ANIMAL RAISING CLAIM FRAMEWORK FOR BEEF PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN AUSTRALIA

Approved By:

Australian Meat Industry Language & Standards Committee (AMILSC)

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INTRODUCTION

An *Animal Raising Claim* is a claim made in the Trade Description or export documentation about the animal or supply chain specifically relating to Animal Husbandry conditions, feeding, handling, drug treatments and/or geographical references. The Department is responsible for the implementation of the *Export Control (Meat & Meat Products) Act 2021* which prescribes the responsibility of Trade Description to AUS-MEAT Limited

The *Animal Raising Claim Framework for Beef Production Systems in Australia* has been developed by the Australian Meat Industry Language & Standards Committee (AMILSC). Additional programs and changes to the requirements of this framework may be considered by AMILSC.

NOTE: When printed, the currency of this document cannot be confirmed, and users should refer to the AUS-MEAT website for the latest version.

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GLOSSARY

This glossary contains terms, acronyms and definitions that relate to this *Animal Raising Claim Framework*.

Term or Acronym	Definition
AMILSC	Australian Meat Industry Language & Standards Committee
Certified	The procedure by which an accredited certification body, based on an audit and assessment of a company's competence, provides a written assurance that a company conforms to a standard's requirements.[1]
Company Program	A verification program controlled by an individual processing establishment in accordance with their Approved Arrangements under the *Export Control Orders* and/or in accordance with the requirements of AUS-MEAT Accreditation.
Department	Competent Australian Government authority
EUCAS	European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme
FFAS	Fodder Fed Accreditation Scheme
HGP	Hormonal Growth Promotant
LPA	Livestock Production Assurance program
LPA Audit	Audit conducted by AUS-MEAT on behalf of LPA Program Owners.
LPA QA	LPA Quality Assurance Program (incorporating CATTLECARE and Flockcare)
MSA	Meat Standards Australia
NFAS	National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme
PCAS	Pasturefed Cattle Accreditation System
Prophylactic[2]	The use of a veterinary medicine, by any route of administration, to prevent infection with a pathogen(s) that is anticipated to challenge the animal(s) or cause disease during the treatment period. That is, initiating treatment in advance of an actual infection or disease condition because such a condition is expected to occur if treatment is withheld.
Second Party Audit	An external audit conducted by a company on a supplier to ensure. that they are meeting requirements as specified.
Therapeutic[2]	The use of veterinary medicines for the purpose of treating an existing disease condition or injury
Third Party Audit	An external audit conducted by an independent accredited certification body.
Verified	The application of methods, procedures, tests and other evaluations, in addition to monitoring, to determine whether a control or measure is or has been operating as intended.[1]

[1] Source: British Retail Consortium (BRC) Standards, *Global Standard Food Safety*, Issue 7, January 2015.

[2] Source: Australian Veterinary Association, Guidelines for Prescribing, Authorising and Dispensing Veterinary Medicines (V4).

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Raising Claim	Grain Fed (Certified)			Breed Content	Fodder Fed (Non-Certified)
Standard	**Grain Fed** (Certified)	**Grain Fed Young Beef** (Certified)	**Grain Fed Finished** (Certified)	**Breed Content**	**Fodder Fed** (Non-Certified)
Trade Description	Grain Fed (**GF**) (Certified)	Grain Fed Young Beef(**GFYG**) (Certified)	Grain Fed Finished (**GFF**) (Certified)	Refer to *AUS-MEAT Animal Raising Claims in Trade Description for* specific breeds	Fodder Fed (**FF**) (e.g. Corn Fed, Grain Assisted, Cereal Finished, etc.)
Production System	**Feedlot only** Finished on grain ration in accredited feedlot	**Feedlot only** Finished on grain ration in accredited feedlot	**Feedlot only** Finished on grain ration in accredited feedlot	All production systems	**Finished on Fodder** with access to pasture **OR** **Finished on pasture** with access to Fodder
Diet	Formulated ration only (for finishing phase)	Formulated ration only (for finishing phase)	Formulated ration only (for finishing phase)	Not Applicable	Pasture/grass diet with access to additional fodder diet
Program	NFAS	NFAS	NFAS	LPA and/or equivalent commercial/company verifiable programs	*LPA and Company Program* May be subject to approval by AUS-MEAT.
Certification or Program Approval	Achieve NFAS standards NFAS Declaration (Form A)	Achieve NFAS standards NFAS Declaration (Form A)	Achieve NFAS standards NFAS Declaration (Form A - modified to include GFF)	Certified / Verified	Achieve FFAS Standards, equivalency or approval of Company Program Declaration (Livestock Sourcing Declaration)
Minimum Audit Requirement	Third party audit (Annual)	Third party audit (Annual)	Third party audit (Annual)	LPA Audit or equivalent company verification program. In the case of certified programs, the Standard owner will specify minimum requirements.	Second party audit. Frequency determined by: (a) Company Program Requirements; and/or (b) Market Access Requirements.
Definition	NFAS Rules & Standards of Accreditation Verified through a robust compliance and auditing program	NFAS Rules & Standards of Accreditation Verified through a robust compliance and auditing program	NFAS Rules & Standards of Accreditation Verified through a robust compliance and auditing program	A breed claim is a declaration by a supplier of a specified breed of livestock based on genotypical and/or phenotypical characteristics. Breeds in Trade Description are as defined by the AMILSC[1]. *Note:* *1. In the absence of approved breed content guidance documentation for a specific breed, refer to the AMILSC Trade Description Approval Protocol.*	Fodder is a type of animal feed and is any agricultural foodstuff used specifically to feed domesticated livestock. Fodder refers particularly to food given to animals (including plants cut and carried to them), rather than that which they forage for themselves (called forage). Fodder includes hay, straw, silage, compressed and pelleted feeds, oils and mixed rations, and sprouted grains and legumes (such as bean sprouts, fresh malt, or spent malt). Types of fodder include conserved forage plants (hay and silage), compound feed and premixes, often called pellets, nuts or (cattle) cake, crop residues (stover, copra, straw, chaff, sugar beet waste), freshly cut grass and other forage plants, molasses, seaweed, seeds and grains, either whole or prepared by crushing, milling, etc., sprouted grains and legumes, yeast extract (brewer's yeast residue), native green grass, bran, oilseed press cake (cottonseed, safflower, sunflower, soybean, peanut or groundnut), green maize, green sorghum and leaves from certain species of trees.
Explanation	Cattle are confined with a stocking density of 25 m^2 per Standard Cattle Unit (SCU) or less and are only fed a prepared ration for the purposes of production in an NFAS Accredited feedlot.	Cattle are confined with a stocking density of 25 m^2 per Standard Cattle Unit (SCU) or less and are only fed a prepared ration for the purposes of production in an NFAS Accredited feedlot.	Cattle are confined with a stocking density of 25 m^2 per Standard Cattle Unit (SCU) or less and are only fed a prepared ration for the purposes of production in an NFAS Accredited feedlot.	All breed claims used in Trade Description must be in accordance with defined breed specific assessment guidelines as approved by the AMILSC.	Cattle are not confined for the purposes of feeding and are continuously raised on pasture with the addition of prepared feed (as per the definition of "Fodder").

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Raising Claim	Pasture Fed / Grass Fed (Certified)	Pasture Fed / Grass Fed (Non-Certified)	Free Range	Organic	Raised Without Hormonal Growth Promotants
Standard	**Pasture Fed, Grass Fed** (Certified)	**Pasture Fed Grass Fed**	**Free Range**	**Organic (Certified)**	**HGP Free**
Trade Description	Pasture Fed, Grass Fed, Raised on pasture, Finished on pasture (**Certified**)	Pasture Fed, Grass Fed, Raised on pasture, Finished on pasture	Free Range	Organic	No added hormones, Raised without hormones / growth promotants, No hormones administered
Production System	Paddock only	Paddock only	Paddock only	Paddock	Paddock or Feedlot
Diet	Raised on pasture - Finished on pasture	Raised and finished on pasture (grass). As defined.	All diets	All diets	All diets
Program	PCAS or equivalent	LPA and Company Program May be subject to approval by AUS-MEAT	Free Range	Organic	LPA, EUCAS, PCAS (HGP Free Module) and equivalent commercial verifiable programs
Certification or Program Approval	Achieve PCAS Standards PCAS Declaration	Achieve LPA Standards Declaration (Livestock Sourcing Declaration)	Verified	Achieve Organic Certification Standards	Verified/Certified
Minimum Audit Requirement	Third party audit. Frequency determined by: (a) Company Program Requirements; and/or (b) Market Access Requirements.	Second party audit. Frequency determined by: (a) Company Program Requirements; and/or (b) Market Access Requirements.	LPA Audit and Company Program Audit or as specified by importing country requirements	Third party audit (Annual)	LPA Audit or equivalent
Definition	*See definition PCAS Standard: Eligible Diet* *Eligible Diet:* Cattle qualifying for Certified Pasturefed must be fed an Eligible Diet which must be derived solely from forage consisting of: • Grass (annual and perennial), • Forbs (e.g.: legumes, Brassica), • Browse, • Cereal grain crops in a pre-grain state, • Legumes (such as Lucerne, clover, peas, Leucaena) and brassica (such as beets, kale, turnips). Hay, haylage, baleage, silage and other roughage sources. Paddocks that have had a cereal grain crop harvested may be grazed by eligible cattle provided that over 75% of the paddocks average vegetative regrowth is higher than 21 cm when cattle are first grazed to avoid the risk of cattle gaining access to grain that has shed during harvest. This Eligible Diet must ensue for the lifetime of the cattle, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning.	Livestock have had continuous access to graze in open pastures/paddocks See *AMILSC Definition:* Cattle will only consume grass and forage for its lifetime, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning. Its diet shall be derived solely from feed consisting of grass (annual and perennial), legumes, brassica, browse and cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state. Animals cannot be fed grain or grain by-products. Hay, silage, crop residue without grain and other roughage sources are also acceptable. Routine mineral and vitamin supplementation may also be given to the livestock. If the animal is exposed to ineligible feedstuffs or to ensure the animals well-being at all times during adverse environmental or physical conditions, the producer must fully document the frequency and the supplements provided.	Livestock have not been confined for the purposes of intensive feeding for production and have had continuous access to graze in open pastures.	The term organic is commonly applied to systems that use such terms as organic, bio-dynamic, biological and ecological. The current applicable standard is the *National Standard for Organic and Bio-dynamic produce – Edition 3.6 Feb 2015*.	"Cattle have never been treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGPs). HGP (hormonal growth promotant) means a veterinary chemical product that: (a) Contains a substance that is, or a mixture of substances that are, responsible for oestrogenic, androgenic, gestagenic or thyrostatic activity to enhance growth or production in cattle; and (b) Is registered for use for this purpose in Australia. Other allowable statements include: No Hormones administered, Raised without added Hormones.
Explanation	Cattle are not confined for the purposes of feeding and are continuously raised on pasture / grass.	Cattle are not confined for the purposes of feeding and are continuously raised on pasture / grass.	Cattle have been raised under free range production systems.	Cattle have been raised in accordance with the *National Standard for Organic and Bio-dynamic produce.*	Cattle have not ever been treated with HGPs.

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Raising Claim	Raised Without Antibiotics	Raised Without Prophylactic Antibiotics	Never Ever 3	Natural	BEEF
Standard	**No Antibiotics**	**No Prophylactic Antibiotics**	**Never Ever 3**	**Natural**	**AUS-MEAT Language / MSA**
Trade Description	No Antibiotics added, Raised without Antibiotics, Antibiotic Free.	Raised without Prophylactic Antibiotics.	Never treated with HGP or Antibiotics. Antibiotic Free.	Natural	Beef
Production System	Paddock or Feedlot	Paddock or Feedlot	Paddock or Feedlot	Paddock or Feedlot	All production systems
Diet	All diets	All diets	All diets	All diets	Not Applicable
Program	LPA QA, PCAS (No Antibiotic Module) and equivalent commercial verifiable programs	LPA QA and equivalent commercial verifiable programs	LPA QA, PCAS (HGP Free and No Antibiotic Modules) and equivalent commercial verifiable programs	Natural	Not Applicable
Certification or Program Approval	Verified	Verified	Verified	Verified	Not Applicable
Minimum Audit Requirement	LPA Audit and Company Program Audit or equivalent	LPA Audit and Company Program Audit or equivalent	LPA Audit and Company Program Audit or equivalent	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Definition	Cattle have never been treated with antibiotics, including low level (prophylactic) or therapeutic level doses, sulphonamides, ionophores or coccidiostats.	Cattle may have been treated with antibiotics on a therapeutic basis only. "**Therapeutic**"[1] means the use of veterinary medicines for the purpose of treating an existing disease condition or injury. "**Prophylactic**"[1] means the use of a veterinary medicine, by any route of administration, to prevent infection with a pathogen(s) that is anticipated to challenge the animal(s) or cause disease during the treatment period. That is, initiating treatment in advance of an actual infection or disease condition because such a condition is expected to occur if treatment is withheld. (1 = Reference: *Australian Veterinary Association, Guidelines for Prescribing, Authorising and Dispensing Veterinary Medicines, V4*).	Enterprises considering implementing a Never Ever program: (a) No antibiotics administered at any point in the animal's life; (b) No hormonal growth promotants administered at any point in the animal's life; and (c) No animal by products (Restricted Animal Material) fed at any point in the animal's life. Enterprises may implement the "Raised with no antibiotics" and the "Raised without added hormone growth promotants" programs along with applicable references to the Australian Ruminant Feed ban as described on the Animal Health Australia website.	A product containing no artificial ingredient or added colour and is only minimally processed. Minimal processing means that the product was processed in a manner that does not fundamentally alter the product. Minimal Processing: means processes used in the production of meat and meat products and may include: (a) Traditional processes to make meat edible or to preserve it or make it safe for human consumption e.g. smoking, roasting, freezing, drying and fermenting; or (b) Physical processes which do not fundamentally alter the raw meat product and/or which only separate a whole, intact food into component parts such as portioning or grinding. May also include explanatory statements used to establish the basis for describing the meat in this way e.g. 'no artificial ingredients; minimally processed'	No raising claims
Explanation	Cattle have not ever been treated with antibiotics.	Cattle have been treated with antibiotics on a therapeutic basis only.	Cattle have not ever been treated with antibiotics or HGPs.	Cattle raised and processed with minimal production inputs.	Cattle raised under all production systems.

Footnote:
All animal raising claims acknowledge that:
(a) cattle may have been raised on pasture (grass) for some time in their life cycle;
(b) cattle may have been confined at some time in their lifecycle for the purposes of husbandry and management activities;
(c) any product that does not meet the above raising claims can align to the AUS-MEAT Language/MSA Standards for Beef and existing industry programs.

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