupier's compliance with relevant export legislation, importing country requirements and Australian standards.

State regulatory authorities (animal welfare) will:

- Take appropriate follow-up action in response to reports received from, or on behalf of, wild game processing establishments.
- Liaise with the establishment management directly, or via the OPV, where carcase retention or additional information is required.
- Provide establishment management directly, or via the OPV and the Food Safety Unit (foodsafetyunit@aff.gov.au) with feedback on the progress and outcome of any investigation undertaken.

Contact

Wild Game Policy Officer – wildgame.meatexport@aff.gov.au

Related material

Related material is available at:

- [Export Control Act 2020](#)
- [Export Control \(Wild Game Meat and Wild Game Meat Products\) Rules 2021](#)
- [Manual of Importing Country Requirements](#)
- [AS 4464:2007](#)
- [National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Commercial Purposes](#)

Definitions

Term	Definition
Approved arrangement (AA)	An arrangement approved by the department under Chapter 5 of the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> . An arrangement for a kind of export operations in relation to a kind of prescribed goods approved by the Secretary.
Area Technical Manager (ATM)	A departmental officer with veterinary qualifications who has responsibility for the supervision, technical performance, assessment and verification of technical standards and operations in a defined group of export meat establishments within a geographic area in a state or states.
Field Operations Manager (FOM)	A senior veterinary officer who has responsibility for technical supervision of ATMs within and across defined geographic areas.
Gunshot wound (GSW)	A wound to an area other than the head of a harvested kangaroo. Note: Old wounds indicative of pre-hunting activities, such as non-commercial or illegal culling, wounds from shotgun pellets and small caliber weapons, are not considered linked to commercial harvesting.
Kangaroo	For this guideline, kangaroo refers to the species of large kangaroo that are commercially harvested from the <i>Macropus</i> genus, i.e. eastern grey and western grey from the sub genus <i>Macropus</i> (<i>Macropus</i>) and red kangaroo, and euro-wallaroo complex of species from the sub genus <i>Macropus</i> (<i>Osphranter</i>).
Meat Export Data Collection System (MEDC)	An interactive web portal used to record a range of information gathered about export meat.
On-plant Veterinarian (OPV)	A veterinarian employed by the department to conduct and provide daily supervision of post-mortem inspection and verification of the game processing establishment's AA.
Tier 1	Under this system an establishment produces export meat and meat products that meet the requirements of the Australian Standard, importing country requirements and elements of the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> relating to product integrity.
Tier 2	This system operates under direct departmental supervision and establishments are required to export meat and meat products in compliance with importing country requirements, the Australian Standard and the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> .
Wild game	A vertebrate animal (including a mammal, bird and reptile, but not including a fish) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has not been husbanded in the manner of a farmed animal; and • has been killed in the field.

Attachment 1: Kangaroo gunshot wound incident report

Attachment 2: List of relevant state or territory contacts

Jurisdiction	Department	Website	Email
Commonwealth	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	Home - DCCEEW	
Commonwealth	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Home - DAFF	Wildgame.meatexport@aff.gov.au
NSW	The New South Wales Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water NSW Government	kangaroo.management@environment.nsw.gov.au
QLD	Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation	Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), Queensland	mmp@des.qld.gov.au
QLD	Safe Food Queensland.	Safe Food Queensland	notify@safefood.qld.gov.au
SA	Department for Environment and Water (DEW)	Department for Environment and Water - Home	DEWkangarooMgmt@sa.gov.au
VIC	Victorian Game Management Authority	Home - Game Management Authority	director.compliance@gma.vic.gov.au