



ANIMAL RAISING CLAIMS - SHEEP		
Previous Reference(s) Advices N/A	Date of Issue 14 December 2018	Date of Effect 14 December 2018
Contact Officer(s) Glenn Barker Matt Cooper	Distribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LICENCED MEAT EXPORTERS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANAGEMENT ACCREDITED ENTERPRISES	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Advice Notice is to inform Accredited Enterprises and Exporters that the Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee (AMILSC) has confirmed a number of Sheep Animal Raising Claims¹ (ARC) to assist Industry develop programs that comply with the *National Accreditation Standards – Appendix 16*.

BACKGROUND

These Sheep Animal Raising Claims have been developed through an industry consultative process involving the Sheeppmeat Industry Taskforce along with recent endorsement from the AMILSC.

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

A guidance document for Sheep production has been approved by the AMILSC.

The [Animal Raising Claim Framework for Sheep Production Systems in Australia](#) will now form the basis for current Industry Approved Raising Claim definitions.

Additional operational guidelines ([Trade Description Guidelines](#)) for the development of trade description requirements documented in an export registered meat establishments Approved Arrangement have now been published by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department).

RESPONSIBILITY

Whilst AUS-MEAT may be required to approve an individual Establishment' ARC program, the regulations for trade description are the responsibility of the department under the *Export Control Act 1982* and the *Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Orders 2005*.

The *Trade Description Guidelines* outline the responsibilities of the department and AUS-MEAT in relation to:

- Delegation of trade description operational responsibilities to AUS-MEAT
- Roles and responsibilities for trade description on AUS-MEAT accredited abattoirs and independent boning rooms
- Roles and responsibilities for trade description on non-AUS-MEAT accredited export meat establishments
- Approved arrangement requirements for market access animal raising claims.

IMPLEMENTATION

Whilst a number of the ARC programs are currently well established and already underpinned by Certification programs / Industry Standards, other programs can be developed using the new framework document.

¹ *Animal Raising Claims relate to claims made in the trade description or export documentation about the animal or supply chain specifically relating to animal husbandry conditions, feeding, handling, drug treatments and /or geographical reference which is specifically required by an importing country.*

The development of the additional Industry agreed Standards will provide clear production pathways for 'Truth in Labelling' with the capability to have 'Marketing Claims' traced back and matched to production systems.

It is the responsibility the Enterprises (Packer) and/or Exporter to ensure all importing country requirements are adequately covered (e.g. Livestock Sourcing programs, Point of Slaughter Certification, Label Approval and any required verification / certification processes).

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any queries on the Animal Raising Claim(s) Framework, please contact AUS-MEAT Tel (07) 3361 9200 or Email: ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au



Bruce Gormley
General Manager – AUS-MEAT & Industry Standards
AUS-MEAT Limited

This advice has been prepared in consultation with the [AMILSC](#)