

Animal handling practices

- The department, through the On-Plant Veterinarian, will verify the animal handling practices conducted at export-registered establishments to ensure that animals are handled appropriately from the point of unloading up to, and including, the completion of slaughter.
- The department, through Area Technical Manager auditors, will verify export-registered establishment's animal handling procedures as detailed in their approved arrangement, at audit. AUS-MEAT will undertake this audit function on behalf of the department for AAWCS-certified export-registered establishments.
- Non-compliance will be managed through corrective action requests.
- Export-registered meat establishments are to adhere to the department's requirements under the [Export Meat Operational Guideline 1.1 Animal welfare – from arrival to completion of slaughter](#).

Animal welfare incident identification, response, and reporting

- Export-registered establishments are expected to identify and actively manage animal welfare incidents. The department, through the On-Plant Veterinarian, will direct the establishment to undertake action where an incident has not been identified by the establishment, or where the establishment is not undertaking appropriate action.
- The department, through the On-Plant Veterinarian and central office, will ensure that all animal welfare incident reports are provided to the relevant state/territory authorities.
- The department will assist in the provision of evidence, and professional advice (through the On-Plant Veterinarian) and reporting to the relevant state/territory authorities.
- Establishments are expected to comply with state/territory legislative requirements in regard to animal welfare incidents, and are to follow direction given by the department in order to assist state/territory governments to investigate animal welfare incidents.
- The department will keep a central database of animal welfare incident reports from all export -registered establishments.
- Export-registered meat establishments are to adhere to the department's requirements under the [Export Meat Operational Guideline 1.2 Animal welfare incident reporting](#).

Animal welfare assurance system

- The department recognises the voluntary Australian Livestock Processing Industry Animal Welfare Certification System (AAWCS) and has an agreement in place for AUS-MEAT to audit the animal welfare assurance system in regard to AAWCS-certified establishments, on the department's behalf.
- Where establishments are certified to the AAWCS program, and recognition is captured in the establishment's approved arrangement, the department will reduce the audit scope for the animal welfare component.
- Export-registered meat establishments are to adhere to the department's requirements under the [Export Meat Operational Guideline 1.3 Department-recognised animal welfare system](#).

Related material

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

- PDF: [Export Meat Operational Guideline 1.1 Animal welfare – from arrival to completion of slaughter](#)
- PDF: [Export Meat Operational Guideline 1.2 Animal welfare incident reporting](#)
- PDF: [Export Meat Operational Guideline 1.3 Department-recognised animal welfare system](#)
- PDF: [Export Meat Operational Guideline 13.10 Critical incident response](#)
- Webpage: [Approved arrangement guidelines – Meat](#)
- Webpage: [Approved arrangement guidelines – Wild game meat](#)
- Webpage: [Meat Export Regulatory Action and Sanctions Policy](#)
- Webpage: [Quick Reference Card – Animal Welfare Regulatory Management](#)
- Webpage: [State and Territory Government Animal Welfare Links and Legislation](#)

The following related material is available on the internet:

- Webpage: [Export Control Act 2020](#)
- Webpage: [Export Control \(Meat and Meat Products\) Rules 2021](#)
- Webpage: [Export Control \(Wild Game Meat and Wild Game Meat Products\) Rules 2021](#)
- PDF: [Australian standard for the hygienic production and transportation of meat and meat products for human consumption](#)
- Webpage: [Land Transport](#)
- Webpage: [Is the animal fit to load?](#)
- Webpage: [The Australian Livestock Processing Industry Animal Welfare Certification System \(AAWCS\)](#)
- Webpage: [Industry Animal Welfare Standards – Third Edition](#)
- PDF: [Is it fit for the intended journey?](#)