

EUROPEAN UNION CATTLE ACCREDITATION SCHEME (EUCAS) – RULES FOR SALEYARDS



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

EUROPEAN UNION CATTLE ACCREDITATION SCHEME (EUCAS)

Rules For Saleyards

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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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Please visit the EUCAS website (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3/eucas>) for up-to-date information and application forms for all EUCAS activities.

Acronyms and Definitions

Term or Acronym	Definition
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 Chapter 3 of the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> .
Accredited feedlot	An accredited feedlot that has been accredited under subclause Chapter 3 of the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> .
Accredited property	Either an accredited farm, accredited feedlot or accredited saleyard
Accredited saleyard	A saleyard that has been accredited under subclause Chapter 3 of the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> 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
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).
ECMMPRs	Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021
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, agistments 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 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 System
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.

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.
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.
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 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 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).
- c) The legislative basis of EUCAS is the *Export Control Act (2020)* and the requirements of EUCAS are described in the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021 (specifically Chapter 3, Part 3, Division 3). The department has overall responsibility for the implementation and co-ordination of Scheme administration.
- d) This document outlines the EUCAS requirements for saleyards. The department will email all managers of accredited saleyards 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 department's website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3/eucas/saleyards>. For further information, please contact the EUCAS Helpline on 1800 305 544 between 8am and 3pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) or by e-mail at EUCAS@aff.gov.au

2. SALEYARD ACCREDITATION

2.1 Accreditation procedure

- a) Saleyards must be EUCAS accredited to trade EUCAS cattle. A saleyard is a centre where the transaction of cattle by auction takes place. An accredited saleyard may trade EUCAS cattle and non-EUCAS cattle.
- b) A saleyard manager can obtain an application form for accreditation from the department by contacting the EUCAS help line on 1800 305 544 or from the department's website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3/eucas/saleyards>. 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. The management plan must include a training program for all agents that may be involved in traded cattle for the EU market. The training program must include information on all EUCAS requirements and the details of the saleyard management plan. The management plan must list all the saleyard agents, and the signatures of the saleyard agents confirming that they have undergone training included in the management plan. The manager of the saleyard is responsible for ensuring that the agents are aware of their EUCAS responsibilities and comply with them.
- c) The department will review the submitted 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 EUCAS Coordinator will inform the applicant in writing or by email of its shortfalls and ask the applicant to submit an improved plan.
- d) When the management plan satisfactorily addresses the conditions of accreditation, the department will arrange an initial on-site accreditation audit that will assess the property and available records to ensure that the management plan is practical. The management plan must be approved before EUCAS cattle may be traded at the saleyard; however EUCAS cattle may be traded during a sale attended by an authorised auditor for the purpose of assessing and approving the management plan. The auditor will pay particular attention to the methods used to maintain the segregation and integrity of the EUCAS cattle and the procedures in place to ensure accurate reporting to the NLIS database. Auditors will discuss the outcome of the audit with the manager or their representative; in particular, auditors are required to outline any concerns that they may have and discuss the

acceptability of any proposed corrective action. 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.

- e) If the auditor believes that the manager has the ability to implement the management plan appropriately, notwithstanding any outstanding matters to be addressed, he/she will inform the department and include any additional recommendations. The department will approve the application and send the manager a certificate of accreditation and a letter confirming accreditation. The department will include the details of the newly accredited saleyard on the NLIS database.
- f) The saleyard manager, who signed the accreditation application, is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with all conditions of the accreditation until the manager notifies the department in writing that they have relinquished that responsibility. It is important that if there is a change in saleyard manager 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 at <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3/eucas/saleyards> or by contacting the EUCAS helpline on 1800 305 544.

2.2 Segregation of EUCAS and non-EUCAS cattle

- a) An accredited saleyard may trade both EUCAS and non-EUCAS cattle and the manager must ensure that these classes of cattle are segregated. The management plan must include the following:
 - i. a map of the saleyard clearly indicating holding and sale pens for EUCAS cattle, as well as the position of unloading facilities and the NLIS reader
 - ii. methods that ensure segregation of EUCAS and non-EUCAS cattle at all times
 - iii. ways of designating and marking pens as EUCAS pens
 - iv. describe the introduction of EUCAS cattle into the accredited saleyard, including such procedures as lot branding.
 - v. a plan of the order of sale that maintains the segregation of EUCAS cattle.
 - vi. records that the saleyard will maintain for trade in EUCAS cattle.

- vii. documents relating to regular monitoring for compliance with the management plan.
- a) The manager may vary the number of pens designated for EUCAS cattle from sale to sale, depending on the number of stock arriving for sale.

2.3 Moving cattle on to an accredited saleyard

- a) Only EUCAS accredited farms and feedlots can transfer cattle eligible to be slaughtered for the EU market to an accredited saleyard. EUCAS cattle may travel on the same vehicles as non-EUCAS cattle provided segregation is maintained.
- b) The saleyard manager must ensure that the individual identification devices of EUCAS cattle are checked on arrival and are accompanied by a correctly completed EUVD:
 - i. if an animal has lost all identification, it must be moved into the non-EUCAS section of the saleyard.
 - ii. prior to sale of cattle as suitable for the EU market, a pre-sale check with the NLIS database must confirm that the cattle are registered as EUCAS cattle. The manager must ensure that any cattle deemed non-EUCAS are removed from the EUCAS into the non-EUCAS section of the saleyard prior to sale.

2.4 Selling and transporting EUCAS cattle from the saleyard

- a) Saleyard managers must sell EUCAS cattle separately from non-EUCAS cattle and this principle should be reflected in the order of sale. EUCAS cattle retain their EU eligibility only if purchased and transferred to an accredited property or an EU listed abattoir.
- b) Managers of accredited saleyards must ensure that EUCAS cattle moving to accredited properties are accompanied by a photocopy of the original EUVD, (the EUVD should not be faxed to the recipient of the cattle). The selling agent must complete and sign Part B of the EUVD - Agent's Declaration to show the number of cattle travelling in the consignment and should file the original EUVD, keeping it for two years after the sale. Selling agents may attach a post-sale summary or stock agent's invoice and a list of the RFID/NLIS numbers of the cattle purchased.

2.5 Database recording requirements

Saleyards must have access to NLIS device reading equipment and a computer system capable of interacting with the NLIS database. Saleyards managers are responsible for notifying the NLIS database of the following:

- i. all cattle movements onto or off the accredited saleyard: on the day of arrival or departure;
- ii. cattle that arrive dead or die whilst under control of the saleyard: within 24 hours of discovery of a deceased animal; and
- iii. the downgrading of any EUCAS cattle to non-EUCAS cattle within 24 hours.

Managers are also responsible for verifying the EU eligibility of the cattle on the day of the sale and ensuring that the farm or feedlot that sent the cattle is EUCAS accredited.

2.6 Record keeping

The manager of the accredited saleyard must maintain the following records for two years after the transaction.

- i. the movement of EUCAS cattle onto the saleyard, including accompanying original EUVD
- ii. checks of EUVDs, identification requirements and eligibility of EUCAS cattle against the NLIS database
- iii. the movement of EUCAS cattle off the accredited saleyard, including the final destination and the records of the notification to the NLIS database of these movements
- iv. regular monitoring for compliance with the management plan and corrective action taken.
Records should be kept demonstrating the monitoring that took place, regardless of whether or not a non-compliance was detected.

2.7 Monitoring management plan and agent code of practice compliance

The manager of the saleyard is responsible for monitoring the saleyard's EUCAS management plan and the code of practice for agents. They must include monitoring frequency and procedures in the management plan, including corrective actions for non-complying agents. Corrective actions may include alerting agents to their breaches of the management plan in writing, and imposition of temporary or permanent bans on agents. Non-compliances that affect the management plan or integrity of EUCAS must be referred to the department for follow up action.

2.8 Audits

- a) The department will arrange for saleyard audits to take place at least annually, following a successful pre-accreditation audit. 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. Auditors will seek the assistance of the manager and staff of the saleyard, if necessary to carry out the audit.
- b) In most cases, EUCAS auditors will contact the saleyard manager 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 saleyard 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 manager or their representative; in particular, auditors are required to outline any non-compliances detected 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.