

# SNAPSHOT

## REVISION OF THE INDUSTRY ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

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### Project Description

The aim of the project was to undertake a revision of the Industry Animal Welfare Standard following international best practice guidelines for standard development, for example, involving stakeholder engagement and the implementation of a formal documented process. To compliment the revised Standard, an associated guidance document, to ensure effective implementation and verification of the requirements, was also produced.

### Project Content

Milestone 1 was specifically focused on the completion of a Working Draft Standard that could then be considered by the Standards Development Committee in the next phase.

Milestone 2 focused on the organization of further stakeholder consultation in the form of a Standards Development Committee representing a balanced set of stakeholders. Part of this preparation involved the development of a Standard development procedure and associated committee documentation.

Milestone 3 was specifically focused on the facilitation of the AMIC Standard's Committee and the completion of a Committee draft (CD) and Draft Standard (DS) ready for further consultation. It also involved the development of the draft guidance material.

Milestone 4 involved the completion of a final comment round and completion of a Final Draft Standard that could be recommended to AMIC for publication.

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### Project Outcome

The main outputs from this include:

1) Final Draft Industry Standard edition 3 that:

- has been through several iterations
- meets international guidelines for standard development
- contains outcome and evidence-based requirements
- results in improved animal welfare
- involved stakeholder engagement in its development, through the formation of a formal Standards development committee
- ensures emerging issues that are likely to negatively impact the meat processing industry in the future will be identified and can be mitigated against
- ensures decisions concerning animal welfare are informed by science
- is in a format that can be readily implemented in a first, second or third party conformity assessment scheme
- demonstrates to stakeholders that the industry is taking an active lead in animal welfare and are committed to achieving positive animal welfare outcomes throughout the supply chain

2) Procedures for the standards development process that:

- reflect the expectations of standards development organisation to establish and maintain a formal standards work programme as stated in:
  - WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, *Annex 3 Code of Good Practice for The Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards*;
  - ISO/IEC Guide 59:1994, *Code of good practice for standardisation*; and
  - ISEAL Code of Good Practice *Setting Social and Environmental Standards*, Version 6.0, December 2014.
- Includes - *Standards Work Programme, Standards Development Project Plan, Standards Development Committee Terms of Reference Template, Standards Development Committee Constitution Template and codes of conduct, Draft Standards Comment Template* etc
- can be used for future standard development activities

3) Guidance document to aid implementation of the Standard and conformity assessment.

**Benefit for Industry**

To maintain societal confidence that animals destined for slaughter are afforded humane treatment, it is important that the highest standards of welfare are implemented and demonstrated. The Industry Animal Welfare Standard for livestock processing establishments – preparing meat for human consumption (The ‘Standard’) was published in 2005, with the second edition published in 2009, however it has not been updated since this time. Following changes in industry practices, regulation and assurance, it is now an appropriate time to update and refine the Standard. The revision of the Industry Standard follows international best practice guidelines for standard development, for example, involving stakeholder engagement and the implementation of formal processes. This ensures a transparent development process, improving the credibility of the Standard and likely uptake by industry. To compliment the revised Standard, it was essential to develop associated guidance, to ensure effective implementation and verification of the requirements. The guidance document 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. The success of the Standard requires this type of consolidated industry approach; where both large and small establishments see the value in adopting the requirements within their facilities.

**USEFUL RESOURCES**

<https://amic.org.au/policy-agenda/animal-welfare/>

