



Property of origin for livestock exports

Live Animal Export Branch

1 Purpose

This policy outlines the appropriate interpretation of the phrase ‘property of origin’ to assist exporters to meet requirements when applying for a government certificate under the *Export Control Act 2020*.

2 Scope

This policy applies to licensed exporters preparing livestock for export by sea and air. It outlines the department’s minimum requirements related to the interpretation of the phrase ‘property of origin’ where this is not otherwise defined by an importing country.

The policy does not apply to the export of animals other than livestock or animal reproductive material.

This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant export legislation, importing country requirements and standards listed under [related material](#).

3 Requirements

For consignments exported on or after 2 December 2024, the department defines a ‘property of origin’ to be the property (or properties) where livestock resided in the 30 days immediately prior to entering the property where they are prepared for export.

This means any property that livestock were on in the 30-day period immediately prior to entering the:

- registered establishment, for livestock exported by sea, or
- approved premises or other premises used for export preparation, for livestock exported by air

If an importing country specifies its own definition of the phrase ‘property of origin’, livestock must be prepared in accordance with that definition.

4 Instructions

From 2 December 2024, for consignments where importing country requirements include property of origin clauses, exporters are required to obtain documentation as per Table 1.

In accordance with an exporter’s approved arrangement (or exemption for small and infrequent exporters), documents must be provided to the department:

- if required for certification of a consignment, and
- during audit.

Table 1 Documentation required to address property of origin clauses in importing country requirements

	For import conditions which rely on property health status documentation from a state or territory veterinary authority	For import conditions which rely on a vendor declaration for certification (e.g. residency clauses, or for non-notifiable diseases)
Where no residency period on the property of origin is included in the importing country requirements.	<p>Property health status documentation issued by a state or territory government for every property identification code (PIC) where the livestock have resided in the 30 days immediately prior to entry to the property where they are prepared for export.</p> <p>Documentation must include reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all relevant notifiable diseases • other animal health matters that relate to the status of the property in relation to national or state disease monitoring or control programs (e.g. National Arbovirus Monitoring Program) as required by the importing country. <p>Note: For saleyard PICs unable to obtain property health status documentation from the relevant government authority, the exporter must ensure that the saleyard has a biosecurity plan in place to reduce the risk of disease transmission in the yard.</p>	<p>Vendor declarations to address importing country requirements relevant to the property of origin, and that require a vendor declaration for the properties where the livestock have resided in the 30 days immediately prior to entry to the property where they are prepared for export.</p> <p>This could be met by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • declaring the animals have not moved from the vendor’s property in the previous 30 days (so no additional declarations are needed for prior properties) • including confirmation in the vendor declaration—for the property where the animals were held immediately prior to entry to the property used for export preparation—that the animals have only been held on properties that comply with the importing country requirements for the last 30 days. <p>Note: The vendor must hold the information upon which this declaration is based.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtaining vendor declarations from all vendors for the properties where the livestock have resided in those 30 days.
<p>Where the importing country requirements specify a period of residency on the property of origin.</p> <p>For example, breeder cattle to China are required to spend 6 months on the property of origin before entry to the property where they are prepared for export.</p>	<p>Property health status documentation issued by a state or territory government only for properties where the animals resided in the residency period specified in the importing country requirements.</p> <p>Documentation must include reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all relevant notifiable diseases • other animal health matters that relate to the status of the property in relation to national or state disease monitoring or control programs (e.g. National Arbovirus Monitoring Program) as required by the importing country. 	<p>Vendor declarations must be obtained for each property in accordance with the importing country requirements.</p>

5 Background

The department has previously considered a ‘property of origin’ to be any property that livestock were on immediately prior to transfer onto the property where they were prepared for export. State and territory requirements may have also applied.

Through departmental consultation, industry bodies and state and territory authorities agreed that ‘property of origin’ should include any and all properties livestock have resided on for the immediate 30 days prior to entering an export establishment or premises.

- The 30-day period allows for most diseases to present themselves prior to export (as this is generally longer than the incubation period). This includes diseases of biosecurity concern for Australia’s trading partners.

Livestock found not to comply with the requirements of an importing country may be rejected by the importing country and destroyed, potentially resulting in a loss of market access for future livestock consignments from Australia. Foreign authorities may audit Australia's export certification system, with adverse findings leading to loss of market access for livestock and other commodities including animal products.

Implementing a national and robust interpretation of property of origin – with a 30-day minimum requirement – strengthens Australia's export certification system and assurances provided to importing countries, and promotes continued market access for Australian livestock.

6 Related material

- [Approved arrangement guidelines for the export of livestock](#)
- [Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock \(ASEL\)](#)
- [Export advisory notices](#)
- [Manual of importing country requirements \(Micor\) – live animals](#)
- [Regulating live animal exports](#)
- [Stock on hand in registered establishments for livestock exports policy](#)

7 Version control

Version	Date of issue	Author	Reason for change
1.0	June 2024	Live Animal Export Branch	First publication (Micor live animals)
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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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