

National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Handbook



Rules and Standards of Accreditation



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Accreditation Scheme**

Rules of Accreditation

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National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Rules

Edition: September 2018

The NFAS Rules are available on the AUS-MEAT Website:
www.ausmeat.com.au/nfas/standards/default.html

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Acknowledgments

The Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee (FIAC) gratefully acknowledges the contribution made by the representatives of the organisations represented on the Committee including the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA); New South Wales Department of Primary Industries; Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia and AUS-MEAT Limited, for their continued management and revision of the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Rules and Standards.



Foreword

This manual contains the Standards and Rules that are required for the accreditation of Feedlots, by AUS-MEAT Limited, under the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS).

The Accreditation Rules represent the mechanism by which the NFAS Standards are both applied and managed. The Rules describe the Auditing system used to assess the ability of an enterprise to meet the requirements of the NFAS Standards.

The NFAS Standards describe the processes by which the Australian feedlot industry, as a pro-active self-regulated sector, has agreed to operate so as to demonstrate its commitment to animal welfare, environment, meat quality and food safety.

The NFAS Standards are designed to:

- (a) protect the reputation and integrity of NFAS;
- (b) enhance the integrity of product described as grain fed;
- (c) address food safety issues;
- (d) maintain the image of feedlots held by the community, particularly relating to environmental impact and animal welfare issues; and
- (e) protect the integrity of the AUS-MEAT Language.

Since the Scheme commenced in 1994, the NFAS has matured into a quality assurance program that has set the benchmark for other on-farm QA programs. The NFAS has demonstrated that self-regulation is an effective tool for meeting community, market and government expectations for intensive agriculture. During this time, the industry has operated in an array of environmental and market conditions, and continued to grow to become a significant and integral part of the Australian beef industry.

This publication of the NFAS Rules and Standards incorporates all of the developments and changes that have been made to the NFAS since its inception. It exemplifies the commitment and leadership of our industry in regards to environment, animal welfare, meat quality and food safety management. In recognition of the total supply chain approach to food safety and quality, changes to the format of the NFAS Standards are consistent with Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)

These are our own industry's Standards and Rules and I commend them to you.

Jim Cudmore
Chair
Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee

ALFA Endorsement

The cattle feedlot industry continues to bring significant benefits to Australia's rural communities through its important role in value adding and its significant contribution to rural employment and regional economies.

Through excellent co-operation between industry and government agencies to effect sound planning and accreditation procedures the feedlot industry has earned an excellent reputation in agriculture, in relation to quality assurance, environmental management and animal welfare issues.

The major initiative to the above success and the orderly growth and development of the Australian beef cattle feedlot industry, is largely attributable to the sound principles developed and included in the industries accreditation procedures encompassed in the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS).

Consumers will continue to become more discerning about the way food is produced and as a consequence, being able to demonstrate that sound and environmentally sustainable production methods, food safety safeguards and community expectations are both used, undertaken and audited, will be crucial to meeting these expectations.

This manual which contains the Rules and Standards of accreditation for feedlots, sets the standard from which sound marketing tools can be developed, as lot feeders are able to clearly demonstrate that all the expectations of consumers are met.

I commend this manual as a way for the Australian Feedlot industry to continue its proactivity and leadership in the use of quality systems in Australian agriculture.

Tess Herbert
President
Australian Lot Feeders' Association



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 NFAS Mission

To ensure the Australian beef feedlot industry demonstrates a responsive feedlot management program for continual improvement, particularly in relation to cattle welfare and the environment, whilst guaranteeing the safety and integrity of grain fed beef.

1.2 NFAS Purpose

To provide a Quality System for beef feedlots:

- (a) that will impact positively on product integrity, quality and acceptability; and
- (b) for which lot feeders maintain responsibility.

1.3 Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee (FLIAC)

1.3.1 The purpose of the FLIAC is to develop, manage and administer the operation of NFAS on behalf of AUS-MEAT Limited (AUS-MEAT). Organisations represented on FLIAC are:

- AUS-MEAT
- Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA)
- Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
- Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Western Australian Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development

1.3.2 The scope of the FLIAC is to:

- (a) manage NFAS;
- (b) ensure the effective operation of NFAS by recommending changes to NFAS;
- (c) assess and make recommendations to AUS-MEAT on the Accreditation status of individual Feedlots; and
- (d) make recommendations to AUS-MEAT on the outcomes of submissions of appeals from Feedlots relevant to their Accreditation status.

1.4 AUS-MEAT Limited

1.4.1 AUS-MEAT Limited is a company limited by guarantee. It is jointly owned by Meat and Livestock Australia Limited (MLA) and the Australian Meat Processors Corporation Limited (AMPC).

1.4.2 The AUS-MEAT head office is located at Unit 1/ 333 Queensport Road North, Murarrie, Brisbane, Queensland, 4172 (PO Box 3403, TINGALPA DC, Queensland, 4173). Telephone (07) 3361 9200, Facsimile (07) 3361 9222.

1.4.3 As at 1 September 2018, the AUS-MEAT Limited Board consisted of:

- An independent Chairman
- Two representatives appointed by MLA
- Two representatives appointed by AMPC

2. DEFINITIONS AND APPLICATION OF THE ACCREDITATION RULES

2.1 Definitions

2.1.1 In these Rules, where commencing with a capital letter, the following definitions will apply, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Abattoir” means premises where animals are processed for the production of meat for human consumption.

“Accreditation” means accreditation or provisional accreditation of a Feedlot by AUS-MEAT in accordance with these Rules.

“Animal welfare” means ensuring a good state of welfare exists by meeting the nutritional, environmental, health, behavioural and mental needs of cattle.

“Audit” means the systematic and independent examination to verify that the feedlot is acting in accordance with these Rules.

“Auditor” means a person approved by AUS-MEAT to conduct Audits on its behalf.

“AUS-MEAT” means AUS-MEAT Limited (ABN Number 44 082 528 881).

“Cattle” means all domestic bovines e.g. cows, bulls, steers, heifers and calves.

“Dangerous Goods” means substances, mixtures or articles that, because of their physical, chemical (physicochemical) or acute toxicity properties, present an immediate hazard to people, property or the environment. Types of substances classified as dangerous goods include explosives, flammable liquids and gases, corrosives, chemically reactive or acutely (highly) toxic substances.

“DOF” (Days on Feed) means the difference between the exit date and the entry date of feedlot cattle (entry date being counted while the exit date is not).

“The Enterprise” means the legal entity that operates a feedlot involved in the production of livestock under the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme, including Accredited, Provisionally Accredited and Suspended Enterprises.

“Environmental management” means ensuring the feedlot’s activities minimise adverse environmental impacts.

“Environmental Incidents” are where the works or activity under the feedlot’s control results in environmental harm, or there is the potential that environmental harm could occur. These may include:

- effluent storage dam flooding/overflow,
- chemical spill,
- fire,
- mass carcass disposal.

“Feedlot” means a constructed facility with designated water points where cattle are confined with a stocking density of 25 m² per Standard Cattle Unit (SCU) or less and are only fed a prepared ration for the purposes of production.

“Feedlot By-products” means any secondary product derived from the feeding of cattle, including manure, effluent, waste feed and carcasses.

“Feedlot Refuse” means any rubbish generated from the management of feedlot cattle, including used chemical drums, packaging and sharps.

“FLIAC” means Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee.

“Food Safety” means ensuring the production of a safe product for customers that prevents contamination and food-borne illnesses.

“Goods and Services Tax (GST)” means a tax payable in accordance with the A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999.

“Grain” means seed or fruit of cereal plants or grain legumes. The list of FLIAC approved grains, for the purposes of the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef, is located in Appendix 5 of the Accreditation Standards.

“Hazardous Substances” means those that, following worker exposure, can have an adverse effect on health. Examples of hazardous substances include poisons, substances that cause burns or skin and eye irritation, and substances that may cause cancer. Many hazardous substances are also classified as dangerous goods.

“Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP)” means a veterinary medicine product, registered in Australia to increase the growth or productivity of livestock through an oestrogenic, androgenic, gestagenic or thyrostatic effect.

“NATA” means the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia.

“NFAS” means National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme.

“NFAS Advice” means an official instrument that is issued to amend these NFAS Rules and Standards from time to time.

“NFAS Delivery Docket” means the approved document (including electronic) for describing cattle fed in an Accredited Feedlot that have met the AUS-MEAT Minimum Requirements for Grain Fed Beef.

“NFAS Delivery Docket – Form B” means the approved document (including electronic) for describing cattle that have been fed in an Accredited Feedlot that have not met the AUS-MEAT Minimum Requirements for Grain Fed Beef.

“Product integrity” means ensuring product complies with NFAS, related industry systems, relevant legislation and regulation and customer requirements.

“Quality Assurance Officer” means a person who holds a current Statement of Authority.

“Quality System” means the system prepared and adopted by a Feedlot to comply with AUS-MEAT requirements.

“Quality System Manual” means the documentation defining how quality is controlled maintained and improved at the Feedlot.

“Reportable Incident” means an incident that has caused, or has the potential to cause moderate to significant adverse impacts on the following: the environment, welfare of cattle, product integrity or contamination or food-borne illness in beef.

“Responsible Person” means the person nominated by the Enterprise who has the ability to report directly to senior management and have the responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of NFAS Accreditation are implemented and maintained.

“Rules” means these NFAS Accreditation Rules and any amendments made hereto from time to time.

“SCU” means Standard Cattle Unit, where one SCU is equivalent to a bovine of 600 kilograms liveweight.

"Statement of Authority" means an award by AUS-MEAT to a person who has demonstrated practical skills to AUS-MEAT in accordance with these Rules.

“Stocking Density” means the number of square metres per animal or SCU and is calculated by dividing the Feedlot area by the licensed or approved capacity of the Feedlot given the finished weight of the cattle.

2.2 Presumptions of interpretation

2.2.1 For the purpose of these Rules, all powers to be exercised by AUS-MEAT are exercised by its Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) unless these Rules otherwise provide.

2.2.2 All discretions or decisions by AUS-MEAT must be exercised or made in good faith. A person alleging that AUS-MEAT has not acted in good faith bears the onus of proving that allegation.

2.2.3 A reference to a person includes the person's successors and permitted assigns. A reference to a person who holds an office includes (as the case requires) the person who holds:

- (a) that office from time to time;
- (b) a corresponding office in another jurisdiction; or
- (c) an office that replaces the nominated office from time to time.

2.2.4 A word which denotes:

- (a) the singular denotes the plural and vice versa;
- (b) any gender denotes the other gender; and
- (c) a person includes an individual, a body corporate and a government.

2.2.5 A reference to a paragraph or annexure is a reference to a paragraph of, or annexure to these Rules.

2.2.6 A reference to any other agreement or instrument where amended or replaced means that agreement or instrument as amended or replaced.

2.3 Application

2.3.1 This Handbook supersedes and replaces the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Handbook – November 2017 (as amended).

2.3.2 The granting of Feedlot Accreditation by AUS-MEAT does not imply or confirm that State Feedlot planning and environmental management requirements are being met. Various State authorities are responsible for ensuring that due attention is paid to site selection and the provision of the appropriate facilities and structures necessary to obtain Feedlot approval or licensing. It is the responsibility of Feedlot management to ensure that the relevant State approvals and/or licenses are obtained and maintained.

2.4 Rights of Entry

2.4.1 The Feedlot must:

- (a) permit AUS-MEAT or its Agent to Audit the Feedlot's quality system and or view livestock held by the Enterprise;
- (b) provide any assistance reasonably required by AUS-MEAT or its Agent;
- (c) produce to AUS-MEAT or its Agent any information, records or documents reasonably required by AUS-MEAT or its Agent; and
- (d) provide AUS-MEAT or its Agent with access to the Feedlot premises at times reasonably required by AUS-MEAT or the Agent for the purposes of reviewing the Feedlot's compliance with the Rules and Standards of Accreditation.

3. OBLIGATIONS OF ACCREDITED FEEDLOT ENTERPRISES

3.1 Compliance

3.1.1 Each Enterprise must comply in all respects with:

- (a) these Rules;
- (b) the Standards; and
- (c) all laws and regulations relevant to the conduct of its activities, including holding all licenses, permits, consents and approvals required for any of its activities.

3.1.2 Each Enterprise must, as required by AUS-MEAT, provide evidence acceptable to AUS-MEAT of its compliance with the matters set out in paragraph 3.1.1.

3.2 Reference Material

3.2.1 The Enterprise must at all times make current editions of the following documents available for reference by staff:

- (a) the National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia (as amended or superseded);
- (b) the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice (as amended or superseded).
- (c) the AUSVETPLAN Enterprise Manual - Feedlots (as amended or superseded);
- (d) The Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Cattle (as amended or superseded);
- (e) the NFAS Accreditation Rules;
- (f) the NFAS Standards;
- (g) the approved Feedlot Quality System Manual;
- (h) license/approval documentation issued by the relevant approval authority; and
- (i) the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef:

and all other documents, which AUS-MEAT advises, must be made available for reference.

3.3 Responsible Person

- 3.3.1 The Enterprise shall appoint a person who, irrespective of other responsibilities, shall have responsibility and authority to:
- (a) ensure that the approved feedlot quality system is established, implemented, maintained and updated;
 - (b) ensure the correct number of authorised QA Officers are maintained; and
 - (c) report to senior management on the effectiveness and suitability of the approved feedlot quality system.

3.4 Quality Assurance Officers

- 3.4.1 The Enterprise must employ or engage a number of Quality Assurance Officers dependent on the Feedlot capacity as defined below in Table 1:

Table 1 – Quality Assurance Officer Requirement by Feedlot Size

Feedlot Size	Number of QA Officers
up to 1,000 head	1 person (minimum)
1,001 - 10,000 head	2 people (minimum)
10,001 - 30,000 head	3 people (minimum)
over 30,000 head	4 people (minimum)

- 3.4.2 Each Quality Assurance Officer must hold a current Statement of Authority.

- 3.4.3 Duties of a Quality Assurance Officer.

The Quality Assurance Officer must:

- (a) ensure that all cattle that are the subject of a NFAS Delivery Docket comply with the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef; and
- (b) ensure that each NFAS Delivery Docket is accurately completed and signed.

3.5 Statements of Authority

- 3.5.1 AUS-MEAT will conduct examinations for Statements of Authority at the feedlot where the applicant is employed or engaged. The examination will generally be conducted in conjunction with a feedlot Audit. The award is issued in respect of a specified person and will continue to be recognised for that person should they move to another feedlot.

- 3.5.2 To obtain a Statement of Authority an applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the examiner sound practical skills in the following:

- (a) calculating the number of days on feed;
- (b) confirming the average metabolisable energy (ME) content of the feed ration; and
- (c) determining whether or not cattle, that are the subject of a NFAS Delivery Docket, are under any withholding period (WHP), export slaughter interval (ESI), veterinary medicine or other market limitation.

The examiner must also be satisfied that an Applicant has demonstrated an overall understanding of the NFAS Rules and Standards including any recent amendments addressed by NFAS Advices.

3.5.3 Statements of Authority must be endorsed by AUS-MEAT every two years for the award to remain current. Each holder of a Statement of Authority must successfully complete an examination prior to endorsement. The examination will be conducted in the same manner as the initial examination referred to in paragraph 3.5.2 and will generally take place during an annual Audit.

3.5.4 Where an applicant fails an examination:

- (a) AUS-MEAT will advise the applicant and the Enterprise, and the applicant will not be awarded the statement, or will not have his or her statement endorsed, as the case may be; and
- (b) the applicant may undertake a further examination at a later agreed date and, until the applicant successfully completes a further examination, the applicant must not act as a Quality Assurance Officer.

3.5.5 Where an Enterprise requires new or additional Quality Assurance Officers, the Enterprise shall make arrangements with AUS-MEAT to conduct the examinations. The Enterprise will be invoiced for the examinations at the hourly Auditing rate applicable at the time of examination.

3.6 Withdrawal of a Statement of Authority

3.6.1 On the advice of FLIAC, AUS-MEAT may withdraw a Statement of Authority, if the person to whom the award has been issued:

- (a) fails to ensure that all cattle that are the subject of a NFAS Delivery Docket comply with the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef;
- (b) fails to ensure that each NFAS Delivery Docket or NFAS Delivery Docket – Form B, is accurately completed and signed by a Quality Assurance Officer who is employed or engaged by the Enterprise;
- (c) knowingly breaches the NFAS Rules and Standards, or
- (d) in any other circumstances where AUS-MEAT considers such action is necessary to protect the interests of the Australian meat and livestock industry in relation to the sale or distribution of Australian meat and livestock within Australia or overseas.

3.6.2 If any of the matters set out in paragraph 3.6.1 occur, AUS-MEAT may serve a notice in writing on the holder stating:

- (a) the grounds on which AUS-MEAT formed the belief by virtue of which the notice is given; and
- (b) that the holder may give AUS-MEAT a written statement within 14 days of receipt of the notice showing cause why their Statement of Authority should not be withdrawn and that if the holder fails to respond to the notice, the Statement of Authority may be withdrawn.

3.6.3 AUS-MEAT will:

- (a) consider any written submission made by the holder pursuant to paragraph 3.6.2.;
- (b) obtain and consider any other material that it may consider relevant; and
- (c) decide:
 - (i) not to take any further action; or
 - (ii) to withdraw the Statement of Authority; or
 - (iii) to take such other steps with regard to the award as AUS-MEAT considers appropriate in the circumstances, including referring the matter to FLIAC,

AUS-MEAT may adopt such procedures in deciding whether or not to withdraw a Statement of Authority, as it considers necessary. Those procedures may vary from time to time as, in the opinion of AUS-MEAT, the circumstances require.

3.6.4 The procedures described above are subject to modification, if in the opinion of AUS-MEAT, it is necessary to do so in the interest of:

- (a) promoting, controlling, protecting or furthering the interests of the Australian meat and livestock industry in relation to the sale or distribution of Australian meat and livestock within Australia or overseas;
- (b) improving the production of Australian meat and livestock or encouraging the consumption of Australian meat;
- (c) upholding the integrity of NFAS.

3.6.5 Where a Statement of Authority is withdrawn, AUS-MEAT will notify the holder in writing.

3.6.6 As a result of the withdrawal of a Statement of Authority, the person from whom it was withdrawn must not act as a Quality Assurance Officer at a feedlot until such time as he/she may be re-issued with a Statement of Authority.

3.7 Reapplying for a Statement of Authority

3.7.1 An examination by AUS-MEAT for a Statement of Authority can only proceed after a period of TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS has elapsed from the date the Statement of Authority was withdrawn. After this period has elapsed, a person may apply in writing to AUS-MEAT for an examination. Applications will be treated by AUS-MEAT at its discretion and on a case by case basis.

3.7.2 AUS-MEAT may adopt such procedures when reviewing an application as it considers necessary, including but not limited to, referring the matter to FLIAC. The procedures may vary from time to time as, in the opinion of AUS-MEAT, the circumstances require.

3.7.3 Where an application is refused, AUS-MEAT will notify the applicant in writing.

4. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE TO FEEDLOT OPERATION

4.1 The Responsible Person must notify AUS-MEAT in writing if the operation of the Feedlot varies from the original application for Accreditation. Notification must be received by AUS-MEAT within 28 days of the variation occurring.

5. FEES

5.1 Each feedlot enterprise must pay all fees payable in connection with these Rules (including without limitation fees payable to AUS-MEAT, its agents and Auditors).

5.2 Each feedlot enterprise wishing to apply for accreditation will be required to purchase the NFAS Self Learning Program at a price determined by AUS-MEAT.

5.3 All Auditing costs will be borne solely by the enterprise wishing to apply for accreditation.

5.4 An initial application fee and an annual accreditation fee will apply at a rate determined by AUS-MEAT.

5.5 Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be payable on all applicable fees and charges.

6. AUDIT FEES

- 6.1 A fee applies to all initial, routine and follow-up feedlot Audits. Rates are subject to change, industry will be notified of any changes by AUS-MEAT.

7. APPLICATION

- 7.1 Each Enterprise must apply to AUS-MEAT for Accreditation and supply all relevant information as required by AUS-MEAT on the prescribed form. It is the responsibility of each Enterprise to notify AUS-MEAT of all changes to information provided at the time of application.
- 7.2 Each Enterprise must pay all fees payable to AUS-MEAT or its agents connected with such an application.
- 7.3 Each Enterprise must establish and maintain a quality system approved by AUS-MEAT. The Enterprise must ensure that the documentation is varied from time to time to conform to any variations in these Rules and NFAS Advice's issued from time to time.

8. INITIAL AUDIT

- 8.1 Prior to Accreditation, each proposed Enterprise must arrange for an Auditor to conduct an Audit of its business in respect of which it is seeking Accreditation. All Audits under this paragraph will be at the Enterprise's sole expense.
- 8.2 Following an Audit referred to in paragraph 8.1; AUS-MEAT will notify the Enterprise of its decision concerning Accreditation and, if the Feedlot is accredited, send an Accreditation certificate and gate sign to the Feedlot.

9. ACCREDITATION CATEGORIES

- 9.1 The Feedlot will be categorised by AUS-MEAT as Accredited (A), Provisionally Accredited (P), or Voluntary Suspended (S). Feedlot categorization will be reviewed after each Audit of the Feedlot by AUS-MEAT.
- 9.2 The categories are as follows:
- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| (i) | A | The Feedlot is meeting NFAS requirements. |
| (ii) | P | The Feedlot is Provisionally Accredited by AUS-MEAT. |
| (iii) | S | The Feedlot is in a state of Voluntary Suspension. |

10. USE OF THE AUS-MEAT NFAS LOGO

- 10.1 The AUS-MEAT NFAS Logo (See Annexure 1) is a trademark of AUS-MEAT and must not be used without the written permission of AUS-MEAT. Permission will only be given on such terms and conditions as AUS-MEAT determine from time to time.

11. NFAS ACCREDITATION AUDITS

11.1 One (1) or more AUS-MEAT representatives will undertake accreditation Audits.

11.2 The Accreditation Audit will be conducted in the following manner:

- (a) on arrival at the Feedlot an AUS-MEAT representative will contact the Responsible Person of the Enterprise and conduct an entry meeting to explain the scope of the Audit and manner in which it will be conducted and answer questions that management may have in respect of the Audit;
- (b) the AUS-MEAT representative(s) will Audit the Feedlot's Quality System to ensure that the matters set out in the Feedlot's Quality System Manual are being complied with and, that:
 - (i) the required number of Quality Assurance Officers are engaged or employed at the Feedlot;
 - (ii) each Quality Assurance Officer understands the Quality System and the manner in which it must be applied to comply with NFAS requirements;
 - (iii) product which does not conform to specifications can be detected, controlled, corrected, recorded and treated in accordance with procedures set out in the Feedlot's Quality System Manual;
 - (iv) when monitoring of product associated with the Feedlot (e.g. veterinary medicine expiry dates) is undertaken by feedlot staff, sufficient and random samples are obtained to properly measure performance or conformance;
 - (v) the activities and findings of staff are recorded on appropriate forms and reports as described in the Feedlot 's Quality System Manual;
 - (vi) the Quality System Manual is approved by AUS-MEAT; and
 - (vii) the NFAS Accreditation Rules and Standards including the mandatory reference material as detailed above at paragraph 3.2.1 are being complied with.

11.3 When Auditing, the Auditor will evaluate non-conformances according to a non-conformance scale as shown in Table 2:

Table 2 – Non-Conformance Assessment Scores

Non-Conformance	Documented by	Definition
Critical Non-conformance	Documented on a Critical Incident Report (CIR) without a Corrective Action Request (CAR). Accreditation would not be recommended. Decisions on action to be taken are ultimately the responsibility of AUS-MEAT.	Would cause loss of integrity of the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry and NFAS. There would be clear evidence that Standards had been compromised. All incidents relating to breaches of mandatory animal welfare, environment, food safety and AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef should be treated in this category.
Major Non-conformance	Documented on CAR's	Has the clear potential to impinge on the integrity of the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry and NFAS. If not addressed there would be potential for the non-conformity to further compromise the Standards.
Minor Non-conformance	Documented as an observation	Does not directly impinge on the integrity of the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry and NFAS.

- 11.4 The AUS-MEAT representative(s) will conduct an exit meeting and provide a written report of the Audit noting:
- (a) confirmation of those areas of the Quality System found to be in place and working effectively;
 - (b) faults detected and their severity;
 - (c) matters that require rectification and follow up visit arrangements if necessary; and
 - (d) whether or not the Enterprise will be recommended for Accreditation.
- 11.5 AUS-MEAT will not grant Accreditation if it considers that the Feedlot's Quality System fails to detect, record and correct non-conformity, where in the opinion of AUS-MEAT such failure prejudices:
- (a) the reputation or integrity of NFAS; or
 - (b) the interests of the Australian meat and livestock industry in relation to the sale or distribution of Australian meat or livestock; or
 - (c) the reputation or integrity of the AUS-MEAT Language.
- 11.6 Following the Audit AUS-MEAT will notify the Feedlot of its decision concerning Accreditation.

12. FOLLOW UP AUDITS

- 12.1 Follow up Audits are conducted to ensure that non-conformances raised during an Audit have been corrected within the agreed time frame.
- 12.2 In some circumstances a site visit may not be necessary and can be replaced by the submission of documents by the Enterprise (e.g. by email, facsimile or post) that provide assurance the non-conformance(s) has been corrected within the agreed time frame. This option, where appropriate, will be discussed and confirmed at the exit meeting.
- 12.3 Should any non-conformance not be corrected within the agreed time frame then a revised rectification date shall be established. Failure to take the necessary action by this revised date may result in the Enterprise being issued with a show cause notice asking it to show why Accreditation should not be withdrawn.
- 12.4 The Audit is closed out when in AUS-MEAT's opinion feedlot management has taken effective corrective action. If corrective action is not required to be taken by feedlot management as a result of the Audit, the Audit is closed out at the exit meeting.

13. MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN AUDITS

- 13.1 As participants in a program of industry self-regulation, the feedlot Responsible Person has a number of responsibilities to assist in the conduct of the Audit. The feedlot Responsible Person must:
- (a) inform relevant employees of the objectives and scope of the Audit;
 - (b) nominate members of staff who may be required to accompany the Auditor;
 - (c) provide all resources required by the Auditor to properly carry out the Audit;
 - (d) provide access to materials and records as requested by the Auditor;
 - (e) generally co-operate with the Auditor to ensure that the objectives of the Audit are achieved; and
 - (f) follow-up with corrective action on Audit reports as necessary.

14. CONTINUING AUDITS

- 14.1 Accredited Feedlots will generally be Audited once in a twelve-month period according to assigned cluster periods (Refer paragraph 15) or at a frequency determined by AUS-MEAT. The Audits are announced and scheduled with the Feedlot.
- 14.2 Continuing Audits examine all aspects of the structure, documentation, management and conduct of the Feedlot's Quality System in a similar manner as an Accreditation Audit.
- 14.3 At the completion of each Audit an AUS-MEAT representative will conduct an exit meeting and provide a written report of the Audit.
- 14.4 Notwithstanding paragraph 14.1, on the advice of FLIAC, AUS-MEAT may conduct random unannounced Audits. The cost of these Audits will ordinarily be borne by NFAS. However, AUS-MEAT, on the advice of FLIAC, may require all costs associated with the Audit to be paid by the Feedlot, where a breach of these Standards is recorded at the conclusion of the Audit.

15. AUDIT SCHEDULE

- 15.1 Each Feedlot must ensure that an annual Audit is scheduled according to the assigned Cluster Period.
- 15.2 A Cluster period is a two-(2) month period that an annual accreditation Audit may be performed. Cluster periods are defined as:

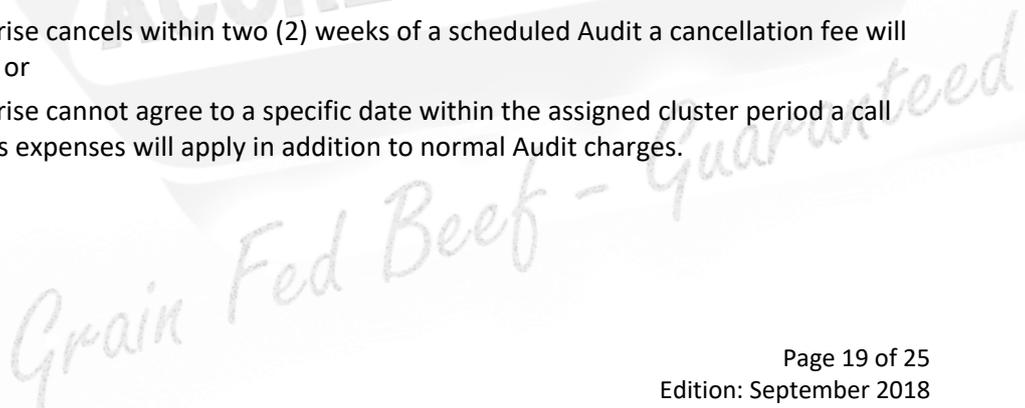
Table 3 – Cluster Period Definition

Cluster Period	Period Definition
1*	1 January to 28 February
2	1 March to 30 April
3	1 May to 30 June
4	1 July to 31 September
5	1 September to 31 October
6	1 November to 31 December
* 1 January to 29 February in the case of leap years.	

- 15.3 Additional charges may be incurred by feedlots that are not available for an annual Audit within the predetermined cluster period as approved by FLIAC from time to time.

15.4 Cancellation Fees and Call Out Rates

- 15.4.1 Standard Audit charges will apply, unless feedlots are Audited outside of the assigned cluster period. When an annual Audit falls outside of the assigned cluster period the following charges may apply:
 - (a) If an Enterprise cancels within two (2) weeks of a scheduled Audit a cancellation fee will be charged; or
 - (b) If an Enterprise cannot agree to a specific date within the assigned cluster period a call out rate plus expenses will apply in addition to normal Audit charges.



15.5 Enterprises Reactivating from Voluntary Suspension

- 15.5.1 Enterprises reactivating Accreditation after a period of voluntary suspension will be audited within 70 days of a notice in writing, providing all outstanding Accreditation fees are paid.
- 15.5.2 Where a feedlot requires an Audit outside of the assigned cluster period, the call out rate as described in 15.4.1 (b) above may be applied.

16. PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION

16.1 Provisional Accreditation

- 16.1.1 A Feedlot Enterprise may be granted provisional Accreditation by AUS-MEAT at the conclusion of the accreditation Audit in the circumstances as follows:
- (a) where an approved Feedlot development plan is required;
 - (b) where an Enterprise did not have cattle on feed at the time the accreditation Audit was conducted; or
 - (c) where the Enterprise's Quality System fails to detect, record and correct non-conformity, where in the opinion of AUS-MEAT such failure does not prejudice:
 - (i) the reputation or integrity of the NFAS;
 - (ii) the interests of the Australian meat and livestock industry in relation to the sale or distribution of Australian meat or livestock; or
 - (iii) the reputation or integrity of the AUS-MEAT Language.

16.2 Obligations during Provisional Accreditation

- 16.2.1 During provisional Accreditation the Enterprise's Responsible Person must ensure that:
- (a) all records relating to the Feedlot's Quality System are maintained;
 - (b) the feedlot complies with all NFAS requirements; and
 - (c) where applicable, the approved Feedlot development plan is implemented and maintained by feedlot management.

16.3 Voluntary withdrawal from Provisional Accreditation

- 16.3.1 An Enterprise may by written notice to AUS-MEAT request withdrawal of provisional Accreditation. Withdrawal is effective on receipt by AUS-MEAT of the notice.

16.4 Withdrawal of Provisional Accreditation

- 16.4.1 AUS-MEAT may by notice to the Enterprise withdraw provisional Accreditation if:
- (a) it considers that there has been any failure to comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 16.2;
 - (b) it considers that there may be any failure to comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 16.2 during the period of provisional Accreditation; or
 - (c) it considers that cattle have during the period of provisional Accreditation been incorrectly described on an NFAS Delivery Docket.

17. WITHDRAWAL OF ACCREDITATION

17.1 Voluntary withdrawal

- 17.1.1 An Enterprise may by written notice to AUS-MEAT request withdrawal of Accreditation. Withdrawal is effective on receipt by AUS-MEAT of the notice. The Enterprise must also return the Accreditation Plaque, the Accreditation Certificate, all unused NFAS Delivery Dockets, NFAS Form-B's, to AUS-MEAT within 10 working days of forwarding the withdrawal notice.
- 17.1.2 A refund on unused NFAS Delivery Dockets / NFAS Form-B's, will be delivered by AUS-MEAT upon written request

17.2 Voluntary Suspension

- 17.2.1 An Enterprise may by written notice to AUS-MEAT apply to have its Accreditation suspended while it is not operating. Suspension of Accreditation is effective on receipt by AUS-MEAT of:
- the notice; and
 - all unused NFAS Delivery Dockets and NFAS Form-B's that have been issued to the Feedlot by AUS-MEAT.
- 17.2.2 During the period of suspension of Accreditation the Enterprise must not sell or trade cattle described as meeting the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef.
- 17.2.3 The maximum period of suspension of Accreditation is twenty-four continuous months. In cases where a period of suspension exceeds twenty-four continuous months Accreditation will automatically lapse. Where Accreditation has lapsed, Enterprises may at any time reapply for Accreditation by following the same procedure as for initial Accreditation.
- 17.2.4 An Enterprise may at any time within the twenty-four month period, by written notice to AUS-MEAT, apply for re-instatement of Feedlot's Accreditation. On receipt of the written notice, AUS-MEAT will consider the application and, if Accreditation is re-instated, shall:
- where a Feedlot's Accreditation has been suspended for a period of less than twelve months from the last Audit date, return the NFAS Delivery Dockets, NFAS Form-B's to the Feedlot; or
 - where a Feedlot's Accreditation has been suspended for a period of twelve months or more from the last Audit date, conduct an Audit of the Feedlot prior to returning the NFAS Delivery Dockets to the Feedlot.
- 17.2.5 Where Accreditation is suspended there will be no pro rata or full refund of Accreditation fees. If Accreditation is re-instated prior to the Feedlot's next Accreditation expiry date, no further fees are due.

17.3 Withdrawal of Accreditation

- 17.3.1 On the advice of FLIAC, AUS-MEAT may withdraw Accreditation from a Feedlot in the following circumstances:
- detection of an extreme non-conformity in a Feedlot including but not limited to evidence of animal cruelty or deliberate pollution of the environment;
 - where the relevant State or Local authority has:
 - not issued a Feedlot licence or approval to operate; or
 - withdrawn the Feedlot licence or approval to operate;

- (c) failure of management to permit reasonable access to an Auditor or to co-operate with an Auditor during a Feedlot Audit or follow up Audit;
- (d) failure to implement prescribed incident reporting requirements;
- (e) failure to maintain the Quality System or failure to take the specified corrective action;
- (f) failure to pay any fees associated with the NFAS; or
- (g) supplying false information or documentation.

17.3.2 If any of the matters set out in paragraph 17.3.1 occurs AUS-MEAT may serve a notice in writing on the Enterprise stating:

- (a) the grounds on which AUS-MEAT formed the belief by virtue of which the notice is given; and
- (b) that the Enterprise may give AUS-MEAT a written statement within 14 days of receipt of the notice showing cause why it's Accreditation should not be withdrawn and that if the Feedlot fails to respond to the notice, its Accreditation may be withdrawn.

17.3.3 AUS-MEAT will:

- (a) consider any written submission made by the Feedlot pursuant to paragraph 17.3.2;
- (b) obtain and consider any other material that it may consider relevant; and
- (c) decide:
 - (i) not to take any further action;
 - (ii) to suspend the Accreditation;
 - (iii) to withdraw the Accreditation; or
 - (iv) to take such other steps with regard to Accreditation as AUS-MEAT considers appropriate in the circumstances, including referring the matter to FLIAC.

AUS-MEAT may adopt such procedures in deciding whether or not to withdraw the Accreditation of a Feedlot as it considers necessary. Those procedures may vary from time to time as, in the opinion of AUS-MEAT, the circumstances require.

17.3.4 The procedures described above are subject to modification, if in the opinion of AUS-MEAT, it is necessary to do so in the interest of:

- (a) promoting, controlling, protecting or furthering the interests of the Australian meat and livestock industry in relation to the sale or distribution of Australian meat and livestock within Australia or overseas; and
- (b) improving the production of Australian meat and livestock or encouraging the consumption of Australian meat;
- (c) maintaining the integrity of NFAS.

17.3.5 Where Accreditation of a Feedlot is withdrawn, AUS-MEAT will notify Feedlot management in writing and will advise the AUS-MEAT Advisory Committee, appropriate Government authorities and Accredited Abattoirs.

17.3.6 As a result of the withdrawal of Accreditation the Feedlot will be removed from the list of Accredited Feedlots. The Feedlot must return its Accreditation certificate, the Accreditation plaque, all unused NFAS Delivery Dockets, NFAS Form-B's. A refund on any unused NFAS Delivery Dockets, NFAS Form-B's will be given by AUS-MEAT.

17.4 Reapplying for Accreditation

17.4.1 Procedures for reapplying for accreditation and their timing are as follows:

(a) Voluntary Withdrawal

Where an Enterprise voluntarily withdrew from the NFAS, an application may be made at any time following the same procedure as for initial Accreditation.

(b) Loss of Accreditation for Breach of Legislation

Where Accreditation has been withdrawn because the Feedlot licence or approval to operate has been taken away, Accreditation will not be considered until Feedlot approval has been reinstated or the Feedlot licence renewed by the relevant authority. Once this has occurred, an application for Accreditation may be made to AUS-MEAT following the same procedure as for initial Accreditation.

(c) Loss of Accreditation for Failing to Meet NFAS Standards

An application to AUS-MEAT for Accreditation cannot proceed until after a period of TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS has elapsed from the date Accreditation was withdrawn. After this period has elapsed, application for Accreditation may be made to AUS-MEAT following the same procedure as for initial Accreditation.

18. VERACITY OF STATEMENT CLAIMS

18.1 Accredited Enterprises must not make any “whole of life” claims or other assurances regarding the feeding history, drugs treatments, animal husbandry conditions, handling, and/or geographical references of introduced animals unless verifiable documentary evidence supporting those claims (such as written and signed statements from all previous vendors) is available. Records of the verifiable evidence shall be maintained.

19. USE OF INFORMATION

19.1 The Enterprise acknowledges that AUS-MEAT may use information concerning the Feedlot or the business of the Feedlot obtained in connection with this Manual or Accreditation in such a manner as AUS-MEAT considers appropriate for the purposes of these Rules and Standards of Accreditation, including:

- (a) publishing any or all such information as AUS-MEAT considers necessary or desirable for the purposes of NFAS and
- (b) exchange of information with the relevant authorities.

19.2 All information collected by AUS-MEAT Limited in relation to the NFAS is managed in accordance with the AUS-MEAT Privacy Statement – NFAS, as described below.

19.3 AUS-MEAT Privacy Statement - NFAS

AUS-MEAT Limited respects the privacy of individuals. The information in this application form being collected may be personal information. It is collected by AUS-MEAT Limited for a number of purposes, including processing your NFAS registration/renewal, answering your NFAS enquiry, keeping you informed of the services NFAS provides, assisting the NFAS to improve its service and sharing information with organisations which assist or liaise with AUS-MEAT in providing these services to you. Further information can be obtained from the **AUS-MEAT Privacy Policy** in relation to the collection, use and disclosure of personal information.

20. INDEMNITY

- 20.1 The Enterprise indemnifies AUS-MEAT against all damages, losses, costs and expenses incurred by AUS-MEAT arising out of:
- (a) any non-compliance by the Enterprise with these Rules and Standards or any other Accreditation requirements; or
 - (b) any act or omission of AUS-MEAT in connection with these Rules and Standards of Accreditation.

21. LIABILITY

- 21.1 Without limiting AUS-MEAT's rights arising out of a breach of these Rules and Standards, if an Enterprise breaches a term of these Standards, the Enterprise must, on demand from AUS-MEAT, pay AUS-MEAT by way of liquidated damages an amount of \$5,000.00 for each day that the breach continues.

22. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- 22.1 The parties acknowledge that the amount set out in paragraph 21.1 is:
- (a) a genuine pre-estimate of the damages suffered by AUS-MEAT in the event of a breach, having regard to the loss of goodwill attaching to the Logo and the effect on the reputation and effectiveness of the AUS-MEAT Accreditation scheme; and
 - (b) not a penalty.

23. VARIATIONS

- 23.1 AUS-MEAT may from time to time amend the NFAS Accreditation Rules and Standards.
- 23.2 Where AUS-MEAT proposes to amend the NFAS Accreditation Rules and Standards, AUS-MEAT must notify all Enterprises operating Accredited Feedlots and Feedlots in Voluntary Suspension of its intention. A variation takes effect:
- (a) seven (7) days after AUS-MEAT sends the notice, or from any other date specified in the notice; and
 - (b) despite any accidental failure to give notice to any Accredited Feedlot.

24. PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE RULES AND STANDARDS

- 24.1 These Rules will be available for inspection during normal business hours at the offices of AUS-MEAT Limited at Unit 1 /333 Queensport Road North, Murarrie, Brisbane, Queensland, 4172.

ANNEXURE 1 - NFAS LOGO

Accreditation Logo (Trademark 611355)



Promotional Logo (Trademark 1102176)



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**National Feedlot
Accreditation Scheme**

Standards of Accreditation

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National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards

Edition: September 2018

The NFAS Rules are available on the AUS-MEAT Website:
www.ausmeat.com.au/nfas/standards/default.html

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1.0 STANDARDS

The National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) Standards comprise **five (5)** standard Modules.



Each Module contains one (1) or more Elements which describe the required **Outcomes** that an accredited feedlot enterprise must meet to maintain certification in the program.

Module	Item	Element	Outcomes
Quality Management System	QM1	Training	Staff are adequately trained to ensure they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to competently perform the duties required of them by the NFAS Standards.
	QM2	Internal Auditing and Corrective Actions	Internal audits are performed to review ongoing compliance of the enterprise’s activities to the NFAS Standards and appropriate corrective and preventative actions are undertaken when non-conformances are identified.
	QM3	Quality Records	Records are kept that provide documented evidence of the enterprise’s compliance to the NFAS Standards.
	QM4	Document Control	All documents relevant to the NFAS Standards are controlled enabling the review of their currency and that out of date or superseded documents are withdrawn and replaced with the new version.
	QM5	Chemical Inventory	Only legally obtained and properly labelled chemicals are available for use on the property and that an accurate inventory of all chemicals purchased and stored on the enterprise is maintained.
	QM6	Review of Product Requirements	Proposed arrangements for the sale of product being certified through the application of NFAS Standards are thoroughly reviewed prior to acceptance by the Feedlot.
	QM7	Notification of Non - Conforming Product / Product Recall	Systems are in place to identify and communicate non-conforming product.
	QM8	Risk Assessment & Contingency Planning	Systems are in place to identify and mitigate the impact of potential emergency situations.
	QM9	Calibration	Systems are in place to ensure that equipment used to measure and weigh are regularly cleaned and calibrated.

Module	Item	Element	Outcomes
Food Safety Management	FS1	Property Risk Assessment	Systems have been implemented to minimise the risk of livestock being exposed to sites that are unacceptably contaminated with organochlorine or other persistent chemicals, or other potential sources of persistent chemicals, and being exposed to sources of potentially injurious physical contaminants in meat intended for human consumption.
	FS2	Safe and Responsible Animal Treatments	Systems have been implemented to ensure that animal treatments are stored and administered in a safe and responsible manner to minimise the risk of chemical residues and physical hazards in livestock intended for human consumption.
	FS3	Fodder Crop, Grain and Pasture Treatments and Stock Foods	Systems have been implemented to manage the exposure of livestock to foods containing unacceptable chemical contamination to minimise the risk of chemical residues in livestock and to eliminate the risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock intended for human consumption.
	FS4	Preparation for Dispatch of Livestock	Systems have been implemented to ensure that the selected livestock are fit for transport and that the risk of stress and contamination of livestock during assembly and transport is minimised.
	FS5	Livestock Transactions & Movements	A system has been implemented to ensure traceability of the current status of all livestock with respect to treatment or exposure to relevant food safety hazards for all livestock movements between livestock production enterprises including to slaughter and live export.
Livestock Management	LM1	Livestock Identification	A stock identification system has been implemented on the property that enables maintenance of appropriate management records, traceability of stock on the property and when dispatched from the property to ensure the integrity of product described as Grain Fed and to prevent contaminated or treated animals unknowingly being sold for human consumption prior to expiry of the Withholding Period (WHP) or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI).
	LM2	Livestock Husbandry & and Presentation	Livestock are presented for sale or slaughter in a manner that minimises damage to carcase, hide and skin quality attributes.
	LM3	Livestock Transport	The risk of injury; bruising; hide and skin damage during transportation of stock is minimised.
	LM4	Animal Welfare	The welfare of livestock is not compromised whilst within the control of persons responsible for their care and well-being, and that prompt and appropriate remedial action is taken when required.
	LM5	Excessive Heat Load	The likelihood of an Excessive Heat Load event is monitored, and prompt and appropriate remedial action is taken when required.
	LM6	Biosecurity	The likelihood of disease entry into and spread from the Feedlot and associated utilization area is minimised.
	LM7	Incident Reporting	Incident reporting requirements are undertaken when an unusual number of sick animals or deaths occur.

Module	Item	Element	Outcomes
Environmental Management	EM1	Environmental Management	Environmental management requirements of the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice and the relevant authority regulations have been met.
	EM2	Surface Water	Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on surface waters external to the feedlot controlled drainage area and external to the manure and effluent utilisation area.
	EM3	Ground Water	Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on groundwater.
	EM4	Community	Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on the amenity of the surrounding community.
	EM5	Ecology	Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on native flora and fauna and ecological communities.
	EM6	Environmental Incident Reporting	Systems are in place to ensure any incidents that have the potential to cause environmental harm are reported to the relevant stakeholders.
Product Integrity	PI1	NFAS Delivery Documentation	NFAS delivery documentation is managed to ensure correct use and the accurate description of Cattle.
	PI2	Feedlot Rations	Feeding standards of the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef and other feeding Standards are met.

2.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

To demonstrate compliance with the required outcomes of the **National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) Standards**, an Accredited Feedlot enterprise must achieve performance indicators specific to each element.

MODULE 1 – QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ELEMENT QM1 – Training

OUTCOME: *Staff are adequately trained to ensure they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to competently perform the duties required of them by the NFAS Standards.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Job descriptions and responsibilities for all staff members (including family members working on the property/in the business) are documented.
2. All staff have appropriate training in the requirements of the NFAS Standards and other relevant industry code of practice requirements and that suitable records of this training are maintained.
3. All QA Officers are familiar with the requirements of the NFAS Rules and Standards including all current NFAS Advices and Circulars and that suitable records of this training are maintained.
4. Staff involved in the supervision of the use of farm chemicals have sufficient skills and knowledge to ensure their safe and responsible use and have undertaken recognised chemical user training equivalent to level 3 competency units; “Prepare and Apply Chemicals” and “Transport, Handle and Store Chemicals” under the Australian Quality Training Framework.
5. For the purposes of the Scheme, continued competency in relation to chemical preparation, application, transport, handling and storage may be demonstrated through successful completion of the Scheme’s annual audit requirement.

Note: Participants should be aware that in some States there may be other legal obligations that apply with respect to holding current chemical user certification for purposes other than the Scheme.

6. A register of staff authorised to use agricultural and veterinary chemicals is maintained (some staff may have clearly defined limits to their authorisation).

ELEMENT QM2 – Internal Auditing and Corrective Actions

OUTCOME: *Internal audits are performed to review ongoing compliance of the enterprise's activities to the NFAS Standards and appropriate corrective and preventative actions are undertaken when non-conformances are identified.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Internal audits are performed on procedures, records and property facilities at least once per annum.
2. An additional dedicated Animal Welfare internal audit is conducted at a six-month interval to the full internal audit.
3. Internal audit/Inspection reports are documented.
4. Identified non-conformances and opportunities for improvement (including complaints) are documented, reviewed and details of any corrective actions recorded.
5. A Corrective Action Report or equivalent record is maintained when:
 - a defect or mistake is identified during an internal Audit, or by an external Auditor/assessor;
 - a defect or mistake is identified during routine on-farm activities which cannot be rectified that day;
 - a complaint is received from a purchaser or processor of your product;
 - an adverse reaction to a chemical or an unexpected treatment failure has occurred; and/or
 - product is identified as being potentially contaminated.
6. Continuous improvement is demonstrated through preventative action being taken to prevent any similar problem occurring.

ELEMENT QM3 – Quality Records

OUTCOME: *Records are kept that provide documented evidence of the enterprise's compliance to the NFAS Standards.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Complete, legible and accurate records are maintained and retained for a sufficient period of time to facilitate historical reference.

ELEMENT QM4 – Document Control

OUTCOME: *All documents relevant to the NFAS Standards are controlled enabling the review of their currency and that out of date or superseded documents are withdrawn and replaced with the new version.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. All quality system documentation is controlled to ensure that only current documents are in use.
2. All documentation in use by the enterprise accurately reflects current management practices and procedures.
3. An updated list of all controlled documents is maintained that identifies the document date of issue, numbers of the document in circulation and where they are stored.
4. The NFAS Rules and Standards are included on the controlled document master list.

ELEMENT QM5 – Chemical Inventory

OUTCOME: *Only legally obtained and properly labelled chemicals are available for use on the property and that an accurate inventory of all chemicals purchased and stored on the enterprise is maintained.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Sufficient records are maintained to enable the traceability of the purchase, storage, handling and disposal of chemicals.
2. Feedlot chemical storage areas are secure (the minimum definition of secure is child proof). Separate areas have been designated for each category of agricultural chemical (for example, insecticides and herbicides), veterinary chemicals, chemicals awaiting disposal and protective clothing if these items are stored in a particular area.
3. All agricultural and veterinary chemicals on the property are stored safely according to the directions on the container label.
4. The feedlot maintains a chemical inventory or equivalent system that records the following at each chemical storage area on the property for chemicals already held on the property. All newly purchased chemicals are recorded in the feedlot chemical inventory or equivalent system and are adequately labelled and in an acceptable condition when received:
 - date received;
 - batch number;
 - place of purchase;
 - name of chemical;
 - quantity;
 - for veterinary chemicals, the expiry date; and
 - for stored agricultural chemicals, the date of manufacture or expiry date, if provided.
5. Stocktakes are conducted annually for agricultural chemicals and every six months for veterinary chemicals. This stocktake identifies any products that have exceeded their label expiry dates or are no longer useable which are segregated for appropriate disposal.
6. Products not in their original containers or with illegible labels, expired use-by dates and leaking or corroded containers are disposed of responsibly following manufacturer's instructions where supplied. Record in the feedlot chemicals inventory or equivalent system contain:
 - those listed chemicals that have been disposed;
 - the method of disposal;
 - the date of the stocktake; and
 - the name of the person who carried out the stocktake, and carried out or supervised the disposal of chemicals.
7. For chemicals used on grain while in storage, inventory stocks and actual stocks are reconciled every six (6) months.

ELEMENT QM6 – Review of Product Requirements

OUTCOME: *Proposed arrangements for the sale of product being certified through the application of NFAS Standards are thoroughly reviewed prior to acceptance by the Feedlot.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Proposed arrangements are reviewed and approved by a person in a position of authority prior to their acceptance.
2. Each order or contract applicable to NFAS Certification is reviewed to ensure the Feedlot can meet the requirements of the contract.
3. A record of the agreed arrangements is initialled and dated by the person performing the review as evidence that the review was completed.

ELEMENT QM7 – Notification of Non-Conforming Product/ Product Recall

OUTCOME: *Systems are in place to identify and communicate non-conforming product.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Procedures are in place to ensure that the consignee is immediately notified where any animals dispatched from the feedlot are identified as non-conforming product, non-conforming product includes:
 - a) **Food Safety** concerns, including sending animals to slaughter that:
 - (i) are still within the withholding periods or export slaughter intervals for animal health treatment residues such as antibiotics, anthelmintics, hormones or anti-inflammatory drugs.
 - (ii) have had access, either directly or through contaminated feed or water, to agricultural chemicals (fungicides, herbicides, insecticides) or environmental/industrial contaminants (organochlorines, metals).
 - (iii) have had access to restricted feeds e.g. Restricted Animal Material (RAM) or biosolids.
 - b) **Product Integrity** concerns, including:
 - (i) the incorrect completion of NFAS Delivery Dockets and National Vendor Declarations for non-food safety related concerns such as time on feed; and
 - (ii) the false declaration of non-HGP treated cattle.
 - c) **Customer** requirement concerns, including sending animals to slaughter that fail to meet customer specifications.
2. Records of non-conforming products are maintained in accordance with internal audit corrective procedures which may include:
 - a) Nature of incident;
 - b) Time/date of incident;
 - c) Notification of stakeholders (buyers) of incident; and
 - d) Actions to rectify incident

ELEMENT QM8 – Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning

OUTCOME: *Systems are in place to identify and mitigate the impact of potential emergency situations.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Maintain a register of risks that have the potential to negatively impact on the feedlot's ability to care for animals and the environment. Potential risks include, but are not limited to:
 - water supply and suitability
 - feed supply and suitability
 - effluent discharge
 - electricity outages
 - access to site
 - staff levels
 - outbreak of disease
 - extreme weather conditions including storms, flooding, Excessive Heat Load events
 - trespassers
 - emergency slaughter of cattle and disposal.
2. Contingency plans for identified risks are documented and include:
 - a) Actions to mitigate identified risks.
 - b) Allocation of responsibilities to relevant personnel.
3. Risk register and associated contingency plans are reviewed as part of internal audit procedures.

ELEMENT QM9 – Calibration

OUTCOME: *Systems are in place to ensure that equipment used to measure and weigh are regularly cleaned and calibrated.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Equipment used for weighing and measuring is checked for operational efficiency prior to use and is subject to regular calibration.
2. Records of calibration activities are maintained including Date, Description Equipment, Method and Person Responsible.

MODULE 2 - FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT

ELEMENT FS1 – Property Risk Assessment

OUTCOME: *Systems have been implemented to minimise the risk of livestock being exposed to sites that are unacceptably contaminated with organochlorine or other persistent chemicals, or other potential sources of persistent chemicals, and being exposed to sources of potentially injurious physical contaminants in meat intended for human consumption.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. All potentially contaminated sites and sources of potentially injurious physical contaminants in meat have been identified.
2. All identified sources of chemical and injurious physical contaminants are managed to restrict access of livestock to prevent exposure and contamination.
3. Potentially exposed animals are identified and managed in a manner to minimise the risk of contamination of meat intended for human consumption in accordance with relevant legal requirements.
4. All potential Feedlot sites are tested for persistent chemicals (organochlorine) through soil testing or alternatively that fat test results with all organochlorine readings below 20% of the relevant MRL for at least one (1) animal from five (5) independent consignments are available.

ELEMENT FS2 – Safe and Responsible Animal Treatment

OUTCOME: *Systems have been implemented to ensure that animal treatments are stored and administered in a safe and responsible manner to minimise the risk of chemical residues and physical hazards in livestock intended for human consumption.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Animal treatments, including Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGPs), are administered only by trained and competent staff in accordance with label and/or written veterinary directions and relevant legal requirements.
2. Chemicals are stored securely in accordance with label/manufacturers' directions, to prevent exposure to livestock.
3. Sufficient records are maintained to enable, the traceability of the status of treated livestock, including introduced livestock, with respect to relevant WHP/ESI HGP treatment and/or presence of broken needles and to enable the correct/controlled use of chemicals to be demonstrated.

ELEMENT FS3 – Fodder Crop, Grain and Pasture Treatments and Stock Foods

OUTCOME: *Systems have been implemented to manage the exposure of livestock to foods containing unacceptable chemical contamination to minimise the risk of chemical residues in livestock and to eliminate the risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock intended for human consumption.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Agricultural chemicals are applied to fodder crops, grain and pasture only by trained and competent staff in accordance with label directions and/or relevant approvals in accordance with relevant legal requirements.
2. Chemicals are stored securely in accordance with label/manufacture's directions to prevent exposure to livestock.
3. Exposure of animals to fodder crops, grain and pasture, and introduced stock feed that have been treated with or exposed to agricultural chemicals is managed to minimise the risk of unacceptable chemical residues in livestock for human consumption. Sufficient records are maintained to enable the traceability of the status of exposed livestock, including introduced livestock, with respect to relevant WHP/ESI.
4. Exposure of animals to stock feed is managed to eliminate the risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock, with the exception of approved exemptions.
5. A declaration of suitability must be obtained from the vendor (e.g. Vendor Declaration) for all introduced stock feed intended to be fed to livestock.
6. Sufficient records are maintained to enable the traceability of the status of fodder crops, grain and pasture, and introduced stock feed intended to be fed to livestock with respect to relevant WHP/ESI from slaughter or grazing/harvest as applicable and to enable the correct/controlled use of chemicals to be demonstrated.

ELEMENT FS4 – Preparation for Dispatch of Livestock

OUTCOME: *Systems have been implemented to ensure that the selected livestock are fit for transport and that the risk of stress and contamination of livestock during assembly and transport is minimised.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Only animals that are in a condition fit for travel are selected, to minimise potential disease and/or contamination related to transport conditions.
2. On farm assembly practices and transport arrangements are managed to minimise the risk of stress and contamination of animals.
3. Management practices ensure that minimum requirements for the fitness for travel of calves destined for sale or slaughter are in accordance with the Declarations made on the Bobby Calf LPA NVD at all times.

ELEMENT FS5 – Livestock Transactions and Movements

OUTCOME: *A system has been implemented to ensure traceability of the current status of all livestock with respect to treatment or exposure to relevant food safety hazards for all livestock movements between livestock production enterprises including to slaughter and live export.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. All livestock transactions and movements including between properties (Property Identification Codes) are accompanied by a current, correctly completed LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD).
2. Sufficient records are maintained to enable the declarations on an accompanying LPA NVD concerning the food safety related status and HGP treatment of livestock introduced to and dispatched from the property to be reconciled with the livestock traceability system adopted.
3. Livestock must be NLIS Identified in accordance with relevant statutory requirements at all times.
4. The feedlot must have procedures in place to ensure that its account on the NLIS database is reconciled at least once each year.
5. The status of livestock in regard to HGP treatments can be demonstrated by permanently identifying individual animals with a triangular ear punch and maintaining records of HGP use in individual cattle.

MODULE 3 – LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

ELEMENT LM1 – Livestock Identification

OUTCOME: *A stock identification system has been implemented to enable maintenance of appropriate management records, traceability of stock on the property and stock dispatched from the property. The identification system must be designed to ensure the integrity of product described as Grain Fed and prevent contaminated or treated animals unknowingly being sold for human consumption prior to expiry of the Withholding Period (WHP) or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI).*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. A stock identification system has been established which:
 - complies with the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS); and,
 - in addition to the NLIS identifier includes some permanent visual method of identifying individual Cattle while they are at the feedlot from the time of receipt/induction and during transit to an abattoir, saleyard or other property enabling traceability at all times.
2. Feedlot records pertaining to Cattle entry, identification and exit allow the calculation of the number of Days on Feed (DOF) by AUS-MEAT.
3. Feedlot record maintenance systems ensure contaminated animals are not unknowingly sold for human consumption.
4. Introduced Cattle are identified within seven (7) days of arrival onto the Feedlot.

ELEMENT LM2 – Livestock Husbandry and Presentation

OUTCOME: *Livestock are presented for sale or slaughter in a manner that minimises damage to carcase, hide and skin quality attributes.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Livestock husbandry and management practices minimise the risk of bruising, hide and skin damage with consideration to husbandry practices such as horn length, vaccination sites, brand application.
2. Feedlot pens and associated yards and loading facilities are constructed and maintained in a manner so as to minimise bruising and injury.

ELEMENT LM3 – Livestock Transport

OUTCOME: *The risk of injury; bruising; hide and skin damage during transportation of stock is minimised.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. A person in charge must exercise duty of care to ensure the welfare of livestock under their control and compliance with the *Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock* (as amended or superseded). The consignor is responsible for livestock welfare during:
 - a) Mustering and assembling of livestock handling.
 - b) Preparation, including selection as fit for the intended journey are in accordance with the MLA published document “*Is it Fit to Load*” (as amended). An animal is not fit for a journey if it is:
 - unable to walk on its own by bearing weight on all legs;
 - severely emaciated;
 - visibly dehydrated;
 - showing visible signs of severe injury or distress;
 - suffering from conditions that are likely to cause increased pain or distress during transport;
 - blind in both eyes: or
 - known to be, or visually assessed to be within two (2) weeks of parturition, unless the water deprivation time and journey is less than four (4) hours duration to another property.
 - c) feed and water provision and
 - d) holding periods before loading.
2. Stock crates utilised for transporting livestock are designed and maintained to prevent injury and bruising to livestock during loading, unloading and transport activities. Trucks used for transporting Feedlot Cattle are:
 - maintained to be free of sharp edges or projections capable of injuring animals;
 - designed so that side rails prevent cattle from placing their head or legs between the rails;
 - maintained so that the floor provides traction without holes large enough to injure hooves or legs;
 - designed so that hinges and latches of float gates/gateways do not project into the path of animals;
 - designed so that deck-height of multi-deck floats is sufficient to allow animals to stand upright without contacting overhead structures;
 - designed so that the construction of upper decks minimises soiling of animals on lower decks;
 - the float and deck is as clean as practicable before loading;
3. Livestock transport operators utilised by an enterprise are competent and comply with relevant legislation and industry codes of practice.
4. Livestock loading densities, food and water allowances and rest stops (including visual inspections) are appropriate for the type and class of animal being transported, seasonal conditions and required transport journey.
5. Time off water must not exceed the time periods given below:
 - Cattle over six (6) months old - 48 hours.
6. All complaints in relation to bruising and hide damage received from purchasers or processors are documented and investigated, appropriate corrective and preventive action taken and documented.

ELEMENT LM4 – Animal Welfare

OUTCOME: *The welfare of livestock is not compromised whilst within the control of persons responsible for their care and well-being, and that prompt and appropriate remedial action is taken when required.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Appropriate procedures have been implemented to address animal welfare at the Feedlot in accordance with the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Cattle* (as amended or superseded).
2. Pens regularly used for hospital purposes are clearly identified within the feedlot.
3. Stocking of hospital pens is managed within the feedlot's allowable stocking density on an individual pen basis.
4. A person in charge must ensure the cleaning of feed yards and maintenance of surfaces on a planned basis to ensure that pen surfaces can drain freely.
5. Appropriate procedures have been implemented to address animal welfare at the feedlot in accordance with the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock* (as amended or superseded).
6. The person responsible communicates with the transport company or driver to provide effective instructions on the practices and arrangements for unloading and managing livestock if cattle are delivered out of hours.
7. Humane destruction methods must result in immediate loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious. Humane destruction must be carried out:
 - a) on moribund livestock;
 - b) by a competent person or under direct supervision of a competent person;
 - c) using a recommended method for the species;
 - d) at the first opportunity.
8. Where a competent person is not immediately available to humanely destroy an animal, a competent person must be contacted to carry out the procedure at the first opportunity.
9. A person humanely destroying an animal must take reasonable action to confirm the animal is dead or to ensure death.
10. In cases that FLIAC deem to be an animal welfare emergency, i.e. a "Natural Disaster" such as flooding; cyclone; earthquake; prolonged loss of power or an unavoidable inability to access components of a Feed Ration, an Enterprise may request approval from FLIAC to take specified cattle off a prescribed Feed Ration for a period no longer than seven (7) days and maintain eligibility for the initial feeding period to be counted in the eligibility of the cattle to be described as GF or GFYG (as applicable) when feeding resumes. A copy of the written approval from FLIAC for the allowed interruption period off a Feed Ration must be maintained by the Enterprise.
11. If an Enterprise feeds female cattle, a *Pregnancy and Calving Management Plan* has been documented and implemented in order to manage the welfare of cows/ heifers and calves.
12. Procedures are in place to investigate, manage and record any incidents of animal cruelty.

ELEMENT LM5 – Excessive Heat Load

OUTCOME: *The likelihood of an Excessive Heat Load event is monitored, and prompt and appropriate remedial action is taken when required.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. The feedlot must demonstrate the ability and resources to:
 - a) calculate and monitor the Heat Load Index (HLI) and Accumulated Heat Load Units (AHLU).
 - b) conduct a *Risk Assessment Program* (RAP) for the various classes of cattle in the feedlot.
2. The feedlot has conducted a Risk Assessment addressing the heat stress risk at the feedlot site.
3. The Risk Assessment has been documented and addresses the following criteria:
 - a) Site climatic factors for the feedlot location;
 - b) Animal Factors including genotype, coat colour, days on feed (DOF) and health status;
 - c) Management factors which include the provision of shade, provision of additional water troughs, water temperature, ration type, bedding and manure management practices;
4. Each category of livestock has been considered in the Risk Assessment.
5. The Risk Assessment is being reviewed at least once per annum.
6. Management practices are implemented to offset the excessive heat load risks identified.
7. Appropriate documented procedures for managing the welfare of the animals at the feedlot during periods of excessive heat load risks are completed.
8. An Excessive Heat Load Action Plan has been documented and includes:
 - a) name of the Feedlot;
 - b) name and contact details of the person responsible at the Feedlot
 - c) name and contact details of consulting Veterinarian and nutritionist;
 - d) allocation of responsibilities to relevant personnel;
 - e) threshold of activation for the EHL Action Plan;
 - f) actions to manage the excessive heat load event and the welfare of animals at the time which includes;
 - (i) monitoring of livestock, weather conditions, pen conditions, water and feed;
 - (ii) operational practices to be implemented for the management of livestock, pens, feed, water and personnel; and
 - (iii) maintaining records of daily activities and actions taken where indicated.

ELEMENT LM6 – Biosecurity

OUTCOME: *The likelihood of disease entry into and spread from the Feedlot and associated utilization area is minimised.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. The feedlot has conducted a Risk Assessment addressing the biosecurity risk at the feedlot site and formulated a *Biosecurity Management Plan*.
2. Staff are aware of and understand the mechanisms of the spread of disease including the potential for the introduction and transmission of diseases by:
 - livestock and feedstuffs;
 - visitors and employees;
 - vehicles, machinery and equipment;
 - feral animals and wildlife; and
 - manure and effluent.
3. Routes used by all incoming and outgoing vehicles, machinery and equipment are designed to minimise entry and spread of disease, that movements are controlled and that movements outside designated access areas are minimised at all times.
4. All visitors (including contractors) entering the Feedlot are assessed for their biosecurity risk prior to being granted access to the Feedlot complex and surrounds. The risk assessment must consider the potential for visitors to have been previously exposed to a disease and the subsequent potential for them to introduce a disease into the Feedlot.
5. A register of visitors to the Feedlot (including contractors) is maintained which includes records of:
 - date;
 - time in;
 - name;
 - time out;
 - company;
 - contact number;
 - signature; and
 - biosecurity risk assessment.
6. All Cattle are inspected on arrival at the Feedlot to assess the animal health status and ensure that a record of inspection is maintained.
7. All Cattle in the Feedlot are routinely monitored and records maintained as part of a health management program.
8. Staff involved in the daily monitoring of livestock health are trained in the early detection of livestock diseases and are aware of and understand their key responsibilities within the *Feedlot Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan*.
9. Procedures are in place that ensure stockfeed is not contaminated by equipment and machinery utilised for multiple activities such as the handling of stockfeed, manure and dead stock.
10. An *EAD Action Plan* is documented that describes the activities and management practices that are to be undertaken by the feedlot in the event of a suspected emergency animal disease outbreak. The EAD covers the period between the time a disease is first suspected by the Feedlot and the subsequent preliminary confirmation or clearance of an emergency animal disease. Where an EAD contingency plan is invoked to address deaths or illnesses caused by an emergency/infectious disease, follow the procedures set out in the *AUSVETPLAN Enterprise Manual – Feedlots, Version 3 2010* (as amended or superseded).
11. The *EAD Action Plan* includes the following minimum information/actions:
 - name of the Feedlot;
 - name and contact details of the person responsible at the Feedlot;
 - name and contact details of the consulting Veterinarian;

- the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline (refer current AUSVETPLAN);
- allocation of responsibilities to relevant personnel;
- actions for isolating suspect livestock;
- actions to ensure that the Feedlot perimeter is controlled and secure;
- restrictions on movement of all unnecessary personnel and machinery to and from suspect cattle holding areas;
- actions to restrict or halt livestock movements; and
- actions to compile history of all livestock, personnel and vehicle movements for previous seven (7) days.

ELEMENT LM7 – Livestock Incident Reporting

OUTCOME: *Incident reporting requirements are undertaken when an unusual number of sick animals or deaths occur.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Procedures are in place to manage situations where an unusual number or type of sick animals or deaths occur within any 24-hour period, as outlined in Appendix 7.
2. A veterinarian is consulted where an unusual number or type of sick animals or deaths occur within a 24-hour period to establish the cause of the incident.
3. Where deaths/illnesses are suspected to be caused by an emergency animal disease implement your **EAD Action Plan** including AUSVETPLAN procedures.
4. Where an emergency animal disease is confirmed not to have caused the deaths/illnesses, implement reporting procedures according to the trigger levels in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1 – Morbidity and Mortality Triggers within any 24-hour period

Cattle on Feed (head)	Level 1		Level 2	Level 3
	Morbidity (pulls)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)
50 to 150	20	3	6	15
151 to 500	20	3	7	16
501 to 1000	20	3	8	17
1001 to 3000	30	3	11	20
3001 to 5000	40	4	12	21
5001 to 7500	55	6	30+	60+
7501 to 10,000	70	7	30+	60+
10,001 to 20, 000	140	9	50+	100+
20,001 to 40, 000	280	11	50+	100+
40,001 head or above	350	15	50+	100+

5. Where the number of morbidities or mortalities are **less than Level 1**, activate internal feedlot review and reporting procedures.
6. Where the number of morbidities or mortalities **exceed trigger Level 1**, consult a veterinarian and activate internal feedlot review and reporting procedures.
7. Where the number of mortalities **exceed trigger Level 2**, the Feedlot or its representative must notify the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) of the incident within 12 hours. Notification to ALFA must include telephone contact and then follow up in writing including the following minimum information:
 - a) Name of the Feedlot;
 - b) Name and contact details of the person responsible at the Feedlot;
 - c) Name and contact details of the consulting veterinarian investigating the incident;
 - d) The number of Cattle on feed at the time of the incident;
 - e) Number and timing of deaths; and
 - f) Suspected cause of the incident.
8. The Feedlot or its representative must continue to provide ALFA with situational updates including further mortalities, no less than twice daily, until the incident has been resolved.
9. Maintain records for **all Level 2 and Level 3** incidents as soon as practicable after the incident that include:
 - a) The date and time of the deaths/pulls;
 - b) Specific location/s;

- c) Cattle identification;
- d) Environmental conditions at the time of the incident such as: temperature; rainfall; wind speed and humidity;
- e) Pen conditions at the time of the incident such as: the condition of the pen surface and manure depth;
- f) Ration formulations and feeding history;
- g) Other information that may assist in the investigation of the incident; and
- h) Records of ALFA notification in relation to the incident (includes records relevant to both Level 2 and Level 3 as appropriate).

Note: Where the number of deaths trigger Level 3 ALFA will notify the State CVO, RSPCA, SAFEMEAT and FLIAC.

MODULE 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ELEMENT EM1 – Environmental Management

OUTCOME: *Environment management requirements of the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice have been met.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. A current issue of the *National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice* (as amended) and *National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia* (as amended) are maintained.
2. Clear and achievable environmental objectives, performance indicators, operational practices and monitoring programs are documented.
3. Feedlot management is aware of and adhere to their environmental legislative requirements.
4. All relevant employees are aware of and adhere to their environmental management responsibilities.
5. Procedures are in place to reduce the potential for environmental nuisance and/or harm from the storage, use and disposal of Feedlot By-products, Feedlot Refuse, Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods.
6. Environmental performance is reported on an annual basis or as required by the appropriate regulatory authority.
7. Environmental operational practices are audited to identify opportunities for improvement against performance indicators, incorporating any such opportunity in future environmental operating practices.
8. An awareness of current and developing industry wide practices is maintained to achieve the objectives of the Environmental Code.
9. Stocking density is managed in the range of 9 to 25 square metres per head or per SCU, whichever is applicable in their State. Exemptions may be granted by AUS-MEAT when the Feedlot has obtained approval in writing from the relevant State authority allowing it to operate outside 9 to 25 square metres per head or per SCU stocking density (See the SCU conversion table at Appendix 6).
10. A minimum stocking density of 2.5 square metres per head or per SCU is provided for shedded cattle.
11. The storage, use and disposal of Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods do not pose an unacceptable risk with respect to the pollution of surface water, ground water, community and ecology.
12. The facilities for the containment of Feedlot By-products, Feedlot Refuse, Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods, are in place and maintained to ensure their function.

ELEMENT EM2 – Surface Water

OUTCOME: *Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on surface waters external to the feedlot controlled drainage area and external to the manure and effluent utilisation area.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. The quality of surface waters external to the controlled drainage area and external to utilisation areas is not adversely affected by the on-site utilisation of feedlot wastes.
2. The structures containing and controlling runoff from within the controlled drainage area and effluent utilisation area are maintained to ensure their integrity and ongoing compliance with specified design criteria.

ELEMENT EM3 – Ground Water

OUTCOME: *Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on groundwater.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. The quality of groundwater in the vicinity of the feedlot is not adversely affected by the operation of the feedlot and the on-site utilisation of feedlot wastes.
2. The feedlot is operated to prevent or minimise the risk of new salinity outbreaks and any existing outbreaks are not exacerbated.

ELEMENT EM4 – Community

OUTCOME: *Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on the amenity of the surrounding community.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. The Feedlot is operated so that odour, dust, noise and traffic generated by the development do not unreasonably impact community amenity.

ELEMENT EM5 – Ecology

OUTCOME: *Feedlots are operated to prevent or minimise adverse impacts on native flora and fauna and ecological communities.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. The Feedlot is operated so that it does not have a significant impact on remnant vegetation or ecological communities.

ELEMENT EM6 – Environmental Incident Reporting

OUTCOME: *Systems are in place to ensure any incidents that have the potential to cause environmental harm are reported to the relevant stakeholders.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Procedures are in place to address the management and communication of Environmental Incidents to stakeholders including but not limited to neighbours, Local Council and/or State Government.
2. Records of any Environmental Incident needs to be maintained and include:
 - a) Nature of incident;
 - b) Time/date of incident;
 - c) Stakeholders notified (including name and position where applicable)
 - d) Actions to rectify incident.
3. If relevant, implement the environmental incident response management plans as required under environmental legislation requirements.

MODULE 5 – PRODUCT INTEGRITY

ELEMENT PI1 – NFAS Delivery Documentation

OUTCOME: *NFAS delivery documentation is managed to ensure correct use and the accurate description of Cattle.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Cattle, conforming to the *AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef*, that are going direct from a Feedlot to an Abattoir, Saleyards or to another Feedlot, are described on an NFAS Delivery Docket. A Quality Assurance Officer must sign the NFAS Delivery Docket. The docket is only valid for seven (7) days from the date the Cattle exit the Feedlot and a copy of each NFAS Delivery Docket is kept by the Feedlot for at least eighteen (18) months. (Appendix 1 - NFAS Delivery Docket).
2. Cattle, conforming to the *AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef* that are dispatched from a saleyard to an Abattoir or returned to a Feedlot are described on a NFAS Agents Declaration. The Agent must keep a copy of each NFAS Agents Declaration for at least eighteen (18) months. (Appendix 2 - NFAS Agents Declaration).
3. Cattle that have been fed at an NFAS Accredited Feedlot but have not met the *AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef* are described accurately on an NFAS Delivery Docket-Form B (NFAS Form-B). A Quality Assurance Officer must sign the NFAS Form-B. The NFAS Form-B is only valid for seven (7) days from the date the Cattle exit the Feedlot and a copy of each NFAS Form-B must be kept by the Feedlot for at least eighteen (18) months. (Appendix 3 - NFAS Delivery Docket- Form B).
4. Cattle described on a NFAS Form-B cannot be subsequently described as Grain Fed Beef (GF); Grain Fed Young Beef (GFYG) or Grain Fed Finished (GFF).
5. Records of the feeding history of Cattle fed at more than one (1) Feedlot during the feeding period required by the *AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef* are recorded on an NFAS Delivery Docket or Agents Declaration.
6. In cases that FLIAC deem to be an animal welfare emergency, i.e. “Natural Disasters “including floods, cyclone or earthquake, an Enterprise may request that FLIAC approve an extension of the Expiry Date of no more than seven (7) days on an individual NFAS Delivery Docket pertaining to specified cattle affected in transit as a result. A copy of the written approval from FLIAC must be provided to the receiver of the cattle along with the original NFAS Delivery Docket and a copy must be maintained by the Enterprise.
7. Carcasses of cattle identified on an individual NFAS Delivery Docket that has been granted an extension must comply with the *AUS-MEAT Minimum Standard for Grain Fed Beef* when assessed at the Processing Enterprise.

ELEMENT PI2 – Feedlot Rations

OUTCOME: *Feeding standards of the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef and other feeding Standards are met.*

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

1. Ration analysis records are maintained, which, in the opinion of AUS-MEAT, confirm the average metabolisable energy (ME) content of the fed ration in accordance with the following criteria:
 - a) ration analysis for ME must be conducted using the Approved Standard Methodologies for the estimation of metabolisable energy which are NIRS and Wet Chemistry. In the case of Wet Chemistry the Approved Calculation for metabolisable energy (ME): $ME (MJ/Kg DM) = 0.12 \times CP + 0.31 \times EE + 0.05 \times CF + 0.14 \times NFE$;
 - b) any other methods used for ME calculation must be approved in writing by FLIAC;
 - c) ration analysis must be available for the feedlot's principle rations with the most current test having been performed within the three (3) months prior to the assigned Audit Cluster Period;
 - d) where a feedlot mixes their own ration, a typical analysis (formulation estimate) is not acceptable evidence of a ration's compliance with ME requirements of the *AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef*;
 - e) where a commercial ration is utilized a specification or letter of conformity must be retained to demonstrate compliance with ME requirements of the *AUS-MEAT Minimum Standard for Grain Fed Beef*;
 - f) where ration analysis records which confirm the average ME content of the fed ration are not maintained, AUS-MEAT will obtain a sample of the as-fed ration for independent analysis at a NATA approved stock feed testing laboratory. The cost of ration analysis will be borne by the Feedlot. Failure of Feedlot management to permit a sample of feed to be taken shall be recorded in the Audit report and brought to the attention of FLIAC.
2. Feed fed to Cattle does not contain animal products with the exception of exemptions that may be applied from time to time by statutory authorities.
3. When rations are mixed at the Feedlot staff are aware of the *Australian Code of Good Manufacturing Practice for Home-Mixed Feeds*, SCA 1991 (as amended or superseded) and a copy should be available at the Feedlot. Although not a mandatory Code, this Code provides a reference of industry best practice.

APPENDIX 1 NFAS DELIVERY DOCKET



NATIONAL FEEDLOT ACCREDITATION SCHEME

DELIVERY DOCKET

A

FEEDLOT DETAILS

Feedlot Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	Facsimile:
Email:	
Accreditation Number:	
Property Identification Code:	
# Date Taken Off Feedlot:	

CATTLE DESCRIPTION

Sex (M/F)	Age (DENTITION)	Minimum Days On Feed	No. of Head	Describe ID Method ^

TOTAL NO. OF CATTLE:

^ For mixed lots, where method of ID may vary, attach separate list.

CONSIGNMENT DETAILS

Consigned to:

Company Name: _____

Company Location: _____

Vendor: _____

Cross Reference to:

#NVD No. (out): _____ Date: _____

*National Vendor Declaration (Cattle)

DECLARATION (ONLY TO BE COMPLETED BY A QA OFFICER)

I declare that:

- The Cattle detailed above have been individually identified by RFID or by the means described in the Cattle Description section of this NFAS Delivery Docket and in accordance with the NFAS Standards (as amended);
- Individual Cattle identification was verified at the time of dispatch;
- The Cattle have been managed in a NFAS Accredited Feedlot;
- The Cattle have been fed for the minimum days on feed on a nutritionally balanced ration of a recognized high energy feed in which the grain is the highest single component:

*Tick the minimum Standard met by the cattle described.

 - *GFF - fed for not less than 35 days, with at least 28 days on rations having an average metabolizable energy (ME) content not less than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kilogram and **MSA eligible**.
 - *GFYG - fed for not less than 60 days (**heifers only**), with at least 50 days on rations having an average metabolizable energy (ME) content not less than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kilogram.
 - *GFYG - fed for not less than 70 days (heifers or steers), with at least 50 days on rations having an average metabolizable energy (ME) content not less than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kilogram.
 - *GF - fed for not less than 100 days, with at least 80 days on rations having an average metabolizable energy (ME) content not less than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kilogram.
- Where cattle are being transferred between feedlots.

Tick only if cattle are being transferred between NFAS Accredited Feedlot.

 - The Cattle described above are being transferred for on-feeding at another NFAS Accredited Feedlot. The number of days on feed (DOF) is as stated in the Cattle Description section.

SIGNATURE: _____

NAME (print): _____

DATE: _____

CERTIFICATE No: _____

ABATTOIR TO COMPLETE

Original docket to be retained by abattoir for 18 months from date of slaughter.

This docket is valid for seven (7) days from the date taken off the feedlot.

The statement above assumes all animal welfare requirements are met.

Date of slaughter: _____



APPENDIX 2 NFAS AGENTS DECLARATION



NATIONAL FEEDLOT ACCREDITATION SCHEME

AGENTS DECLARATION

as to GRAIN-FED Status of Cattle Offered for Sale

I, the authorised agent of the vendors, hereby declare that the _____ head of cattle identified below are from consignments covered by the NFAS Delivery Docket which states that the cattle have been fed at an AUS-MEAT Accredited Feedlot for a period of not less than _____ days, during which time they shall have been fed for not less than _____ days on a nutritionally balanced ration of a high energy feed comprising prominently grain with an average metabolisable energy content of greater than 10 megajoules per kilogram of dry matter.

The original NFAS Delivery Dockets completed by the vendors are held in my possession.

No. of Head	Sex (M/F)	Property Number	Date taken off Feedlot	Delivery Docket Number
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total Male Cattle

Total Female Cattle

Total Number of Cattle

Printed Name of Person Signing this Declaration **Purchaser of Livestock**

Agent's Company Name and Address **Signature and Date**

ABATTOIR TO COMPLETE:

This declaration is valid for seven (7) days from the date above indicating the date taken off the feedlot.

For auditing purposes, feedlots, saleyard agents, and slaughter establishments are to hold this form for 18 months.

DATE OF SLAUGHTER: _____

APPENDIX 3 NFAS DELIVERY DOCKET FORM B



NATIONAL FEEDLOT ACCREDITATION SCHEME

DELIVERY DOCKET - FORM B

CATTLE DESCRIBED ON THIS FORM DO NOT MEET THE AUS-MEAT MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GRAIN FED BEEF

Z **041301**

FEEDLOT DETAILS

Feedlot Name:		Accreditation No:	
Address:		Tail Tag No:	
Telephone:		Date taken off feedlot:	
Fax:			

CATTLE DESCRIPTION

Sex (M/F)	Age (DENTITION)	Days on Feedlot	No. of Head
TOTAL No. OF CATTLE:			

CONSIGNMENT DETAILS

Consigned to:

Company Name:

Company Location:

Vendor:

Cross Reference to:

Way Bill No. (out)	Date:	*NVD No. (out)	Date:
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*National Vendor Declaration (Cattle)

DECLARATION - FORM B
 (ONLY TO BE COMPLETED BY A QA OFFICER)

I declare that the cattle detailed above have been managed under a 3rd party audited QA Program at an NFAS Accredited Feedlot. They have not met the feeding requirements of the AUS-MEAT Minimum standards for Grain Fed Beef.

I declare the above information to be true and correct and acknowledge that Beef derived from these cattle is not eligible to be described as Grain Fed Beef (GF) or Grain Fed Young Beef (GFYG).

Issue:2 Date:16/12/03

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

NAME: (PRINT) _____

CERTIFICATE No. _____

APPENDIX 4 AUS-MEAT MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GRAIN FED BEEF

Grain Fed - *Symbol GF*

Number of days on feed	100
Age	6 permanent incisor teeth (max) 7-8 teeth are acceptable where the maturity score is equal to or less than 280.
P8 Fat Depth	7 mm (minimum)
Meat Colour Score *	1A, 1B, 1C – 3
Fat Colour Score	0 - 3

Feeding Requirements

The cattle must have been fed in an Accredited Feedlot for not less than 100 days, and for not less than 80 days of that, on a nutritionally balanced ration of a recognised high energy feed of which grain is the highest single component. Rations must have an average metabolisable energy (ME) content greater than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kg of dry matter.

Grain Fed - *Symbol GFYG*

Number of days on feed	70 (60 days for Females)
Age	0 – 2 teeth permanent incisor teeth.
P8 Fat Depth	5 mm (minimum)
Meat Colour Score *	1A, 1B, 1C – 3
Fat Colour Score	0 - 3

Feeding Requirements

The cattle must have been fed in an Accredited Feedlot for not less than 70 days, in the case of females not less than 60 days and for not less than 50 days of that, on a nutritionally balanced ration of a recognised high energy feed of which grain is the highest single component. Rations must have an average metabolisable energy (ME) content greater than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kg of dry matter.

NOTE: *

Where meat colour score exceeds MC 3, product is eligible to be labelled as GF / GFYG where:

- Feeding requirements and other GF / GFYG quality attributes are met;
- Carcases meet all Meat Standards Australia (MSA) requirements and are labelled accordingly prior to boning; and
- No portion of the carcase is destined for the EU GF-HQB quota or any other markets with regulations that include meat colour criteria.

Grain Fed Finished - *Symbol* GFF

Number of days on feed	35 (males* and females)
MSA	Meet all Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading requirements at production and meat processing to be eligible as GFF product.

Feeding Requirements

The cattle must have been fed in an Accredited Feedlot for not less than 35 days, and for not less than 28 days of that, on a nutritionally balanced ration of a recognised high energy feed of which grain is the highest single component. Rations must have an average metabolizable energy (ME) content greater than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kg of dry matter

NOTE: *

Castrate males (steers) only.

APPENDIX 5 FLIAC APPROVED GRAIN LIST

Grain Type	
1.	Barley
2.	Corn
3.	Lupins
4.	Millet
5.	Oats
6.	Rice
7.	Rye
8.	Sorghum
9.	Triticale
10.	Wheat

Note:

A percentage of grain in silage can be used in the grain component provided it can be defined.

APPENDIX 6 STANDARD CATTLE UNITS (SCU) CONVERSION TABLE

Standard Cattle Unit (SCU) - A Standard Cattle Unit is equivalent to an animal with a liveweight of 600kg.

Method to be used for determining Standard Cattle Units:

At any point in time the total number of SCU in a feedlot can be calculated by multiplying the number of cattle in the feedlot by a scaling factor that allows for adjustments for differences in the size of cattle, as given by:

$$SCU = N \times f$$

Where:

<i>SCU</i>	=	number of SCU,
<i>N</i>	=	total number of stock on hand (head), and
<i>F</i>	=	scaling factor.

The scaling factor is determined on the basis of the average liveweight of all the stock on hand at that point in time. The applicable value for the scaling factor is derived from the following table.

Table: SCU Scaling Factor

Average LWT (kg)	SCU Scaling Factor
350 and below	0.68
400	0.74
450	0.81
500	0.87
550	0.93
600 and above	1.00

Values for the scaling factor that are applicable to intermediate liveweights can be obtained by interpolation.

Where the management system cannot reasonably determine the average liveweight of stock on hand, a default SCU scaling factor of 1.00 shall be applied.

APPENDIX 7 INCIDENT REPORTING DECISION DIAGRAM

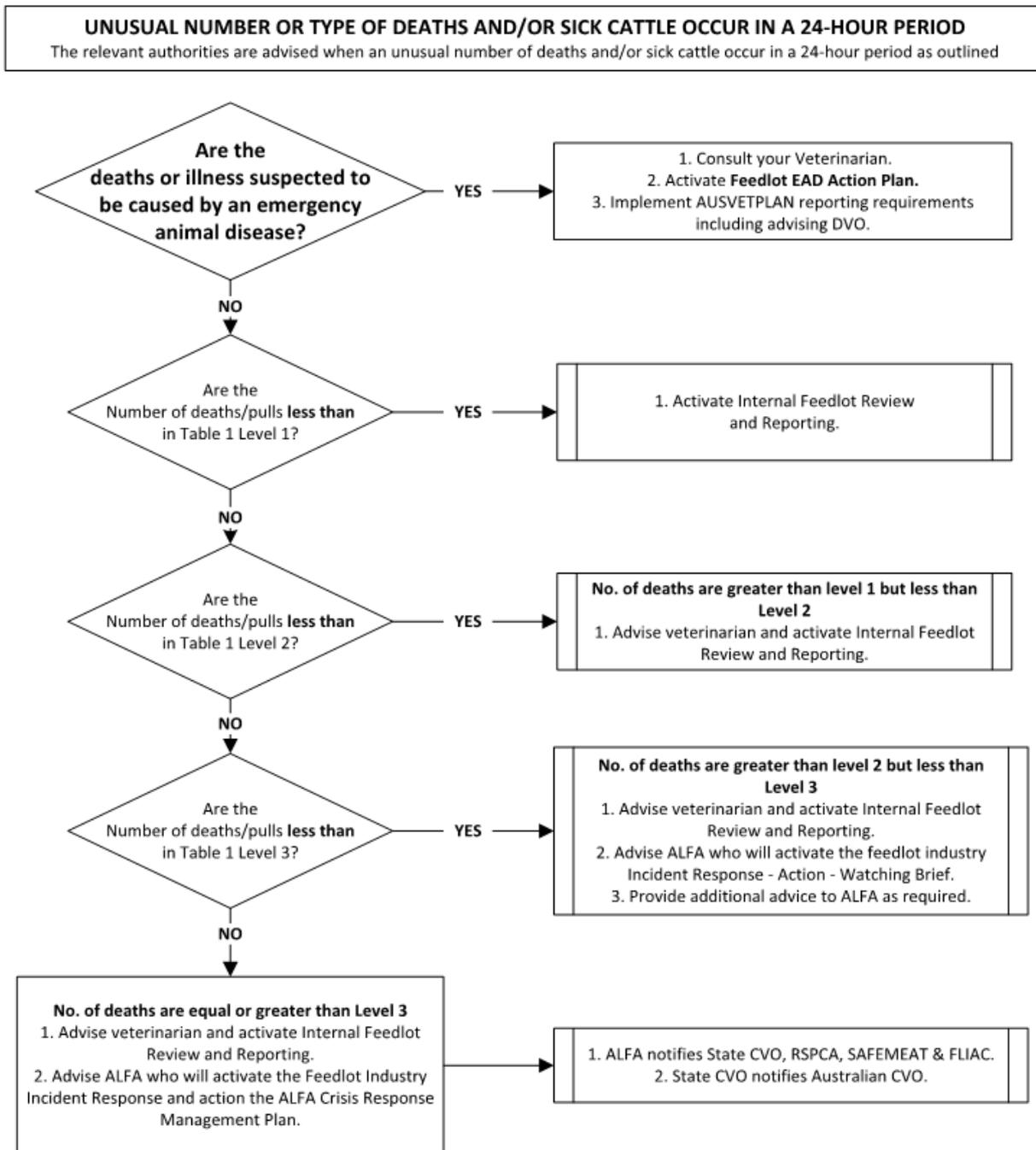


TABLE 1 – Morbidity and Mortality Triggers over a 24-hour period for activating Incident Reporting

Cattle on Feed (head)	Level 1		Level 2	Level 3
	Morbidity (pulls)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)
50 to 150	20	3	6	15
151 to 500	20	3	7	16
501 to 1000	20	3	8	17
1001 to 3000	30	3	11	20
3001 to 5000	40	4	12	21
5001 to 7500	55	6	30+	60+
7501 to 10,000	70	7	30+	60+
10,001 to 20,000	140	9	50+	100+
20,001 to 40,000	280	11	50+	100+
40,001 head or above	350	15	50+	100+

APPENDIX 8 LOADING DENSITY

The following space allowances should be provided:

Mean Liveweight (kg)	Minimum Floor Area (m² / head) Standing	Number of Head per 12.25 m x 2.4 m deck
100	0.31	70
150	0.42	55
200	0.53	44
250	0.77	38
300	0.86	34
350	0.98	30
400	1.05	28
450	1.13	26
500	1.23	24
550	1.34	22
600	1.47	20
650	1.63	18

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