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Export Meat Operational Guideline

3.3 Ante mortem inspection



Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to outline the process of ante-mortem inspection and disposition of animals at export-registered meat establishments.

Scope

This guideline provides an overview of the ante-mortem inspection and disposition process. This guideline covers the ante-mortem inspection and disposition of:

- cattle and calves
- buffalo
- camels
- goats
- deer
- lambs and sheep
- pigs
- horses and donkeys.

Legislative basis

- The *Export Control Act 2020* ('the Act') provides a framework for the control of the export of certain goods from Australia.
- The *Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021* ('the Rules') is subordinate legislation enabled by the Act which outlines the Rules specific to the export of meat and meat products from Australia.
- The Australian standard for the hygienic production and transportation of meat and meat products for human consumption (Australian meat standard - AS4696) sets the food safety and wholesomeness requirements for meat and meat products for human consumption. Under the Rules, ante-mortem inspection and disposition of animals must be conducted as set out in section 8 and schedule 3 of the Australian meat standard.

In this document

Policy statement	3
Ante-mortem inspection	3
Undertaking ante-mortem inspection	3
Work health and safety	3
Animal welfare during inspection	3
Authorised officers who can carry out ante-mortem inspection.....	3
When ante-mortem inspection should be conducted.....	3
Where ante-mortem inspection is conducted.....	4
Animals found dead at presentation for ante-mortem inspection	4
Ante-mortem disposition	4
Passed for unconditional slaughter	5
Conditional slaughter.....	5
Conditional slaughter – emergency slaughter	5
Conditional slaughter – soiled.....	6
Conditional slaughter – suspect animal	6
Withheld from slaughter	6
Condemned.....	7
Emergency animal diseases and notifiable diseases	7
Related material	9
Attachment 1: Roles and responsibilities.....	10
On-Plant Veterinarian (OPV)	10
Food Safety Meat Assessor (FSMA)	10
Porcine Ante-Mortem Inspector (PAMI) or Australian Authorised Officer (AAO) – pig establishment	10
Attachment 2: Use of CCTV footage as a verification tool for emergency slaughter procedures in the lead up race.....	12
Conditions of use.....	12
Processing procedures	13
OPV requirements	13
Exclusions to use	13
Segregation requirements	13
Importing Country Requirements	13
Attachment 3: Definitions	15

Policy statement

Ante-mortem inspection and disposition is conducted on food producing animals at export-registered meat processing establishments to ensure animals are fit for slaughter; and that meat and meat products are fit for human consumption and are wholesome. Ante-mortem inspection and disposition must be conducted in a way that ensures the animal's health and welfare is maintained and the safety of the Authorised officers conducting inspection is not compromised. During ante-mortem inspection, animals are handled such that least practical disturbance to the animal occurs and their risk of injury, pain, or suffering is minimised.

Ante-mortem inspection

Undertaking ante-mortem inspection

Animals undergoing ante-mortem inspection are observed by the On-Plant Veterinarian (OPV) (or other authorised officer – see section Authorised officers who can carry out ante-mortem inspection) at rest and in motion. Reasonable steps should be taken by the establishment to ensure animals are presented for inspection in a clean condition.

The OPV or authorised officer views the front, rear, and both sides of each animal. This may be achieved by having the animals move within the pen or between pens and by use of overhead platforms. For the latter, if the OPV or authorised officer is in an elevated position, both sides, front and back of the animal can be viewed in a single movement.

Depending on importing country requirements, the OPV or authorised officer either selects a sample of animals within a uniform lot to be inspected, or they inspect each individual animal. Refer to the [Manual of Importing Country Requirements \(Micor\)](#) for details of importing country requirements.

Livestock that are found during ante-mortem inspection to be affected, or suspected of being affected, with an abnormality or disease are segregated. These animals undergo further detailed inspection by the OPV to determine their suitability for slaughter. See section Ante-mortem disposition for more information.

Work health and safety

OPVs, authorised officers, and establishment staff involved in ante-mortem inspection and disposition follow work health and safety protocol.

Animal welfare during inspection

The welfare of the animals must not be compromised during ante-mortem inspection. Any animal welfare non-compliances are handled in accordance with the guideline [Meat Establishment Verification System \(MEVS\)](#). If an animal welfare incident warrants state/territory regulatory notification, an Animal Welfare Incident Report (AWIR) is completed.

Authorised officers who can carry out ante-mortem inspection

Ante-mortem inspection is usually carried out by an OPV. Food Safety Meat Assessors (FSMAs) are also permitted to undertake ante-mortem inspection under the supervision of an OPV.

On pig establishments, Australian Government Authorised Officers (AAOs) and Porcine Ante-Mortem Inspectors (PAMIs) are permitted to perform ante-mortem inspection under the supervision of an OPV.

When ante-mortem inspection should be conducted

In accordance with the Australian meat standard, ante-mortem inspection of animals is carried out within 24 hours before they are slaughtered. Some importing countries

require ante-mortem inspection be performed to different timeframes. Refer to [Micor](#) for country-specific requirements.

Where ante-mortem inspection is conducted

Ante-mortem inspection of animals is conducted at the registered establishment where the animals are being held prior to slaughter. The ante-mortem inspection area at the establishment must have adequate light to enable an effective inspection. A minimum overall illumination of 110 lux (measured 1 metre above ground level) is considered adequate.

The establishment must provide adequately sized pens for the handling and holding of suspect animals, and animals withheld from slaughter. Detailed inspection of suspect animals, and animals withheld from slaughter should be conducted by the OPV in a suspect pen. The overall illumination of 220 lux (measured 1 metre above ground level) is considered adequate lighting in these pens.

Animals found dead at presentation for ante-mortem inspection

Animals are inspected by the OPV to determine whether the animal was carrying a notifiable disease, significant endemic disease, and/or a disease of food safety concern. If there is any suspicion that the animal was affected by a disease of concern at the time of death, contact the relevant state or territory biosecurity agencies for direction. See [Export Meat Operational Guideline: 3.08 Emergency animal disease](#) for more information.

Where an establishment may wish to dispose of deceased animals at a location away from the registered premises, the approved arrangement must meet the requirements of Section 5.14 of the Australian meat standard as well as any State or Territory requirements.

If the cadaver is to be removed from the establishment for disposal, any official tags and/or identification marks must be removed from the carcass.

Ante-mortem disposition

When making ante-mortem dispositions, the OPV or authorised officer considers the diseases and dispositions described in Schedule 3 of the Australian meat standard. Additionally, the OPV also considers their relevant state or territory notifiable animal disease list.

The OPV or authorised officer makes dispositions on animals following ante-mortem inspection. When deciding the disposition of the animal, they consider the following information about the animal as per subclause 8.6(2) of the Australian meat standard:

- information identifying any place (for example, a run, station, feedlot, farm, or other place where animals have been fed, pastured, or grazed) where the animals have been present before arriving at the establishment.
- information about whether the animal may have been in contact with an animal affected or suspected of being affected by a disease or abnormality that could affect the disposition to be applied to them.
- information about the treatment and health of the animals that could affect the disposition to be applied to them, including the results of any sampling, monitoring, or testing programs performed on the animals.
- any other information that is relevant to whether animals are or are suspected to be affected with a disease or other abnormality that could affect the disposition applied to them.

One of the following four dispositions is applied to the animals by the OPV or authorised officer:

- passed for unconditional slaughter

- passed for slaughter subject to conditions specified by the OPV 'conditional slaughter'
- withheld from slaughter
- condemned.

The disposition applied to the animal accompanies the animal until it is slaughtered; and accompanies its carcass and carcass parts until the post-mortem inspection of the carcass and carcass parts is completed.

Passed for unconditional slaughter

An animal is passed for unconditional slaughter if the OPV or authorised officer determines that the animal has no signs of disease or other injury.

Animals are not passed for slaughter unless the OPV or authorised officer knows:

- all the places of production or the saleyards of the animals in the consignment
- for an animal captured in the wild, all the areas from which the animals in the consignment were captured.

To show the outcome of the ante-mortem inspection, the OPV or authorised officer completes and issues either:

- an EX120 ante-mortem card (blue) – fit for EU slaughter (EU) or
- an EX125 ante-mortem card (beige) – fit for slaughter for countries other than the EU.

These ante-mortem cards (and the relevant information) accompany the animal/lot through the slaughter procedure until the point of post-mortem inspection. OPVs reconcile ante-mortem cards against the kill sheet at the end of the day, then sign and file the kill sheet as a record that the animals slaughtered all received ante-mortem inspection.

Please see [Export Meat Operational Guideline 3.15: Retention](#) for information on permissions for assignment, removal and disposition of these ante-mortem cards. Consult with [Micor](#) for information on specific Importing Country Requirements that may relate to the assignment and application of ante-mortem cards.

Conditional slaughter

Animals passed for conditional slaughter may fall into one of the following categories:

- conditional slaughter - emergency slaughter (emergency kill 'EK')
- conditional slaughter - soiled
- conditional slaughter - suspect animal

Animals passed for conditional slaughter are segregated from other animals. Animals identified for any type of conditional slaughter are identified with a conditional slaughter card (EX093).

Conditional slaughter – emergency slaughter

An animal can be categorised for emergency slaughter by the OPV or authorised officer if both of the following apply:

- the animal has recently suffered traumatic injury or is suspected of being affected by a disease or other abnormality.
- the animal is in pain or is likely to deteriorate unless killed immediately.

Emergency slaughter animals are humanely killed as soon as possible after being identified. These animals are not moved more than is necessary. Emergency slaughter animals are provided a conditional slaughter card, which accompanies the carcass after slaughter.

If the OPV is unavailable, an FSMA, AAO or PAMI (for pigs) is authorised to identify and order the emergency slaughter of affected animals. The OPV must be informed of the circumstances as soon as possible.

Carcases of emergency slaughter animals remain separated from unconditional slaughter carcasses on the slaughter chain. Details of the animal are recorded in the departmental office diary (for that day). Post-mortem inspection of emergency slaughter animals is directly supervised by the OPV. After post-mortem inspection is completed, the reverse side of the conditional slaughter card is completed and retained by the OPV.

Where an animal has become entrapped in the lead up race following application of an unconditional slaughter disposition, the OPV must be immediately notified of the requirement for emergency slaughter. If the timeliness of departmental attendance is delayed and an adequate CCTV system is in place in the lead up race, the OPV may use their professional judgement to authorise the emergency slaughter without departmental presence to minimise animal welfare issues. The conditions pertaining to this function are stated in Attachment 2: Use of CCTV footage as a verification tool for emergency slaughter procedures in the lead up race.

Conditional slaughter – soiled

Heavily soiled animals may be passed for 'conditional slaughter – soiled' if the OPV is confident that the establishment slaughter and dressing process has control measures to ensure the animal does not contaminate other animals, carcasses, or carcass parts during slaughter, dressing, post-mortem inspection, and disposition.

A conditional slaughter - soiled animal is given a conditional slaughter card completed by the OPV. The animal is segregated from other animals.

Soiled animals may be given the alternative disposition of 'withheld from slaughter', until they are clean and/or have dried to the point where they are suitable for unconditional slaughter.

Details of the conditional slaughter – soiled animal are recorded in the departmental office diary (for that day). The OPV monitors the establishment's application of the control measures during processing, and the outcomes of slaughter, dressing, post-mortem inspection, and disposition.

Establishments may have an approved arrangement that includes procedures for handling soiled animals to prevent contamination during processing. When processing soiled animals, the establishment follows those procedures.

Conditional slaughter – suspect animal

Animals found to be affected or suspected of being affected by a disease or other abnormality by the OPV or authorised officer during ante-mortem inspection require the OPV to apply the disposition of conditional slaughter – suspect animal. An FSMA can apply this disposition in the absence of an OPV, with the carcass and carcass parts being retained for inspection and disposition by the OPV. These animals are given a conditional slaughter card which remains with them until the completion of slaughter. The animal is only given this disposition if compliance with conditions would ensure the disease or other abnormality does not result in any contamination to other animals or products and does not alter the wholesomeness of the meat and meat products. Details of the conditional slaughter – suspect animal are recorded in the departmental office diary (for that day).

Withheld from slaughter

Animals are withheld from slaughter if they are affected or suspected of being affected with a disease or abnormality, and if doing so would enable:

- a disease or abnormality to be identified
- a disease or abnormality to be treated
- an animal to recover from a disease or abnormality.

Animals may also be withheld from slaughter to enable the withholding period (WHP) or export slaughter interval (ESI) to elapse. Animals may also be withheld from slaughter due to excessive soiling.

Animals withheld from slaughter are identified with a conditional slaughter card and are segregated from other animals.

Withheld animals are resubmitted for ante-mortem inspection and disposition by the OPV before slaughter. Soiled animals must be cleaned and dry before reinspection.

The establishment may alternatively choose to

- dispose of the animal(s) by humane destruction
- remove the animal(s) from the establishment (for example, return to the vendor, send to another property) under strict conditions and in agreement with state/territory regulatory authorities.

Information regarding the withheld animal is recorded in the departmental office diary (for that day) by the OPV.

Condemned

In accordance with the Australian meat standard, animals will be condemned if necessary to prevent or reduce the risk of the spread of a disease, or to prevent or reduce any other risk to human or animal health. Schedule 3 of the Australian meat standard specifies diseases or other abnormalities that warrant condemnation of an animal if it has, or is suspected of having, a disease or abnormality.

If an OPV is unavailable within a reasonable time, another authorised officer can make the disposition and require the expeditious humane killing of the animal to prevent ongoing suffering. The property identification code (PIC), National livestock identification service (NLIS) device number, and tag or tattoo number of the condemned animal, as well as the reason(s) for disposition are recorded by the OPV or authorised officer.

Condemned animals are identified by the establishment using a permanent tag and/or applied paint brand to ensure the classification of the animal is beyond doubt.

The condemned animal/cadaver is removed expeditiously to a place for rendering, disposal, or destruction as specified in the establishment's approved arrangement.

If the cadaver is to be removed from the establishment for disposal, any official tags and/or identification marks must be removed from the carcase.

The OPV may, on request from the establishment, issue a condemnation certificate (EX083) containing the disposition, and the livestock sourcing and identity details. The condemnation disposition will be recorded in the departmental office diary (for that day) by the OPV.

Note: Only animals entering the registered establishment boundaries alive are applicable for a condemnation certificate. Condemnation certificates will not be provided if an animal is dead on arrival or is located outside the registered establishment boundaries. A condemnation certificate may only be issued if the OPV has seen the animal(s) and the animal(s) can be appropriately identified.

Emergency animal diseases and notifiable diseases

If an animal is affected, or suspected of being affected, by an emergency animal disease (EAD), or a notifiable disease, the relevant state or territory authority must be advised as soon as possible.

In the case of a suspected or real incursion of an EAD, the emergency animal disease watch hotline (1800 675 888) must be notified as soon as possible.

Refer to the [Export Meat Operational Guideline 3.08: Emergency animal disease](#) for specific advice on handling real or potential EAD incursions at establishments.

If an animal is affected or suspected of being affected by an EAD, a notifiable disease or contagious disease during ante-mortem inspection:

- the animal must be identified and segregated from other animals, carcasses, and carcase parts that are not affected or suspected of being affected
- associated animals, carcasses and carcase parts that carry a risk of being affected by the disease must be separately identified and segregated from other animals, carcasses, and carcase parts that are not affected or suspected of being infected.

Each state and territory have their own notifiable diseases. See the department's webpage for [State and Territory Notifiable Animal Diseases](#) lists.

Related material

The following related material is available on the department's website:

- [Webpage: ELMER 3 – Electronic legislation, manuals and essential references](#)
- Webpage: [Approved arrangement guidelines – Meat](#)
- Webpage: [State and Territory Notifiable Animal Diseases lists](#)
- Webpage: [Manual of Importing Country Requirements \(Micor\)](#)
- Webpage: [Meat Export Policy Significant and non-significant variation of an Establishment approved arrangement by the holder under the Export Control Act 2020](#)
- Webpage: [Export Meat Operational Guideline: 9.2 Meat Establishment Verification System \(MEVS\) – Establishment](#)
- Webpage: [Export Meat Operational Guideline: 9.3 Meat Establishment Verification System \(MEVS\) – Independent boning rooms](#)
- Webpage: [Export Meat Operational Guideline: 3.08 Emergency animal disease](#)
- Webpage: [Export Meat Operational Guideline: 1.2 Animal welfare incident reporting](#)
- Webpage: [Export Meat Operational Guideline: 3.15 Retention](#)

The following related material is available on the internet:

- Australian standard for the hygienic production and transportation of meat and meat products for human consumption AS4696 (available for purchase through [SAI Global](#))
- Webpage: [Export Control Act 2020](#)
- Webpage: [Export Control \(Meat and Meat Products\) Rules 2021](#)
- Webpage: [Industry Animal Welfare Standard for Livestock Processing Establishments Preparing Meat for Human Consumption \(Edition 3\)](#)
- Webpage: [US Code of Federal Regulations Part 309 – Ante-Mortem Inspection](#)

Attachment 1: Roles and responsibilities

On-Plant Veterinarian (OPV)

- Conduct ante-mortem inspections.
- Apply dispositions to animals following ante-mortem inspections.
- Supervise ante-mortem inspections conducted by FSMAs.
- Supervise and verify ante-mortem inspections carried out on pig establishments by AAOs and PAMIs.
- Conduct ante-mortem inspection for final disposition of animals identified by FSMA/AAO/PAMI as conditional slaughter (suspect or emergency slaughter) animals.
- Ensure suspected cases of EADs are notified to the emergency animal disease watch hotline.
- Ensure suspected cases of notifiable diseases are reported to the relevant state/territory regulatory authority.
- Conduct/supervise post-mortem inspection and make final disposition of animals given an ante-mortem inspection disposition of conditional slaughter (suspect or emergency slaughter) animals.
- Issue condemnation certificates for condemned carcasses and animals in accordance with procedures.
- Reconcile ante-mortem cards against the final Daily Kill Agenda to verify that ante-mortem has been performed on all livestock slaughtered.
- Ensure records meet importing country requirements.
- File records (for example, final kill sheet after reconciliation, conditional slaughter cards, condemn certificates/records and Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan (EADP) notification).

Food Safety Meat Assessor (FSMA)

- When required, conduct ante-mortem inspection under the supervision of an OPV.
- Notify OPV of animals being given a condemnation disposition.
- Notify OPV of any suspicion of a notifiable animal disease.
- For animals given the disposition conditional slaughter (suspect) withhold the animals from slaughter for further ante-mortem inspection.
- For animals that require emergency slaughter, withhold the animals from slaughter for further ante-mortem inspection by the OPV.
- If an emergency slaughter animal is suffering and the OPV is not available in a reasonable time, make the disposition of emergency slaughter and require the animal to be expeditiously humanely destroyed.

Porcine Ante-Mortem Inspector (PAMI) or Australian Authorised Officer (AAO) – pig establishment

- Conduct ante-mortem inspection under the supervision of an OPV.
- Notify OPV of animals being given a condemnation disposition.
- Notify the OPV of any suspicion of a notifiable animal disease.
- For animals that fit the criteria for conditional slaughter (suspect), withhold the animals from slaughter for further ante-mortem inspection by the OPV.
- For animals that require expedited slaughter (emergency slaughter), withhold the animals from slaughter for further ante-mortem inspection by the OPV. If the animal(s) is suffering and the OPV is not available within a

reasonable time, make the disposition of emergency slaughter and require the animal to be expeditiously humanely destroyed.

Attachment 2: Use of CCTV footage as a verification tool for emergency slaughter procedures in the lead up race

There are circumstances where animals require emergency slaughter following the application of unconditional slaughter disposition at ante-mortem. OPVs are required to be notified of these situations for their attendance, and to assess and apply a new disposition to the animal. These situations often occur in the lead up race prior to the knocking box and may have significant animal welfare implications.

At some export meat establishments, an OPV's attendance to emergency slaughter situations in the lead up race may be delayed. This may include situations where:

- the geographic size and facility lay-out may impact timely attendance by the OPV to the lead up race, or;
- the OPV may be assisting on the slaughter chain while another officer is on a break.

Where an OPV is unable to attend the **lead up race** in a timely manner, or where the OPV opts to use their professional judgement in their decision not to attend the **lead up race**, it is possible for the OPV to approve an emergency slaughter procedure in the lead up race without the OPV being present. This decision is to be made in consideration of animal welfare implications and only where acceptable CCTV footage is available for OPV use.

Conditions of use

If an OPV chooses to use this option, it may only be used under the following conditions:

- The animal will have already passed ante-mortem inspection.
- The animal will have been assessed by establishment staff to be entrapped for one (or more) of the following reasons:
 - trapped horns
 - large body size
 - animal turning around in race
 - animal slipping and flipped upside down and unable to right itself due to physical entrapment
 - recalcitrant and refractory animals who are unwilling to be moved despite reasonable persuasion. Unacceptable handling practices and procedures are outlined in Annex D of the [Industry Animal Welfare Standard - Livestock Processing Establishments \(3rd edition\)](#).
- Establishment staff must notify the OPV of the incident, provide a description of the incident/animal status and request that immediate emergency slaughter be permitted given that CCTV footage will be immediately available to the OPV for evidence/verification of the procedure.
- The OPV will use their professional judgement in the context of each situation and inform the establishment if they wish to take the option of using CCTV footage in absence of their attendance to the incident.
- If the OPV opts not to attend, the OPV is obligated to observe the CCTV footage of the time leading up to and including emergency slaughter procedures.
- If the animal is suffering and a departmental officer is not contactable within a reasonable timeframe, the animal must be humanely and expeditiously destroyed by a competent person under the supervision of trained establishment animal welfare personnel. The departmental officer must be notified as soon as possible.

- The animal will be designated a 'conditional slaughter' disposition, labelled as non-Halal, and, for bovines, non-US eligible.
- The procedure has been approved through the Ex26b (significant variation) process as described in the [Meat export policy: Significant and non-significant variation of an Establishment approved arrangement by the holder under the Export Control Act 2020](#).

Processing procedures

Following emergency slaughter, the animal is permitted to be hoisted onto the processing chain, with the hide clearly and obviously identified (i.e. spray paint or large paint brand). After hide removal, carcass identification transferred to an approved method (i.e. tag or device). A departmental officer must be present on the slaughter floor to identify the carcass before removal of correlated parts and apply/complete a conditional slaughter card to the point of post-mortem inspection.

The animal's unique identifiers (for example: NLIS tag, tattoo number) are provided to the departmental officer and the reason for emergency slaughter is recorded on the conditional slaughter card.

The post-mortem inspection of carcass and carcass parts must be directly supervised by a departmental officer as outlined under conditional slaughter requirements in this document. This may be performed at a retention station. The head and offal must be retained for inspection by the departmental officer.

Items collected for human consumption that are bulked prior to inspection (i.e. tendons, pizzelle etc) cannot be collected from this carcass, head and offal; or alternatively, may be held with the offal as long as there is no chance of cross contaminating other items being bulked

The departmental officer has the power to retain the carcass until the CCTV footage has been viewed and the disposition confirmed.

It is required that the procedure is written into the approved arrangement as a significant approved arrangement variation requiring an EX26b application (see also Conditions of use section above). This procedure will include any preventative/corrective actions if entrapment is a reoccurring issue.

There will be a zero tolerance for establishments misusing this arrangement. Corrective Action Requests (CARs) can be issued for non-compliance. Proven abuse of this arrangement will lead to suspension of this part of the arrangement until an investigation is completed by the company and the company has responded through the implementation of acceptable preventive action.

OPV requirements

The option for continued use of CCTV footage in lieu of attending emergency slaughter procedures in the lead up race is entirely at the OPV's discretion.

The OPV should provide details of this arrangement in their essential handover notes.

Exclusions to use

This procedure will not apply at establishments where the physical proximity of facilities is close, or where animals that are subject to emergency slaughter are condemned.

Segregation requirements

This procedure does not change or replace current requirements for notification, identification and segregation of animals requiring emergency slaughter following ante-mortem.

Importing Country Requirements

This procedure does not change current importing country requirements. All non-ambulatory cattle subject to emergency slaughter in the race under a CCTV system will not be eligible for the US market in accordance with [US Code of Federal Regulations Part 9 309.3\(e\)](#). The establishment must follow its approved US non-ambulatory program within its approved arrangement for the carcass and its parts. Refer to [Micor](#) for details of Importing Country Requirements.

Attachment 3: Definitions

Animal Welfare Incident Report (AWIR)

A report generated by abattoir management and/or department officers to report animal welfare incidents detected at export-registered establishments to the relevant state/territory authorities with the jurisdiction to investigate the cause of the animal welfare incident.

Ante-mortem inspection

Any procedure or test conducted by a competent person on live animals for the purpose of judgement on disposition and suitability for slaughter for human consumption.

Animals are inspected to the extent necessary to determine the disposition to be applied to them.

This inspection procedure is implemented to ensure that only healthy animals are presented for slaughter without restriction, which ultimately lessens the risk of unwholesome meat entering the food chain.

Approved arrangement (AA)

An approved arrangement under Chapter 5 of the *Export Control Act 2020*.

An arrangement for a kind of export operations in relation to a kind of prescribed goods approved by the secretary.

An approved arrangement:

- documents the controls and processes to be followed when undertaking export operations in relation to prescribed goods for export
- enables the secretary to have oversight of specific export operations.

Australian Government Authorised Officer (AAO)

A person appointed under section 291 of the Export Control Act who is authorised by the secretary to perform a specific role.

A meat safety inspector authorised through a deed of obligation under the Export Control Act, to undertake post-mortem inspection under the supervision of the OPV. On porcine establishments AAOs and PAMIs are competent persons who may conduct ante-mortem inspection under the supervision of the OPV.

They are employed either by an establishment or by a third-party service provider.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV)

Means having a closed-circuit television system and a system for processing images or information obtained by such a system. For the purposes of this document, the system installed must provide a complete and clear image of the operations undertaken and must be kept in good working order at all times when live animals are present at the establishment.

Condemnation certificate/ EX083 form

A serially numbered, department issued certificate (EX083 form) signed by a department employed authorised officer at an export-registered establishment, that provides details of the commodity that was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Condemned (animal)

An animal not passed for slaughter for human consumption by an authorised officer and required to be destroyed. An animal may be condemned where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the animal is:

- affected with a disease that would preclude the acceptability of the animal for slaughter

- affected with a disease or condition to an extent that would warrant condemnation of the carcass.

Conditional slaughter

Animal(s) passed for slaughter subject to conditions specified by the meat safety inspector to ensure a disease, abnormality or condition does not:

- contaminate animals, carcasses or carcass parts during slaughter, dressing, post-mortem inspection, and disposition
- jeopardise the wholesomeness of meat and meat products.

Conditional slaughter includes animals deemed to be suspects, emergency slaughter and soiled animals. All conditional slaughter animals are identified with a conditional slaughter card.

Conditional slaughter card

A card given to animals during ante-mortem inspection identified for slaughter subject to conditions specified by the OPV. These animals are not fit for unconditional slaughter. Conditional slaughter animals include emergency slaughter, suspect, and soiled animals. Previously known as an ECA-1 tag.

Daily kill agenda worksheet

A list of production lots of animals in order of presentation for slaughter at an establishment on a particular day, including a description of the category of livestock, details of the location of the animals at the time of ante-mortem and the location that the animals have been sourced from.

Emergency animal disease (EAD)

An animal disease with potential to cause severe socio-economic impacts, affecting animal, human and environmental health. The majority of EADs are exotic. Some are emerging, re-emerging and/or endemic to Australia. All EADs are notifiable diseases in all states and territories.

Emergency slaughter

An animal passed at ante-mortem for emergency slaughter that has recently suffered traumatic injury or is affected or suspected of being affected by a disease or other abnormality or is in pain or likely to deteriorate unless killed immediately. Emergency slaughter animals warrant more detailed post-mortem inspection.

Export slaughter interval (ESI)

Export slaughter intervals are time periods related to the time between the last administration or feeding of a chemical product to livestock, and the slaughter of those livestock. ESIs are designed to reflect the withholding period required to satisfy those instances where maximum residue limits (MRLs) in importing countries are lower than the Australian MRLs, or where no importing country MRL exists.

ESIs are set by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. Compliance with ESIs should be declared on vendor declarations.

EX120 ante-mortem card (fit for EU slaughter)

An EX120 ante-mortem card is given to animals fit for unconditional slaughter, and meeting EU importing country requirements as determined by an OPV.

EX125 ante-mortem card

An EX125 ante-mortem card is given to animals fit for unconditional slaughter that meet the importing country requirements of countries outside the EU.

Food Safety Meat Assessor

A qualified meat safety inspector who is authorised under *the Export Control Act*, to undertake post-mortem inspection. They are employed by the department. The tasks undertaken by an FSMA depends on the particular Australian Export Meat Inspection System (AEMIS) model operating at the establishment.

National Livestock Identification Service (NLIS) device number

NLIS devices for cattle contain a radio frequency identification device (RFID) and can be in the form of an ear tag or a combination of a rumen bolus/visual ear tag (the ear tag indicating a bolus is dark green). For sheep and goats, an NLIS device is an ear tag which the property identification code (PIC) (or brand in the case of WA) is printed. Some sheep ear tags contain an RFID; however, the electronic function is not part of the NLIS sheep.

Notifiable disease

An animal disease, the presence or suspected presence of, that must be notified or reported (however this is expressed) under a law of the state or territory in which the disease is present or suspected of being present.

On-Plant Veterinarian (OPV)

A Commonwealth authorised officer (veterinarian) employed by the Department to conduct ante-mortem inspection and to provide daily supervision of post-mortem inspection and verification of the establishment's approved arrangement.

Porcine Ante-Mortem Inspector (PAMI)

A meat safety inspector who is authorised, through a deed of obligation under the Export Control Act, to undertake ante-mortem inspection on a pig abattoir under the supervision of the OPV. They are employed either by an establishment or by a third-party service provider.

Soiled

Where cleaning is not appropriate or has not resulted in the animal(s) being clean enough for unconditional slaughter the animal(s) may be passed for conditional slaughter (soiled) under conditions that ensure contamination does not occur and wholesomeness is maintained.

Suspect

An animal passed for conditional slaughter (suspect) by an authorised officer where the animal is suspected of having an abnormality that:

- warrants post-mortem inspection
- must be handled appropriately during dressing to prevent contamination and maintain wholesomeness.

Unconditional slaughter

Animals passed for unconditional slaughter are identified by the OPV during ante-mortem inspection as suited for slaughter with no conditions.

Wholesome/wholesomeness

According to the Australian meat Standard, wholesome means that meat and meat products may be passed for human consumption on the basis that they meet all the following requirements:

- are not likely to cause food-borne disease or intoxication when properly stored, handled, and prepared for their intended use
- do not contain residues in excess of established limits
- are free of obvious contamination
- are free of defects that are generally recognised as objectionable to consumers

- have been produced and transported under adequate hygiene and temperature controls
- do not contain additives other than those permitted under the Food Standards Code
- have not been irradiated contrary to the Food Standards Code
- have not been treated with a substance contrary to a law of the Commonwealth or a law of the state or territory in which the treatment takes place.

Withheld

Animals are given the disposition of withheld from slaughter by the OPV after ante-mortem inspection. Animals are withheld from slaughter if they are affected, or suspected of being affected, with a disease or other abnormality. Withheld animals are further inspected, treated, or left to recover.

Withholding period (WHP)

Is the minimum period that must elapse between last administration or application of a pesticide or veterinary medicine, including treated feed, and the slaughter, collection, harvesting or use of the animal or crop commodity for human consumption.