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Special points of interest:

- An Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set has now been added to the MTM07 Australian Meat Industry Training Package. Overseas, major customers such as supermarket chains require that meat processing plants have a trained Animal Welfare Officer on site at all times. MINTRAC, in consultation with leading experts in animal welfare, has developed a kit of training and assessment support materials

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Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set added to MTM07

An *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set* has now been added to the MTM07 Australian Meat Industry Training Package. The Skills Set contains the following two Units of Competency:

- MTMP2006A *Apply animal welfare and handling requirements*
- MTMMP84C *Oversee humane handling of animals.*

This Skills Set has been designed to provide recognition for those people employed in meat processing plants who have overall responsibility for supervising animal welfare practices throughout the plant. While every employee who works with animals has an animal welfare responsibility, the creation of this Skills Set recognises that there are company staff who are charged with specific supervisory responsibilities for this

important matter.

Typically the AWO is a company employee who is the “captain of the company’s animal welfare team” and therefore is able to

- understand and articulate the regulatory and technical issues associated with animal welfare in a processing plant
- represent the company re the approach taken to address animal welfare issues on plant
- influence company policies, procedures, training regimes, KPIs and quality assurance documentation as they relate to animal welfare
- review as part of their duties the results of the routine monitoring of processes impacting on

animal welfare

- review the results of internal and external audits to assess the performance of the company re animal welfare
- oversee the implementation of corrective actions and preventative measures
- monitor the effectiveness of corrective actions and preventative measures
- implement animal welfare assessment criteria and perform an abattoir assessment
- recognise worker training needs and implement training for animal handlers.

What is a Skills Set?

Skill sets are defined as single units or combinations of units from an endorsed Training Package, which link to a defined industry need. In the case of the *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set*, the defined industry need is the need for companies to have trained and competent staff to manage the welfare of animals on site.



Upcoming events

Meat Processing Assessor Training

Units of Competency:

- TAAASS401C Plan and organise assessment
- TAAASS402C Assess competence

29 - 31 October
Wagga Wagga, NSW

Upgrade from BSZ Cert IV in Assessment and Workplace Training to TAA40104 Cert IV in Training and Assessment

Option 1
20 - 21 October
Sydney, NSW

Option 2
Distance Learning
(Maximum 10 places)
Enrol by 30 January 2009

TAADEL301A Provide training through instruction and demonstration of work skills

6 - 7 November
Toowoomba, QLD

26 - 27 November
Tamworth, NSW

10 - 11 December
Adelaide, SA

7 - 8 April 09
On request, 15 places in each)

21 - 22 April 09
On request, 15 places in each)

13 - 14 May 09
On request, 15 places in each)

TAA40104 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (full course)

8 - 9 October, 18 - 19 February, 27 - 28 May
Perth, WA

What is the advantage of having a nominated Animal Welfare Officer in a meat processing plant?

In Europe major customers such as supermarket chains require that meat processing plants have a trained Animal Welfare Officer on site at all times. The training for these officers usually consists of attendance at the Bristol University's Animal Welfare Officers course. This UK course has not been mandated by either customers or regulators but it is regarded as the baseline or yardstick for training in this area.

The *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set* has been matched against animal welfare courses delivered overseas and where

necessary training materials have been enhanced to ensure equivalence.

The *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set* will enable Australian processing plants to demonstrate that we have equivalent training and qualifications to those required overseas and that the training delivered is structured and nationally accredited.

In Australia there has been ongoing training in animal handling and animal welfare. Indeed the new Animal Welfare Standard has explicit training requirements for

workers engaged in animal handling. Managing the implementation of the Standard in processing plants has also required supervisors to be trained and demonstrate competency.

The *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set* will enable companies to demonstrate to customers and regulators that they have training programs in place to equip staff with the skills necessary to manage animal welfare standards on plant.

Where is the Skills Set located in the MTM07 Australian Meat Industry Training Package?

A new version, Version 2.1, of the MTM07 Australian Meat Industry Training package has been created, and is now available on the NTIS at [http://](http://www.ntis.gov.au/)

www.ntis.gov.au/. Information about the Skills Set is contained in Volume I only, although the specific Units of Competency are contained

within Volumes II and IV.

Which RTOs can deliver and provide certification for the Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set?

Any RTO with abattoirs qualifications from levels II and IV of the MTM07 Australian Meat Industry Training Package on their scope can

deliver the required units and provide certification for the *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set*.

What Certificate does an Animal Welfare Officer receive?

Once a person has successfully completed all two units within the Skills Set, the RTO can issue a Statement of Attainment for the *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set*. The prescribed wording for this

Statement of attainment is contained within Volume I of MTM07.



Can RPL be used to gain the *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set*?

If an individual has already completed one or more of the units comprising the Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set, these can be counted towards the qualification, and do not have to be repeated. It is essential however, that the

individual has *current competency* in these Units of Competency.

Similarly, if an individual already has the skills described in the Units of Competency, but no formal recognition, they can undertake a

Recognition of Prior Learning process through their RTO to have these skills recognised.

Does an RTO have to buy the complete copy of Version 2.1 of the MTM07 in order to offer the *Animal Welfare Officer Skills Set*?

No. The only changes to MTM07 occur in Volume I, and no changes to scope are required if an RTO already has abattoirs qualifications from levels II and IV of the

MTM07 Australian Meat Industry Training Package on their scope. It is recommended that RTOs download Version 2.1 of Volume I from the NTIS

website www.ntis.gov.au and replace the previous version of Volume I.

Are there any training and assessment support materials for training Animal Welfare Officers?

Yes. MINTRAC, in consultation with leading experts in animal welfare, has developed a kit of training and assessment support materials.

The kit contains:

- the Units of Competency
- training support materials
- the National Animal Welfare Standards at livestock processing establishments preparing

meat for human consumption

- sample assessment materials
- sample Statement of Attainment
- general information about training and assessment
- CD containing customisable Word documents of the kit

contents.

The kit is currently being printed and will be advertised under the 'Mintrac products' section of the MINTRAC website as soon as it becomes available: <http://www.mintrac.com.au>.



Products



An outline of what the kit contains can be found under "are there any training and assessment support materials for training Animal Welfare Officers?"

Reg price: \$220.00
Meat processing levy payer: \$110.00

Upcoming events

23 - 24 September
Meat Microbiology Workshop, Melbourne

30 September
HACCP Refresher Workshop, Launceston

2 - 3 October
HACCP Principles and Application Workshop, Cannon Hill QLD

8 - 9 October
Animal Welfare Cert II Workshop, Young

8 - 9 October
Meat Hygiene Assessment Workshop, Perth

20 October
SA Environment Managers Network meeting & QA Managers Network meeting, Adelaide

21 October
SA Training Managers Network Meeting, Adelaide

28 - 29 October
QA for Supervisors Workshop, Perth

30 - 31 October
QA for Supervisors Workshop, Melbourne



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National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council

Have any other changes been made to MTM07 in Version 2.1?

Yes. A few minor changes, approved by the Meat Standing Committee and the Agri-Food Industry Skills Council have been made.

These include:

- MTM40307 Certificate IV in Meat Processing (Quality Assurance) – change made to Qualification requirements
- minor typographical corrections
- the inclusion of the

complete unit for HLTF301B *Apply first aid* in Volume VII

- minor corrections to the range statements of the following two units in Volume V (Meat Retailing) :
 - MTMR201B *Break product using a bandsaw*
 - MTMR201B *Break and cut product using a bandsaw.*
- removal of the additional

trainer and assessor requirements specified in the following two Units of Competency:

- MTMR316A *Utilise the MSA system for beef to meet customer requirements.*
- MTMP405A *Conduct and validate pH temperature declines to MSA standards.*

How do I find Version 2.1 on the NTIS?

Follow this pathway:

Go to <http://www.ntis.gov.au>, then click [Training Packages](#), scroll down and click on to MTM07 [Australian Meat Industry Training Package](#).

Do not try to access the Training Package by clicking the Table of Contents in the main box – this will only take you to an empty shell. Instead, go to the 'Tools' box in the top right hand corner, and

click onto '[Download Training Package](#)'. This will lead you to version 2.1.

Note: this information was current as at 22.09.08. subsequent changes to the NTIS may now be made.

Congratulations to Australian College of Training!

The Australian College of Training won the Small Training Provider category of the WA Training Excellence Awards and GSTAFE won the Large Training Provider category.

