

LGAP

Delivering on Change in livestock exports

The Livestock Global Assurance Program (LGAP) is a global conformity assessment program for livestock exports that further protects the welfare of animals, promotes best practice and fosters continual improvement. Ensuring the industry delivers on what its members, government and the Australian people want in terms of animal welfare and livestock management. It is independent, transparent and reflects increased accountability.

What is LGAP? - The Livestock Global Assurance Program

Over six years in development, LGAP strengthens Australian Livestock Exporters aim of advancing the industry's commercial sustainability while upholding and improving the welfare of Australian livestock and enhancing the regulatory environment in which exporters operate. At is a program regulated by Government, it aims to provide assurances that animals continue to be treated in accordance with the **ESCAS¹** Animal Welfare Standards for Australian livestock from when they are in exporters custody, up until and including the point of process.

The key to LGAP is that it will deliver in four critical areas:

- ✓ **Animal Welfare:** puts animal welfare first
- ✓ **Regulatory:** is Australian government regulated
- ✓ **Best Practice:** reflects world leading quality assurance practices
- ✓ **Compliance:** Strengthens facility (feedlots, transport, vessels, abattoirs) standards and compliance within the supply chain.

LGAP - Key Improvements



Critically, LGAP will introduce an independent auditor and observer to the export process.

¹ Introduced in 2011 by the Australian Government, the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS) are the standards for live animal exports from Australia

How was LGAP developed?

Australian livestock exporters have invested significant resources in developing LGAP as part of its ongoing recognition that further changes in the livestock export industry are needed. The question was how to develop a shared vision and culture that resulted in effective change that delivered on animal welfare and commercial sustainability?

LGAP was the result of extensive consultation and negotiations to get input and buy-in from hundreds if not thousands of stakeholders, including the Australian federal and state governments, foreign governments, trade partners, livestock producers, livestock exporters, foreign facilities managers, and animal welfare advocates (including vets and those that oppose the trade). The program has been modelled on a robust list of Quality Assurance (QA) and compliance models, and designed and constructed in accordance with ISO standards.

The solution needed to:

- 1. Raise the Standards:** By delivering on the four core principles of ESCAS developed in 2011 by the Australian Government - 1. Animal welfare; 2. Control; 3. Traceability; 4. Independent auditing and the recommendations of the Farmer Report ² in 2012.
- 2. Strengthen the Controls:** By embracing the recommendations of a deeper review which found that the system needed clearer roles and responsibilities to protect animal welfare, that is, an animal traceability and control system that “would shift traceability/control responsibilities to facilities, while satisfying the key principles of ESCAS”³. The three core recommendation being:
 - a. The importance of clear responsibilities and certifications
 - b. Traceability of livestock movements and control over the facilities where animals were kept
 - c. Independent auditing and verification that certified entities conform with standards
- 3. Share a Vision:** To optimise adoption of the new LGAP Quality Controls by socialising them in a way that respected cultural differences, avoiding claims that Australia is arrogant and dealing realistically with the costs and time required to introduce real change. To do this effectively the livestock industry will need to:
 - a. Establishing an LGAP Company
 - b. Developing a New Traceability/Control System
 - c. Ensuring the continuity of trade
 - d. Ensure the international markets accept the program and the structure of its roll-out (as it has implications for their facilities)
 - e. Continue communicating with the public, industry and broader stakeholders

LGAP will be funded by the industry and will receive some government support based on achieving critical development and implementation milestones.

How will LGAP deliver?

LGAP will cover all Australian licensed exporters who export livestock (cattle, sheep and goats) for slaughter from Australia. It is an independent, government regulated global conformity assessment program for protecting livestock exports. Most importantly its core objectives is to demonstrate and deliver compliance with ESCAS standards in a more effective, efficient and meaningful way.

All sectors will benefit from the program, by:

1. Increased levels of audit and observers who are independent of the industry
2. Transfer of responsibility for traceability and control with the movement of animals along the supply chain
3. Streamlining and consolidation of traceability and control obligations into a single standard
4. Greater ‘visibility’ into the movement of animals along the supply chain
5. Substantially improved focus on traceability and control arrangements within the auditing framework
6. Improved capacity to undertake ‘e-audits’
7. Improved capacity to demonstrate to Government that LGAP effectively satisfies ESCAS traceability and control obligations

Who is ALEC?

The Australian Livestock Exporters’ Council (ALEC), ALEC members account for 96 per cent of Australia’s annual livestock exports. ALEC member exporters will be required to meet the LGAP chain of custody requirements, including exclusive use of importers and facilities accredited to LGAP Levels 2 and 3. Australian livestock exports generate approximately \$2 billion annually in export earnings.

Stay Informed

If you want to stay informed on how LGAP continues to develop you can:

1. Contact ALEC on 02 6269 5691
2. Visit our website at www.lgap.org
3. Watch the videos on the LGAP website
4. Let me know now and I’ll include you in our **Update List**

Thank you for your time.

²The Farmer Report