



AAWCS - Publishing of New Standard, Extension and Training

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this project was to finalise the publishing of the revised Industry Animal Welfare Standard and develop a strategy for the effective implementation in processing facilities. This involved the development and delivery of industry training sessions and auditor calibration activities, to ensure both industry and auditors recognised the differences between prescriptive and outcomes focused standards.

This project followed a previous body of work to revise the Industry Animal Welfare Standard. The revision of the Industry Standard followed international best practice guidelines for standard development, for example, involving stakeholder engagement and the implementation of formal processes. This ensured a transparent development process, improving the credibility of the Standard and likely uptake by industry. To compliment the revised Standard, associated guidance was developed, to ensure effective implementation and verification of the requirements. The guidance material will be a tool for industry and conformity assessment organisations (such as certification bodies, scheme administrators and approved auditors) to improve the consistency of application.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

When the AMIC Industry Standard was first developed, the industry (through AMIC) made a commitment to periodically review and update the document. A revised Industry Standard which followed international best practice guidelines for standard development was developed. To compliment the revised Standard, associated guidance was developed, to ensure effective implementation and verification of the requirements. This project completed the next phase of publishing, extension and training activities.

3.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

3.1 Facilitate the publication of the Industry Standard and guidance material

The first objective of the project was prepare the final draft Industry Standard and guidance documentation (finalised in project 2020-1020) for publication on-line and in-print. It is important that the final draft standard (Project 2020-1020) is aligned with the AAWCS certification process. AUS-MEAT was involved in the standard development process and has had input throughout to ensure that there is no contradictory detail or approaches. This final alignment process was to ensure that standard could be effectively adopted within the current AAWCS scheme rules. Meetings between the PI, AMIC and AUS-MEAT finalised this process. The PI provided AUS-MEAT with several recommendations, related to the Scheme Rules, to be referred to the AUS-MEAT board for final approval.

Following several rounds of document editing, involving AMPC and AMIC communication departments and the project reference group, final versions of the standard and implementation document (guidance) were produced for on-line and in-print publication. Communication material to accompany the standard and promote the webinar sessions was also developed.

Appendix 1 - Published Standard and Implementation documents.

3.2 Industry extension activities

The objective of this step was to effectively communicate the changes to the standard to certified processors and to extend and promote the standard to non-certified processors to encourage uptake.

Two interactive webinar sessions (each around 1.5 hours + time for questions) were developed (Appendix 2). The webinars were designed to cover Q&A and provide additional technical information on discrete topics, likely to require a more detailed explanation. The first webinar focused on the basic structure of the Standard and provided information on outcome-based requirements and the degree of flexibility around the demonstration of conformity. This first session was particularly useful for non-certified processors who are considering embarking on the pathway to certification. The second session provided more detailed information on the sections of the standard covering 'Management and care of livestock' and 'Humane stunning and sticking processes'. A link to the Standard and implementation guide was available to participants prior to the webinars.

Both webinars are available on the AMPC YouTube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/c/AustralianMeatProcessorCorporation>

The webinars were advertised and presented to 100 industry representatives in October 2021. On the back of the webinars, there was additional interest from the Department of Agriculture, so the PI agreed to deliver a further session designed specifically for DAWE (Appendix 3) in November. Information on this session was circulated to DAWE personnel. It created a lot of interest and around 60 people attended (mostly on-plant veterinarians).

3.3 Auditor training and calibration

The objective of this step was to develop and provide a training and calibration programme to third party auditors, with resources that can be used by AUS-MEAT when they deliver future in-house training. This included the development of a training and calibration package for third party auditors (including AUS-MEAT and regulators), including learning objectives and content which covered the requirements of the standard; including auditing outcome-based requirements, use of the guidance document, animal welfare performance indicators, types of practices and competencies expected to be demonstrated by the establishment during on-site audits

The training programme was converted to an interactive on-line program due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Trainees were provided with learning material (covering the PowerPoint presentation and guidance documentation) (Appendix 4).

4.0 PROJECT OUTCOME SUMMARY

4.1 Step 1 - Outcomes

The achievement criteria and the outcome are shown in the following table.

Achievement Criteria	Outcome
Standard development documentation collated	Completed – Reported Milestone 1
Alignment of final Standard with Certification process	Completed
Identification of reference group and teleconferences to agree publication approach	Completed
Liaison with AMPC and AMIC re: publication	Completed
Preparation of communication material for webinars	Completed

4.2 Step 2 - Outcomes

The achievement criteria and the outcome are shown in the following table.

Achievement Criteria	Outcome
Preparation of webinar sessions for industry	Completed
Delivery of webinar sessions*	Completed
Q&A information and additional technical notes – reference group decided to include in webinar	Completed
Communication with processors – included follow-up after webinars	Completed

* Additional webinar provided for DAWE personnel at no extra cost to AMPC

4.3 Step 3 - Outcomes

The achievement criteria and the outcome of are shown in the following table.

Achievement Criteria	Outcome
Development of auditor training and calibration package	Completed
Delivery of auditor training programme	Completed

5.0 CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The project progressed as planned in the most part, however, given the travel restrictions currently in place for Covid-19, the face-to-face auditor training was completed on-line. For this reason, the expenses associated with each milestone were not required nor invoiced by the PI.

The appendices contain all the documentation relevant to this project, including the Published Standard and implementation guide. It is recommended that the Standard is periodically reviewed and that the review process should include some of the previous members of the Standard Committee.

6.0 APPENDICES

- / Appendix 1 - Published Standard and implementation documentation
- / Appendix 2 - Industry webinar PDF
- / Appendix 3 - DAWE PDF
- / Appendix 4 - Auditor training and calibration PDF