

SNAPSHOT

AAWCS - PUBLISHING OF NEW STANDARD, EXTENSION AND TRAINING

Project Report Reference: 2021-1185

Date: 25 July 2022

Project Description

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.

Project Content

Step 1 was to facilitate the publication of the Industry Standard and guidance material.

Step 2 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.

Step 3 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.

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Project Outcome

The main outputs from this include:

1) Published Industry Standard edition 3 and implementation guide 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) Two interactive webinar sessions (each around 1.5 hours + time for questions) were developed and delivered to industry personnel. This was uploaded to the AMPC YouTube channel.

3) An interactive webinar session (around 1.5 hours + time for questions) was developed and delivered to personnel from the Department of Agriculture.

4) Third-party auditor training and calibration course was developed and delivered to AUS-MEAT auditors.

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 revised in 2020, with associated industry guidance finalised in 2022. 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 development of the revised standard and guidance it was important to provide industry training and

extension 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/>

