ANIMAL RAISING CLAIM FRAMEWORK FOR SHEEP 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 Sheep 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.
LPA	Livestock Production Assurance program
LPA Audit	Audit conducted by AUS-MEAT on behalf of LPA Program Owners.
LPAS	Livestock Production Accreditation Scheme
LPA QA	LPA Quality Assurance Program (incorporating CATTLECARE and Flockcare)
MSA	Meat Standards Australia
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.
Sheep	Refers to basic categories of AUS-MEAT Sheepmeat language.
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]

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[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)	Grass Fed	SHEEP	Free Range
Standard	**Grain Fed (Certified)**	**Pasture Fed, Grass Fed**	**AUS-MEAT Language / MSA**	**Free Range**
Trade Description	Grain Fed (**GF**) (Certified)	Pasture Fed, Grass Fed, Finished on pasture	Sheep	Free Range
Production System	**Feedlot only** Finished on grain ration in accredited feedlot as per AUS-MEAT Standard	Open pastures, ranges, and paddocks only Animals should not be confined for the purpose of intensive feeding	All production systems	Open pastures, ranges and paddocks only
Diet	Formulated ration only (for purposes of production)	Raised on pasture – finished on pasture	Not Applicable	All diets
Program	LPAS	Company program. May be subject to approval by AUS-MEAT.	Not Applicable	Free Range
Certification or Program Approval	Achieve LPAS standards. LPAS Declaration	Achieve approved company program. Achieve LPA Standards Declaration (Livestock Sourcing Declaration)	Not Applicable	Verified
Minimum Audit Requirement	Third party audit (Annual)	Third party audit or Second party audit. Frequency and certification type determined by: (a) Company Program Requirements; and/or (b) Market Access Requirements	Not Applicable	LPA Audit and Company Program Audit or as specified by importing country requirements
Definition	LPAS Rules & Standards of Accreditation Verified through a robust compliance and auditing program	Grass and forage shall be the feed source consumed for the lifetime of the animal, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning. The diet shall be derived solely from forage consisting of grass (annual and perennial), forbs (e.g., legumes, Brassica), pulses, browse, or cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state. Animals cannot be fed grain or grain by-products and must have continuous access to pasture during the growing season. Hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources may also be included as acceptable feed sources. Routine mineral and vitamin supplementation may also be included in the feeding regimen. Feed supplementation may occur due to inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuffs or to ensure the animal's well-being at all times during adverse environmental or physical conditions. The producer must fully document the supplementation that occurs including the amount, the frequency, and the supplements provided. Paddocks that have had a cereal grain crop harvested may be grazed by eligible animals provided that at least one of the following elements is met to avoid the risk of animals gaining access to grain that has shed during harvest: - Over 75% of the paddocks average vegetative regrowth is higher than 10cm when animals are first grazed. - Five days after a post-harvest rainfall event of 5mm The inadvertent consumption of a cereal grain which has matured within a pasture is permitted when such a cereal grain was not deliberately made available to the livestock, is derived from volunteer or early maturing plants and constitutes less than 1% of the area being grazed.	No raising claims	Livestock have not been confined for the purposes of intensive feeding for production and have had continuous access to graze in open pastures.
Explanation	Sheep are confined and are only fed a prepared ration for the purposes of production in an LPAS Accredited feedlot.	Sheep are not confined for the purposes of feeding and are continuously raised on pasture/ grass.	Sheep raised under all production systems.	Sheep have been raised under free range production systems.

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Raising Claim	Natural	Organic	Raised Without Antibiotics	Raised Without Prophylactic Antibiotics	Raised Without Hormonal Growth Promotants
Standard	**Natural**	**Organic (Certified)**	**No Antibiotics**	**No Prophylactic Antibiotics**	**HGP Free**
Trade Description	Natural	Organic	No Antibiotics added, Raised without Antibiotics, Antibiotic Free.	Raised without Prophylactic Antibiotics	No added hormones, Raised without hormones / growth promotants, No hormones administered
Production System	Open pastures, ranges, paddocks or Feedlot	Open pastures, ranges or paddocks	Open pastures, ranges or paddocks or Feedlot	Open pastures, ranges or paddocks or Feedlot	Paddock or Feedlot
Diet	All diets	All diets	All diets	All diets	All diets
Program	Not Applicable	Organic	LPA QA and equivalent commercial verifiable programs	LPA QA and equivalent commercial verifiable programs	Company program within the Approved Arrangement (AA). Subject to market access requirements and approval by the Department.
Certification or Program Approval	Verified	Achieve Organic Certification Standards	Verified	Verified	Not applicable
Minimum Audit Requirement	Not Applicable	Third party audit (Annual)	LPA Audit and Company Program Audit or equivalent	LPA Audit and Company Program Audit or equivalent	No audit required
Definition	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. Routine mineral and vitamin supplementation may also be included in feeding regime. May also include explanatory statements used to establish the basis for describing the meat in this way e.g. 'no artificial ingredients; minimally processed'	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*.	Sheep have never been treated with antibiotics, including low level (prophylactic) or therapeutic level doses, sulphonamides, ionophores or coccidiostats.	Sheep may have been treated with antibiotics on a therapeutic basis only. "**Therapeutic**" 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*).	"Sheep 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	Sheep raised and processed with minimal production inputs.	Sheep have been raised in accordance with the National Standard for Organic and Bio-dynamic produce.	Sheep have not ever been treated with antibiotics.	Sheep have been treated with antibiotics on a therapeutic basis only.	Australian regulations prohibit the use of hormonal growth promotants in sheep

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Raising Claim	Breed Content
Standard	**Breed Content**
Trade Description	Refer to *AUS-MEAT Animal Raising Claims in Trade Description for* specific breeds
Production System	All production systems
Diet	Not Applicable
Program	LPA and/or equivalent commercial/company verifiable programs
Certification or Program Approval	Certified / Verified
Minimum Audit Requirement	LPA Audit or equivalent company verification program. In the case of certified programs, the Standard owner will specify minimum requirements.
Definition	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.*
Explanation	All breed claims used in Trade Description must be in accordance with defined breed specific assessment guidelines as approved by the AMILSC.

Footnote:
All animal raising claims acknowledge that:
(a) sheep may have been raised on pasture (grass) for some time in their life cycle;
(b) sheep 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 sheep and existing industry programs.

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