ANIMAL RAISING CLAIMS – SHEEP UPDATE

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<th>Contact Officer(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Glenn Barker</td>
<td>× LICENCED MEAT EXPORTERS × MANAGEMENT ACCREDITED ENTERPRISES</td>
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<td>Matt Cooper</td>
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this Advice Notice is to inform Accredited Enterprises and Exporters that the Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee (AMILSC) has confirmed a change to the current Sheep Animal Raising Claims\(^1\) (ARC) Framework to assist Industry promote a Raised without Hormonal Growth Promotants claim to certain overseas markets and comply with the National Accreditation Standards – Appendix 16.

BACKGROUND

Whilst Australian regulations prohibit the use of hormonal growth promotants in sheep, some overseas markets are requesting a claim regarding sheep meat being free from Hormonal Growth Promotants on Trade Description labels.

The Sheep Animal Raising Claims have been developed through an industry consultative process involving the Sheepmeat Industry Taskforce along with recent endorsement from the AMILSC. The additional request for a Raised without Hormonal Growth Promotants program has been approved through EMIAC consultation.

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The Animal Raising Claim Framework for Sheep Production Systems in Australia has been updated with this change.

Additional operational guidelines (Trade Description Guidelines) for the development of trade description requirements documented in an export registered meat establishments Approved Arrangement should be read in conjunction with the above guidelines.

RESPONSIBILITY

Whilst AUS-MEAT may be required to approve an individual Establishment’ ARC program, the regulations for trade description are the responsibility of the department under the Export Control Act 1982 and the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005.

The Trade Description Guidelines outline the responsibilities of the department and AUS-MEAT in relation to:

- Delegation of trade description operational responsibilities to AUS-MEAT
- Roles and responsibilities for trade description on AUS-MEAT accredited abattoirs and independent boning rooms
- Roles and responsibilities for trade description on non-AUS-MEAT accredited export meat establishments
- Approved arrangement requirements for market access animal raising claims.

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\(^1\) Animal Raising Claims relate to claims 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 reference which is specifically required by an importing country.
IMPLEMENTATION

Whilst a number of the ARC programs are currently well established and already underpinned by Certification programs / Industry Standards, other programs can be developed using the new framework document. The Hormonal Growth Promotant claim will need to be incorporated within the Approved Arrangement noting Labelling requirements for sensitive markets such as China.

It is the responsibility of the Enterprises (Packer) and/or Exporter to ensure all importing country requirements are adequately covered (e.g. Livestock Sourcing programs, Point of Slaughter Certification, Label Approval and any required verification / certification processes).

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any queries on the Animal Raising Claim(s) Framework, please contact AUS-MEAT Tel (07) 3361 9200 or Email: ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au

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AUS-MEAT Limited

This advice has been prepared in consultation with the AMILSC