



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

EUROPEAN UNION CATTLE ACCREDITATION SCHEME (EUCAS)

RULES FOR FARMS

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Please visit the EUCAS website (agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3/eucas) for up-to-date information and application forms for all EUCAS activities.

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Term or Acronym	Definition
Accredited farm	A cattle farm which has been accredited under the Export Control Act and relevant subordinate legislation.
Accredited feedlot	An accredited feedlot that has been accredited under the Export Control Act and relevant subordinate legislation and that maintains segregation of EUCAS cattle from non-EUCAS cattle.
Accredited property	Either an accredited farm, accredited feedlot or accredited saleyard.
Accredited saleyard	A saleyard that has been accredited to sell EUCAS cattle under the Export Control Act and relevant subordinate legislation and that maintains segregation of EUCAS cattle from non-EUCAS cattle.
Androgenic	Steroid hormones that control the growth and functioning of the male sex organs and the appearance of male secondary sexual characteristics, which may be natural or synthetic.
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
AUS-MEAT Limited	An Australian meat and livestock industry body responsible for developing and implementing industry standards.
Eligible destination	Eligible destinations include EUCAS accredited farms; EUCAS accredited feedlots; EUCAS accredited saleyard and EU listed abattoirs.
EU	European Union.
EUCAS	European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme.
EUCAS cattle	Cattle that meet all the eligibility criteria of EUCAS and that an EU listed abattoir may slaughter to export beef and beef products to the EU market.
EU listed abattoir	A registered export establishment approved to slaughter EU cattle.
EUVD	European Union Vendor Declaration.
Feedlot	An area of land covered by a single property identification code (PIC) under relevant State or Territory legislation, where cattle are confined and fed high energy rations to maximise growth for the purpose of slaughter.
Gestagenic	Female hormones that support the development and retention of a pregnancy.
HGP	A Hormonal Growth Promotant is a veterinary medicine product, registered in Australia used to increase the growth or productivity of livestock through an oestrogenic, androgenic, or gestagenic or thyrostatic effect. Examples include products containing oestradiol, progesterone, testosterone, zeranol and trenbolone acetate.
Individually identified	For the purposes of EUCAS, means identified using an individual NLIS endorsed breeder or post-breeder RFID placed in the right ear of every animal, or with a rumen bolus and corresponding ear tag.
Manager of an accredited farm	The manager of an accredited farm (the manager), the person responsible for the day to day management of the property.

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MLA	Meat and Livestock Australia.
NLIS	National Livestock Identification System.
NLIS ID	The visually read number on a RFID ear tag. The NLIS ID consists of a PIC number, a manufacturer's code and the year of manufacture, as well as a management number. Each NLIS ID is unique and identifies the animal to which it is assigned. The manager may use either the NLIS ID or RFID to record movements of the animal on the NLIS database.
Non-eligible destination	Non-eligible destinations are destinations that are not EU accredited.
Non-EUCAS breeding females	Non-EUCAS HGP free cows, heifers or pregnant females intended for use in breeding. Cows with calves at foot are not eligible to enter a property as non-EUCAS breeding females. Non-EUCAS breeding females must have lifetime traceability in the NLIS database and be HGP free.
NVD	National Vendor Declaration.
Oestrogenic	Hormones that control the growth and functioning of the female sex organs and the appearance of female secondary sexual characteristics, which may be either natural or synthetic. Can also be used to synchronise the breeding cycle of female cattle.
PIC	Property Identification Code.
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) approved under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). The electronically read number encoded on a microchip inside an NLIS ear tag. The RFID consists of a manufacturer's code and a unique number for each animal. Each RFID number is unique and identifies the animal to which it is assigned. The manager may use either the NLIS ID or RFID to record movements of the animal on the NLIS database. The NLIS database includes both numbers and uses them to confirm the movements of the animal throughout its lifetime.
The department	Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.
Thyrostatic	Anti-thyroid agent used for growth promotion (not permitted for use in cattle in Australia).

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) Beef exported to the European Union (EU) must come from animals raised on properties accredited by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment under the EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS). These properties are referred to as ‘accredited farms,’ or ‘accredited feedlots’ and ‘accredited saleyards’.
- b) EUCAS is a regulated national animal production scheme that guarantees full traceability of all animals through the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), linking individual animal identification to a central database. EUCAS allows Australia to meet the European Union market requirements for non- HGP treated beef through a segregated production system that allows the production of a separate stream of cattle that have not been treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGPs) or any products containing oestradiol.
- c) The legal basis of EUCAS is the Export Control Act 2020 and the Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Rules 2021. The department has overall responsibility for the implementation and co-ordination of EUCAS administration. The EUCAS rules have been developed to assist the manager of an accredited farm (the manager) into meeting the requirements of accreditation.
- d) This document outlines the requirements for EUCAS accredited farms. The department will advise all managers when changes to this document occur, however it is the responsibility of managers to ensure that their cattle retain eligibility for the EU market.
- e) The current version of this document can be found on the department’s website. For further information, please contact the EUCAS Helpline on 1800 305 544 between 8am and 4pm AEDT Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) or by e-mail at EUCAS@awe.gov.au.
- f) Managers can obtain information on the products that are currently registered for use as HGPs from the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) website. The APVMA website is at apvma.gov.au and includes the link to the APVMA database PUBCRIS, which allows you to search for all registered agricultural and veterinary products including those that contain HGPs. The direct link to PUBCRIS is at <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>.

2. FARM ACCREDITATION

2.1 Accreditation procedure

- a) Farms must be EUCAS accredited in order to produce animals the meat and meat products of which is eligible for export to the EU.
- b) Before the department can grant accreditation, the manager must:
 - i. Remove any HGP or oestradiol treated cattle or cattle not permitted to be on an accredited property (see section 2.2 for cattle permitted to be on an accredited farm);
 - ii. Remove any HGPs or oestradiol products from the property;
 - iii. Identify all cattle on the property with an NLIS device (see section 2.3 for cattle identification requirements); and
 - iv. Reconcile their account on the NLIS database.
- c) A manager can obtain an application form for accreditation from the department by contacting the EUCAS help line on 1800 305 544 or from the department's website. The manager must submit a completed application form to the department with the appropriate attachments. The department will assess the application and may in some cases seek clarification and confirmation of answers from applicants.
- d) If the application is approved, the department will accredit the farm, provide a notice of accreditation to the manager and update NLIS to reflect the EUCAS status of the PIC.
- e) The department grants accreditation for a property for an initial period of 12 months unless the manager submits a written request to withdraw their accreditation or the department revokes it. The department will send a reminder to the manager before the end of the 12 month period, providing the opportunity to renew their accreditation.
- f) The manager must apply for a renewal of their accreditation before the end of the initial 12-month period to retain accreditation.
- g) The manager is legally responsible for ensuring compliance with all conditions of the property accreditation. This responsibility only ceases when the manager notifies the department in writing that they have withdrawn from that responsibility. If the manager changes or the property is sold and the new manager wants to continue EUCAS accreditation, they must apply immediately for initial accreditation as above.
- h) If the manager wishes to withdraw their accreditation, they must inform the department in writing.

2.2 Cattle permitted on accredited farms

The only cattle permitted to be on accredited farms are:

- a) EUCAS cattle:
 - i. cattle born on the farm after accreditation and that have never been treated with HGP or oestradiol;
 - ii. cattle raised under the manager's control; either born on the property or introduced to the property prior to accreditation; have lifetime traceability status; and have never been treated with HGP or oestradiol (these cattle will be subject to detailed verification checks);
 - iii. cattle transferred from a property that was EUCAS accredited at the time of the transfer and the EUVD confirms that the cattle have not been treated with HGP or oestradiol.
- b) Non-EUCAS cattle
 - i. Non EUCAS breeding cattle for restocking purposes such as bulls and females (cows, heifers or pregnant females) do not need to meet the above criteria of being born on the farm or transferred from a EUCAS accredited property, however they are not eligible to be used to produce meat and meat products destined for the EU market. All non-EUCAS breeding bulls and breeding females must be HGP free. Please note, cows with calves at foot are not eligible to enter a EUCAS accredited property.
 - ii. For non-EUCAS breeding females to be eligible to enter a EUCAS property, they must be HGP free and have lifetime traceability in the NLIS database. If the non-EUCAS breeding females are not HGP free (i.e. the NVD for the cattle declares they have been treated with HGP) they will not be eligible to be on an accredited property.
 - iii. If non-EUCAS breeding females do not have lifetime traceability in the NLIS database, the department will notify the manager. Lifetime traceability will either need to be restored (if possible) or the non-EUCAS breeding female will not be eligible to be on an accredited property.
 - iv. If the non-EUCAS breeding cattle are eligible, the future progeny of these cattle will be EUCAS eligible. Once a non-EUCAS breeding female has been identified as eligible to enter a EUCAS accredited property, the eligible non-EUCAS breeding female may be transferred/sold to any other EUCAS accredited property.

2.3 Individual identification

- a) All weaned cattle (with the exception of mature breeding bulls) on a EUCAS accredited farm must be individually identified by the end of the first 12 months of accreditation, or before they leave the farm.
- b) In the following cases, cattle must be identified before the end of the first 12 months of accreditation:
 - i. calves born on the farm after accreditation must be identified by the time they are weaned
 - ii. EUCAS cattle consigned to an accredited farm, feedlot, saleyard or EU listed abattoir must be identified before they leave the farm
 - iii. EUCAS cattle moved from the farm for limited periods to agricultural shows, camp drafting events etc must be identified before they leave the farm.

2.4 Lost individual identification

- a) The manager is responsible for replacing lost RFID(s) at the earliest possible opportunity. If the manager cannot verify the identity of the individual animal by a secondary method of identification, the animal must be removed from the property and the NLIS database notified that the animal is no longer EU eligible.
- b) The manager must keep the following records whenever replacement-RFIDs are used:
 - i. NLIS or RFID number of replacement-RFID
 - ii. NLIS or RFID number of lost device, if known
 - iii. the date of replacement
 - iv. colour of the replacement RFID
 - v. if a white breeder RFID is used, the information required to establish the property on which the animal was born and
 - vi. Details of any secondary method of identification used

2.5 Cattle movements

- a) The manager is responsible for ensuring all movements of cattle transferred on and off an accredited farm have been recorded in the NLIS database. This is to ensure the integrity of EUCAS and is additional to state or territory requirements.
- b) For EU eligible cattle, a correctly completed EUVD (either the original for hard copy EUVDs, or an eEUVD) must accompany EUCAS cattle moved from one accredited property to another accredited property or EU listed abattoir.

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- c) Managers of accredited farms may allow neighbours to move non-EUCAS cattle on to an accredited farm to enable the use of yards and similar equipment. Conversely, managers of accredited farms may use facilities on non-accredited farms for short-term purposes (including branding, vaccinating and loading) as long as segregation from non-EUCAS cattle is maintained. The manager must keep records of these movements.
- d) Cattle in EUCAS may only move to ‘eligible destinations’ to maintain their status as EUCAS cattle. Managers unsure whether a particular destination or purpose is allowed under EUCAS should contact the department on 1800 305 544 or by e-mail at eucas@awe.gov.au for advice. Eligible destinations are:
- i. accredited farms
 - ii. accredited feedlots
 - iii. accredited saleyards for designated EU eligible cattle sales
 - iv. EU listed abattoirs for slaughter
 - v. agricultural shows, camp-drafting competitions or any other events where the cattle move temporarily and remain under the supervision of the manager of the accredited farm, or someone authorised by the manager to tend the cattle on their behalf. The manager must verify the individual identity of cattle on their return.
- e) Under special circumstances and only with prior approval from the department, managers may move EUCAS cattle from the accredited property for emergency agistment. The department has developed procedures for agistment to assist managers in drought or similar ‘natural disaster’ situations. For further guidance and the application form for agistments, see the agistment and stock route guidelines on the department’s webpage or contact the department for further information.
- f) If a manager moves cattle to a non-accredited saleyard, the cattle become ineligible for slaughter for the EU market. However, the department recognises that exceptional circumstances apply if the cattle are passed in for sale. In this particular case, the cattle may be returned to the accredited farm and remain as EUCAS cattle provided the manager has maintained an auditable record of the movement that demonstrates that the traceability of the cattle was not breached.

2.6 Database recording requirements

- a) The manager of an accredited property is required to ensure (and verify) that the NLIS database includes details of the following:
- i. cattle moved on to the accredited farm, including cattle passed in at sale and returned to the farm: within 7 days or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser;
 - ii. cattle moved from the accredited farm to a non-eligible destination: within 7 days or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser;
 - iii. cattle that arrive dead or die whilst under control of the farm: within 7 days of discovery of the deceased animal or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser;
 - iv. replacements for lost identification devices; and
 - v. the downgrading of any EUCAS cattle to non-EUCAS cattle: within 7 days or in compliance with State/Territory legislative reporting requirements whichever is the lesser.
- b) The manager must keep records of the NLIS ID(s) of non-EUCAS breeding cattle (bulls and females) that confirm that the animals are ineligible for EU slaughter.
- c) A manager is not required to notify the NLIS database when EUCAS cattle move to an eligible destination – notification is the responsibility of the receiving manager. However, all managers must check the NLIS database to verify the cattle movements have been recorded.
- d) The manager must demonstrate that records of the numbers of devices on the property can be reconciled with the numbers of devices shown on the NLIS database at least once per annum.
- e) The manager must ensure they can account for all NLIS ID(s) on the property. The devices on the property should correspond with those registered with the NLIS database. This may be achieved by scanning devices at annual muster or on an ongoing basis, at times convenient to usual management practices i.e. when moving stock, at weaning or when accounting for deaths. Records must be kept on site for audit purposes.

2.7 Record keeping

- a) Managers must keep the following records, including details such as, the departure date and return date, if necessary and the RFID/ NLIS numbers of the cattle. Managers must comply with state or territory legislation concerning database notification requirements
- i. documentation supporting the HGP-free status of all introduced cattle on the property – e.g. vendor declarations.
 - ii. documentation verifying that HGP or oestradiol treated cattle have been removed from the farm prior to accreditation, and that unused HGP and oestradiol doses have been disposed of prior to accreditation (unused doses of HGPs should be returned to either an HGP retailer or wholesaler, or to a local agricultural office). This is only necessary on farms where HGPs or oestradiol have been used in the past.
 - iii. a list of people approved to sign EUVDs on the manager’s behalf.
 - iv. details of all EUCAS cattle moving off the accredited farm to eligible destinations, including a copy of the accompanying EUVD.
 - v. information on all eligible non-EUCAS breeding bulls and females moving onto the accredited property (e.g. NLIS numbers).
 - vi. details of all cattle moving off the accredited farm to non-eligible destinations.
 - vii. details of all EUCAS cattle that were sent to saleyards, passed in and returned to the accredited property, and
 - viii. information on replacement RFIDs.
 - ix. Information showing an annual PIC reconciliation has been conducted, such as the NLIS upload ID for the transaction, or on-farm records showing a manual reconciliation has been conducted.
- b) Under EUCAS, managers must keep records for a minimum of two years. State and territory requirements for record maintenance may differ. Managers should consult their state or territory authorities to ensure that they also meet their requirements.

2.8 Audits

- a) The department will audit farms on a random and targeted basis. The department has authorised AUS-MEAT auditors to carry out EUCAS audits in accordance with checklists developed in consultation with the department.
- b) In most cases, EUCAS auditors will contact the farm to ensure the manager or another responsible person will be present to assist in the audit on the current accredited manager's behalf. Auditors will have a report from the NLIS database that shows the transactions the property has reported to the NLIS. The auditor will refer all refusals to allow an audit to take place without due cause to the department.
- c) Auditors will discuss the outcome of the audit with the manager or their representative; in particular, auditors are required to outline any non-compliance detected and discuss the acceptability of any proposed corrective actions. Critical non-compliances will be referred directly to the department which may decide to revoke the accreditation.

2.9 Obtaining EUVDs

- a) EU Vendor declarations (EUVDs) can be ordered online at www.lpa.nlis.com.au or by calling 1800 683 111. EUVDs are only available for order for EUCAS accredited properties with an EU status in NLIS.