



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

EUROPEAN UNION

CATTLE

ACCREDITATION

SCHEME

INFORMATION FOR FARMS

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Please visit the EUCAS website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas>) for up-to-date information and application forms for all EUCAS activities.

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Term or Acronym	Definition
Accredited farm	A farm where only EUCAS cattle, non-EUCAS breeding bulls and approved non-EUCAS breeding females are held and which has been accredited under subclause 51.1 of Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005
Accredited feedlot	An accredited feedlot that has been accredited under subclause 51.1 of Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005.
Accredited property	Either an accredited farm, accredited feedlot or accredited saleyard
Accredited saleyard	A saleyard that has been accredited under subclause 51.1 of Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005 to sell EUCAS cattle
Androgenic	Steroid hormones that control the growth and functioning of the male sex organs and the appearance of male secondary sexual characteristics, which may be natural or synthetic.
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
AUS-MEAT	An Australian meat and livestock industry body responsible for developing and implementing industry standards
Device	Electronic identification device approved under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).
ECMMPOs	Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005
Eligible destination	Eligible destinations include EUCAS accredited farms; EUCAS accredited feedlots; EUCAS accredited saleyard and EU listed abattoirs. Limited exemptions are in place for agricultural shows, camp drafts etc.
EU	European Union
EUCAS cattle	Cattle that meet all the eligibility criteria of EUCAS and that an EU listed abattoir may slaughter to provide beef and beef products for the EU market.
EUVD	European Union Vendor Declaration
Feedlot	An area of land covered by a single property identification code (PIC) under relevant State or Territory legislation, where cattle are confined and fed high energy rations to maximise growth for the purpose of slaughter.
Gestagenic	Female hormones that support the development and retention of a pregnancy.
HGP	A Hormonal Growth Promotant is a veterinary medicine product, registered in Australia to increase the growth or productivity of livestock through an oestrogenic, androgenic, gestagenic or thyrostatic effect. Examples include products containing oestradiol, progesterone, testosterone, zeranol and trenbolone acetate.
Individually identified	For the purposes of EUCAS, means identified using an individual NLIS endorsed breeder or post-breeder RFID placed in the right ear of every animal, or with a rumen bolus and corresponding ear tag.
Manager of a property	The person responsible for the day to day running of the property.
MLA	Meat and Livestock Australia
NLIS	National Livestock Identification System

NLIS number	The visually read number on a transaction tag. The NLIS number consists of a PIC number, a manufacturer's code and the year of manufacture, as well as a management number. Each NLIS number is unique and identifies the animal to which it is assigned. The producer may use either the NLIS or RFID number to record movements of the animal on the NLIS database.
Non-EUCAS breeding females	Non-EUCAS HGP free cows, heifers or pregnant females intended for use in breeding. Cows with calves at foot are not eligible to enter a property as non-EUCAS breeding females.
NVD	National Vendor Declaration
Oestrogenic	Steroid hormones that control the growth and functioning of the female sex organs and the appearance of female secondary sexual characteristics, which may be either natural or synthetic.
PIC	Property Identification Code
RFID number	The electronically read number encoded on a microchip inside an NLIS device. The RFID consists of a manufacturer's code and a unique number for each animal. Each RFID number is unique and identifies the animal to which it is assigned. The producer may use either the NFIS or RFID number to record movements of the animal on the NLIS database. The NLIS database includes both numbers and uses them to confirm the movements of the animal throughout its life.
The department	Australian Government Department of Agriculture
Thyrostatic	Anti-thyroid agent

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) Beef exported to the European Union (EU) must come from animals raised on properties accredited by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture under the EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS). These properties are referred to as 'accredited farms,' or 'accredited feedlots' and the animals must be sold in 'accredited saleyards'.
- b) EUCAS is a national animal production scheme that guarantees full traceability of all animals through the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), linking individual animal identification to a central database. Managers of accredited properties must register all movements of EUCAS cattle on the NLIS database. EUCAS allows Australia to meet the European Union market requirements for beef through a segregated production system that allows the production of a separate stream of cattle that have never been treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGPs).
- c) The legislative basis of EUCAS is the *Export Control Act (1982)* and the requirements of EUCAS are described in Schedule 7 of the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005. The department has overall responsibility for the implementation and co-ordination of EUCAS administration.
- d) This document outlines the requirements for EUCAS accredited farms. The department will advise all accredited farm managers when changes to this document occur, however it is the responsibility of managers to ensure that their cattle retain eligibility for the EU market.
- e) The current version of this document can be found on the department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas>. For further information, please contact the EUCAS Helpline on 1800 305 544 between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) or by e-mail at EUCAS@agriculture.gov.au.
- f) Managers can obtain information on the products that are currently registered for use as HGPs from the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) website. The APVMA website is at <http://www.apvma.gov.au> and Pubcris, which is a database and allows you to search for all registered agricultural and veterinary products including those that contain HGPs, is at <http://sevices.apvma.gov.au/PubcrisWebClient/welcome.do>

2. FARM ACCREDITATION

2.1 Accreditation procedure

- a) Farms must be EUCAS accredited in order to produce animals the meat of which is eligible for export to the EU.
- b) Before the department can grant accreditation, the manager must:
 - Remove any HGP treated cattle or cattle not permitted to be on an accredited property (see section 2.2 for cattle permitted to be on an accredited farm);
 - Remove any HGPs from the property;
 - Identify all cattle on the property with an NLIS device (see 2.3); and
 - Reconcile their account on the NLIS database.
- c) A farm manager can obtain an application form for accreditation from the department by contacting the EUCAS help line on 1800 305 544 or from the department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas>. The manager must submit to the department a completed application form with the appropriate attachments. The department will assess the application and may in some cases seek clarification and confirmation of answers from applicants.
- d) If the application is approved, the department will accredit the farm. The fact that the property is EUCAS accredited will be identified on the NLIS database. The department grants accreditation initially for 12 months unless the manager relinquishes it in writing or the department revokes it. The department will send the manager a certificate of accreditation and a letter confirming accreditation.
- e) The farm manager who signed the accreditation application is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with all conditions of the property accreditation. This responsibility only ceases when the manager notifies the department in writing that they have relinquished that responsibility. If the farm manager changes and the new manager wants to continue EUCAS accreditation, they must re-apply immediately for accreditation using the application form from the department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas> or by contacting the EUCAS Helpline on 1800 305 544

2.2 Cattle permitted on accredited farms

The only cattle permitted to be on accredited farms are:

EUCAS cattle:

- a) cattle born on the farm and that have never been treated with HGPs
- b) cattle raised under one ownership that have never been treated with HGPs (these cattle will be subject to detailed verification checks)
- c) cattle transferred from a property that was EUCAS accredited at the time of the transfer and the EUVD confirms that the cattle have not been treated with HGPs.

Non-EUCAS cattle

- a) breeding bulls and up to five house dairy cows do not need to meet the above criteria of being born on the farm or transferred from a EUCAS accredited property, however they are not eligible for the EU market. Additionally, the progeny of the dairy cows are not EU eligible.
- b) non-EUCAS breeding females are not eligible to be slaughtered for the EU market; however, their progeny are EUCAS eligible. Non-EUCAS breeding females (cows, heifers or pregnant females)* are allowed to enter an accredited property for restocking purposes provided the manager performs the following:
 - i. checks that the NVD confirms that the cattle must have been born and bred on the farm of origin, are identified with a breeder NLIS device and have whole-of-life traceability and have not been treated with HGPs
 - ii. notifies the NLIS database of the transfer, and
 - iii. submits a formal application to the department in writing, and this application is approved
 - iv. provides a list of the animals' RFID and NLIS device numbers to the department.

2.3 Individual identification

- a) All weaned cattle (with the exception of mature breeding bulls) on a EUCAS accredited farm must be individually identified by the end of the first 12 months of accreditation.
- b) In the following cases, cattle must be identified before the end of the first 12 months of accreditation:
 - i. calves born on the farm after accreditation must be identified by the time they are weaned
 - ii. EUCAS cattle consigned to an accredited farm, feedlot, saleyard or EU listed abattoir must be identified before they leave the farm

* Cows with calves at foot are not permitted

- iii. EUCAS cattle moved from the farm for limited periods to agricultural shows, camp drafting events etc.

2.4 Lost individual identification

- a) The manager is responsible for replacing lost RFIDs at the earliest possible opportunity. If the manager cannot verify the identity of the individual animal by a secondary method of identification, the animal must be removed from the property and the NLIS database notified that the animal is no longer EU eligible.
- b) The manager must keep the following records whenever replacement-RFIDs are used:
 - i. NLIS or RFID number of replacement-RFID
 - ii. NLIS or RFID number of lost device, if known
 - iii. the date of replacement
 - iv. colour of the replacement RFID
 - v. if a white breeder RFID is used, the information required to establish the property on which the animal was born and
 - vi. Details of any secondary method of identification used

2.5 Cattle movements

- a) The manager is responsible for ensuring all movements of cattle transferred on and off an accredited farm have been recorded in the NLIS database. This is to ensure the integrity of EUCAS and is additional to state or territory requirements. The classes of cattle that can be moved are:
 - i. EUCAS cattle originating on an accredited property, and
 - ii. Non-EUCAS breeding bulls and up to five house dairy cows and their progeny or approved breeding females, obtained from any property.
- b) Managers of accredited farms may allow neighbours to move non-EUCAS cattle on to an accredited farm to enable the use of yards and similar equipment. Conversely, managers of accredited farms may use facilities on non-accredited farms for short-term purposes (including branding, vaccinating and loading). The manager must keep records of these movements.
- c) Cattle in EUCAS may only move to 'eligible destinations' to maintain their status as EUCAS cattle. Eligible destinations are:
 - i. accredited farms
 - ii. accredited feedlots
 - iii. accredited saleyards for designated EU eligible cattle sales
 - iv. EU listed abattoirs for slaughter

- v. agricultural shows, camp-drafting competitions or any other events where the cattle move temporarily and remain under the supervision of the manager of the accredited farm or someone authorised by the manager to tend the cattle on their behalf. The manager must verify the individual identity of cattle on their return.

Managers unsure whether a particular destination or purpose is allowed under EUCAS should contact the department on 1800 305 544 or by e-mail at eucas@agriculture.gov.au for advice.

Under special circumstances and only with prior approval from the department, managers may move EUCAS cattle from the accredited property for emergency agistment. The department has developed procedures for short-term and long-term agistment to assist producers in drought or similar 'natural disasters'

- d) disaster situations. For further guidance, see agistment and stock route guidelines on the department's webpage at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/eucas/agistment>. An agistment application form can be obtained from the same webpage.
- e) A correctly completed, original EUVD must accompany EUCAS cattle moved from an accredited farm to another accredited farm, feedlot or saleyard or EU listed abattoir for EU slaughter.
- f) If a manager moves cattle to a non-accredited saleyard, the cattle become ineligible for slaughter for the EU market. However, the department recognises that exceptional circumstances apply if the cattle are passed in for sale. In this particular case, the cattle may be returned to the accredited farm and remain as EUCAS cattle provided the manager has maintained an auditable record of the movement that demonstrates that the traceability of the cattle was not breached.

2.6 Database recording requirements

- a) The manager of an accredited property is required to ensure (and verify) that the NLIS database includes details of the following:
 - i. cattle moved on to the accredited farm, including cattle passed in at sale and returned to the farm: within 7 days or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser;
 - ii. cattle moved from the accredited farm to a non-eligible destination: within 7 days or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser;
 - iii. cattle that arrive dead or die whilst under control of the farm: within 7 days of discovery of the deceased animal or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser;
 - iv. replacements for lost identification devices; and

- v. the downgrading of any EUCAS cattle to non-EUCAS cattle: within 7 days or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser.
- b) The manager must keep records of the NLIS device numbers of breeding bulls, dairy house cows and their progeny and breeding females that confirm that the animals are ineligible for EU slaughter.
- c) A manager is not required to notify the NLIS database when EUCAS cattle move to an eligible destination – notification is the responsibility of the receiving manager. However, all managers must check the NLIS database to verify the cattle movements have been recorded.
- d) Should there be a need to make corrections to the NLIS database, the manager must apply in writing to the department before carrying out any transfer deletions or corrections.
- e) Prior to accreditation the manager must demonstrate that records of the numbers of devices on the property can be reconciled with the numbers of devices shown on the NLIS database.
- f) The manager must ensure he or she can account for all NLIS devices on the property. The devices on the property should correspond with those registered with the NLIS database. This may be achieved by scanning devices at annual muster or on an ongoing basis, at times convenient to usual management practices; i.e. when moving stock, at weaning or when accounting for deaths etc. Records must be kept on site for audit purposes.

2.7 Record keeping

Managers must keep the following records, including details such as, the departure date and return date, if necessary and the RFID/ NLIS numbers of the cattle. Managers must comply with state or territory legislation concerning database notification requirements

- i. documentation supporting the HGP-free status of all introduced cattle on the property – e.g. vendor declarations
- ii. documentation verifying that HGP treated cattle have been removed from the farm, and that unused HGP doses have been disposed of (unused doses should be returned to either an HGP retailer or wholesaler, or to a local agricultural office). This is only necessary on farms where HGPs have been used in the past, or HGP-treated cattle have been reared
- iii. a list of people allowed to sign EUVDs on the manager’s behalf, complete with a specimen signature
- iv. details of all EUCAS cattle moving off the accredited farm to eligible destinations, including a copy of the accompanying EUVD

- v. information on all ineligible breeding bulls, dairy cows and their progeny and approved restocking females moving on to the accredited farm (e.g. NLIS numbers)
- vi. details of all cattle moving off the accredited farm to non-eligible destinations
- vii. details of all EUCAS cattle that were sent to saleyards, passed in and returned to the accredited property, and
- viii. information on replacement RFIDs as set out in section 2.4.

Under EUCAS, managers must keep records for a minimum of two years. State and territory requirements for record maintenance may differ. Managers should consult their state or territory authorities to ensure that they also meet their requirements.

2.8 Audits

- a) The department will audit farms on a random and targeted basis. The department has authorised AUS-MEAT auditors to carry out most EUCAS audits in accordance with checklists developed in consultation with the department.
- b) In most cases, EUCAS auditors will contact the farm to ensure that the manager or another responsible person will be present to assist in the audit. Auditors will have a report from the NLIS database that shows the transactions that the property has reported to the NLIS. The auditor will refer all refusals to allow an audit to take place without due cause, to the department.
- c) Auditors will discuss the outcome of the audit with the manager or their representative; in particular, auditors are required to outline any non-compliance detected and discuss the acceptability of any proposed corrective actions. Critical non-compliances will be referred directly to the department which may decide to revoke the accreditation.

2.9 Obtaining EUVDs

EU Vendor declarations (EUVDs) can be ordered online at <http://lpa.ausmeat.com.au> or by calling 1800 683 111.