



Integrity Systems

red meat customer assurance



STAND BY WHAT YOU SELL

Upgrades to the Livestock Production Assurance program

I am writing to inform you of some important changes being introduced to enhance and strengthen the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program. Coming into effect on 1 October 2017, the changes will help to further safeguard Australia's enviable status as a world leader in red meat safety, integrity and traceability.

From 1 October 2017:

1. Two new modules will become requirements of LPA accreditation: on-farm biosecurity and animal welfare practices.
2. LPA-accredited producers will need to renew LPA accreditation every three years. As part of this, producers will need to complete an assessment and pay a \$60 (plus GST) fee every three years.
3. Online learning modules will be available to help producers understand their obligations.
4. A free electronic LPA National Vendor Declaration (LPA eNVD) will be available.

The changes are designed to ensure Australian red meat maintains its global reputation and stays ahead of its competitors. They will ensure our integrity system continues to meet customer expectations, and will give producers the evidence to stand by what they sell.

By having a renewed process of accreditation, producers will better understand their on-farm responsibilities and the crucial role they play in driving the growth and prosperity of our industry.

This e-bulletin provides an explanation of those changes, and what they mean at an on-farm level. As a stakeholder in the red meat industry, we ask you to read and share this information with your networks. It is critical that producers understand their responsibilities and the part they play in protecting the industry's reputation.

Over the coming months we have a range of communication activities planned to keep industry informed of the changes. We'll also be back in touch with additional tools and information – all designed to assist producers through the changes being made to the program.

I hope the information below answers any questions you have, however please don't hesitate to contact us on lpa@mla.com.au or phone the hotline 1800 683 111 for additional information.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to understand the important changes being implemented to the program, which will further strengthen our integrity systems.

Dr Jane Weatherley - Chief Executive Officer - Integrity Systems Company

Background: LPA changes ensure producers can stand by what they sell

Australia's world leading red meat integrity system will be enhanced and strengthened through significant upgrades to the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program. The changes are designed to ensure the Australian red meat and livestock industry maintains its global reputation as a world leader in food safety, integrity and traceability, giving producers the evidence to stand by what they sell.

LPA accredited producers commit to best practice on-farm management which meets the stringent requirements of export markets. The program provides an assurance to domestic and global customers of the integrity of Australian red meat and enhances its reputation for safety and quality, giving Australia a key advantage and point of difference against international competitors.

The strengthening of LPA involves the introduction of biosecurity and animal welfare requirements, a regular online assessment and online learning modules to support producer understanding of their on-farm requirements. The changes have been launched to coincide with the further roll out of electronic National Vendor Declarations (eNVD), giving producers the option to replace their NVD books with a free automated online system.

More information:

About the changes

About LPA

What do producers need to do?

Before 1 October, LPA-accredited producers need to:

- familiarise themselves with the new biosecurity and animal welfare requirements. To do this it is recommended producers complete the learning modules available from July.
- ensure their on-farm systems meet these new program requirements.

From 1 October:

- complete the assessment and pay the \$60 (plus GST) fee, when their three- yearly accreditation is due.

Producers will be contacted approximately two months before their LPA accreditation is due

and given instructions for working through the new process online. For some producers, this will not happen until 2019.

On-farm Biosecurity requirements

From 1 October 2017, accredited LPA producers will need to have a Farm Biosecurity Plan to:

- minimise the risk of introducing and spreading infectious diseases on their properties.
- manage and record the introduction and movement of livestock.
- control and record people, equipment and vehicles entering the property, where practical and reasonable.
- control and regularly monitor livestock health on farm.
- ensure all livestock movements between owners are accompanied by an Animal Health Statement (or equivalent).



Those producers who have developed a Farm Biosecurity Plan as part of their approach to **Johne's Disease (JD) management** under the J-BAS program can use that Farm Biosecurity Plan to meet LPA program requirements. A specific learning module to guide producers through LPA's on-farm biosecurity requirements will be available in July.

Producers looking for more information on Johne's disease management and transitional arrangements for J-BAS are urged to visit the Animal Health Australia [website](#), who are delivering the changes on behalf of Cattle Council of Australia.

More information:

- Website: LPA biosecurity requirements**
 - Factsheet: LPA biosecurity requirements**
 - A farm biosecurity plan template**
 - Frequently asked questions**
-



Animal welfare requirements

From 1 October 2017, LPA accredited producers will need to demonstrate that their on-farm handling of livestock is consistent with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs).

Those responsible for livestock management will need to have a copy of the S&Gs, be familiar with its content, complete the LPA learning module (or equivalent training), and advise and oversee others handling livestock in a manner that is consistent with the S&Gs.

More information:

Website

Standards and Guidelines

Factsheet: LPA animal welfare requirements

Frequently asked questions

Assessment and accreditation

From October 2017, producers will be required to renew their LPA accreditation once every three years, and will need to complete a short assessment to do this.

They will need to answer all questions correctly to have their LPA accreditation renewed and are encouraged to work through the learning modules in preparation to ensure they understand all requirements of the program.

New animal welfare and biosecurity learning modules will become a part of the LPA Learning from October 2017. These are available online but also in hard-copy, for those producers who can't access the LPA learning online, at a cost of \$20 plus GST.

Renewing the accreditation of the 215,000 livestock producers currently involved in LPA will be a gradual process, with all producers expected to complete the assessment and renew their accreditation by 2020. As previously mentioned, producers will be contacted approximately two months before their LPA accreditation is due and given instructions for working through the new process online.

More information:

Frequently asked questions

LPA Learning modules

Timeline for implementation

