



Fostering animal welfare consistency across the production/processing chain





The consumer environment

- A recent survey of consumers in the UK showed that
- “ 74% of consumers claim that meat sourced from well looked after animals is a top issue that makes a food company ethical”
- “52% of this same sample of consumers stated that they would stop buying a product if it were found to be acting unethically”

How have Governments reacted to Animal Welfare issues?

- The reaction of the EU and the NSW State Government suggested that in some cases governments appear to have an appetite to regulate.



Background

Under EU REGULATIONS: COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009 meat processing companies processing more than 1000 animals per annum are required to ensure the certified competency of personnel involved in animal handling, slaughtering and overseeing animal welfare . These regulations will come into force on January 1 2013.





“Imports from third countries”

The health certificate accompanying meat imported from third countries shall be supplemented by an attestation certifying that requirements at least equivalent to the one laid down in Chapters II and III of this Regulation have been met.





General principle

Killing and related operations shall only be carried out by persons with the appropriate level of competence to do so without causing the animals any avoidable pain, distress or suffering.





Who has to be certified?

Business operators shall ensure that the following slaughter operations are only carried out by persons holding a certificate of competence for such operations, as provided for in

Article 21, demonstrating their ability to carry them out in accordance with the rules laid down in this Regulation:

(a) the handling and care of animals before they are restrained;





Who has to be certified?

- (b) the restraint of animals for the purpose of stunning or killing;
- (c) the stunning of animals;
- (d) the assessment of effective stunning;
- (e) the shackling or hoisting of live animals;
- (f) the bleeding of live animals
- (g) Animal welfare officers;
- (h) the slaughtering in accordance with Article 4(4).





What certification has to be provided

Certification has to be

- Provided by an external training organisation that is government registered
- Certification has to be against a government registered training program

Certification can not be

- just in-house training
- just assessed against internal work instructions



NSW Government response to animal welfare abuse in NSW

- In NSW the State Government chose to mandate accredited training for ;
- the stunning of animals;
- the shackling or hoisting of live animals;
- the bleeding of live animals
- Animal welfare officers;

The future in AW Standards

- Future however may not be in the hands of regulators

The regulators retreat from AW standards

- However not all governments are keen to regulate animal welfare in livestock production.
- The current Australian Government has closed down the animal welfare standard development
- The UK Conservative Government has actually moved to deregulate AW standards .

Minimalist Animal Welfare Standards

- New Sheep and Cattle Animal Welfare Standards

The tale of tail twisting!

The endorsed AW Standard for cattle states that a person handling cattle should not “deliberately dislocate or break the tail of cattle”



Animal welfare in the supply chain

So if the government retreats to a minimalist approach to AW who will drive the AW agenda.



Private animal welfare standards

- Red Tractor
- A farm assurance assuring food safety, animal welfare, hygiene and environmental protection through every part of the food chain.







Supply chain for livestock

- Livestock transport
- Saleyards
- Feedlots
- Producers.



- ***Activity: Identify animal welfare issues at the various steps in the supply chain***



How do Animal welfare and health standards address these issues?

Staff competency

All staff (including, but not limited to, full and part-time and family members) are trained and competent to carry out the activities they do

- An induction is required for new workers
- Additional training is required for specific tasks mentioned in the standard
- The performance and competence of staff must be regularly reviewed and refresher training implemented as required
- A documented agreement in place where labour providers are used



What other requirements do AW standards have

Health

A livestock health plan to proactively and improve health and welfare of livestock must be established and implemented

- Farm specific and available to all staff looking after livestock**
- Includes plans to manage young animals**
- Includes plans to manage euthanasia**

Transport

Transport	Livestock transported by a trained and competent person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For journeys over 65km and less than 8 hours – certificate of competence for short journeys- For journeys over 8 hours – certificate of competence for long journeys- Transporter authorization for the journeys undertaken must be held
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Animal husbandry

Husbandry - sheep	Castration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Elastration/rubber ring – 1st week of life – competent stockperson- Clamp/bloodless - < 3 months age – competent stockperson- Animal > 3 months age or other method used – vet only with anaesthetic
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Supermarket add ons

Transport

**All animals must
travel straight from
farm to slaughter**

- excluding collection centres

Supermarket add ons

Husbandry - sheep	Mulesing	- Not permitted
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The role of MINTRAC and RTOs in the development of supply chain AW training

- Consistency to give auditors/customers confidence
- Ensure best practice is front and centre of training materials
- Provide PD for instructors up and down the supplychain
- Make RTOs more sustainable