



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

EUROPEAN UNION CATTLE ACCREDITATION SCHEME Pre-Accreditation Fact Sheet

INTRODUCTION

Beef exported to the European Union must come from cattle raised on properties accredited by Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) under the European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS). The only exemption to this is veal derived from calves under 80 kg live weight or 40 kg dressed weight. Prior to an application for EU accreditation is submitted a producer must meet certain conditions of accreditation which are outlined below.

The integrity of the EU Accreditation Scheme and continuing market access to the EU heavily relies on all participants keeping records relating to movements of cattle in the scheme. EUCAS uses the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) to maintain traceability of EU eligible cattle. It is essential that EU producers keep their NLIS database up to date and record all movements to and from their property correctly.

How to apply for Accreditation

A farm manager may apply for accreditation by completing a EUCAS Application Form. Application forms can be obtained by contacting the EUCAS Helpline via the details below. Farm accreditation is granted for an initial period of 12 months. A renewal notice will be sent to the EU farm manager prior to the expiry date, requiring the manager to renew the accreditation by the deadline provided in the notice in order to continue with the farm accreditation.

Pre- Accreditation Requirements

- All cattle must be free of Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP) with the exception of breeding bulls, however they will not be eligible for the EU market. If HGPs have been used on the farm all treated cattle and all unused doses must be removed. A Statutory Declaration recording removal of treated cattle and unused HGP doses will be required.
- The property seeking accreditation must be fully reconciled with the NLIS database ie. The devices attached to cattle, plus all devices purchased but not yet attached to cattle must match devices registered to the PIC on the NLIS database.
- The only cattle remaining on the property must be scheme cattle and/or non-scheme cattle that meet the criteria (see Box 1 – Eligible Cattle). All ineligible cattle must be removed from the property prior to the manager applying for accreditation.
- Copies of all European Union Vendor Declarations (EUVD) and/or National Vendor Declaration (NVD) for introduced cattle (excluding bulls) will need to be provided as well as a list of all RFID/NLIS tag numbers for introduced non-EU females.
- Ensure application is fully completed, signed and all relevant documents have been attached (refer to checklist on EUCAS Application form).

BOX 1 - ELIGIBLE CATTLE

Scheme Cattle:

- Cattle born on the farm, that have never been treated with HGPs.
- Cattle raised under one ownership and subject to detailed verification checks, and that have never been treated with HGPs
- Cattle sourced from another EUCAS accredited property which were identified with white NLIS tags prior to movement and recorded in the NLIS database.

Non-Scheme Cattle:

- Breeding bulls from any property and up to five dairy house cows
- Introduced breeding females that meet the following criteria
 - Are born and bred on the farm of origin (vendors property)
 - Declared HGP-free on the vendor declaration
 - Are identified with a white breeder NLIS identification device and have whole life traceability.

More Information

If you require further information or have any questions regarding the EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme contact the EUCAS Helpline on 1800 305 544. Additional information can also be found on the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/eucas. For queries relating to the NLIS or assistance on how to conduct a reconciliation contact the NLIS database helpline on 1800 654 743 (option 1) or visit the NLIS website at www.nlis.mla.com.au

EUCAS HELPLINE:

1800-305-544

FAX:

(02) 6272-5442

EMAIL:

eucas@aqis.gov.au

ADDRESS:

EUCAS Coordinator

GPO BOX 858

Canberra ACT 2601

WEB ADDRESS:

www.aqis.gov.au/eucas