**NSQA**

**Newsletter**

May 2022

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**National Saleyards Quality Assurance Inc.** IAN A0050263X ABN 76 657 458 542

Postal address: 4 Corio Bay Court*, CLIFTON SPRINGS, VIC., 3222*

Phone: 0422 312 607 E-mail: [nsqaadmin@bigpond.com](mailto:nsqaadmin@bigpond.com) [www.nsqa.com](http://www.nsqa.com).au

President: Ian O’Loan OAM Executive Officer: Mark McDonald

**President’s Report**



The challenge we started last year has continued. Covid is here to stay and some permanent changes although not documented as such are locked in for future operations.

*Ian O’Loan OAM President*

**AUSMEAT MOU EXTENSION**

The NSQA board recently extended the MOU for the delivery of the sale yard audit services that are a key part of the NSQA system. Ausmeat has been contracted to continue to provide the services for another 3 years. Minor changes were made to the MOU as part of the negotiations. This extension will ensure ongoing continuity for the NSQA system.

**CHANGES TO NSQA AUDIT CONTENT – July 1, 2022**

The NSQA board has considered a number of changes to the current system and audit process. These are detailed below and will be introduced from July 1, 2022. These changes are designed to enhance the NSQA system and to keep up with changing legislative and industry practices. The NSQA system is a dynamic system that evolves as conditions change to ensure that members undertake industry best practice.

1. Sale yard Location;

A new clause will seek documentation regarding the sites relevant environmental approval. These are provided by EPA or other state authorities. This is likely to be a once off process as once this documentation is sighted it only needs updating if the site approvals changes.

3.2.1 Animal Welfare Officer

Yards will need to nominate a designated animal welfare officer as part of their defined roles and responsibilities. This is to bring the system in line with the current Sale yard Animal Welfare standards applicable across Australia.

In most cases this role will already be undertaken by a designated site staff member as part of their standard duties so will only require a minor adjustment to their current roles and responsibility list.

However, where yards use third party operators to manage and operate sales these parties would need to nominate their designated animal welfare officer.

It is also possible that this role might be shared between a number of staff members at your site. This is also a viable response to this new clause.

Documents

Animal Euthanasia – ( Haz 23). This table will be expanded to capture additional information including euthanasia operator, method of disposal etc.

Chemical usage – This table will be expanded to include batch number and with holding period. Most yards are only minor users of chemicals so this change will not affect the data capture process significantly.

This also includes chemicals used in dips and applied on behalf of producers.

These changes will be reflected in new pre sale audit documents and the actual audit process. However, these are not expected to add significantly to the audit process in terms of complexity or time.

**CHANGES TO ANNUAL CERTIFICATE PROCESS – July 1, 2022**

Currently the NSQA executive officer issues the annual NSQA certificate of compliance after each audit report is received from Ausmeat. These are usually received within 2 weeks of the actual audit. From July 1, 2022 a new process will be undertaken in relation to the issuing of these compliance certificates.

If an audit is 100% compliant (no CARs) then the certificate will be issued immediately upon arrival from Ausmeat.

However, if the audit identifies any outstanding actions that need to be addressed (as CAR’s in the audit report) the certificate will not be issued until these CAR’s have been rectified. Most CAR’s raised are only minor and are usually fixed within a short period of time as nominated by the auditor. Once Ausmeat has been notified of the CAR correction NSQA will issue the certificate to the sale yard.

This change is designed to ensure that yards are motivated to undertake the CAR correction in the nominated timeframe and to ensure full 100% compliance.

NSQA is available to help yards with any CAR’s raised by their audit as part of this process.

**SOFT FLOORING**

Recently NSQA has received enquiry from members in relation to the use of soft flooring. Currently no national standards are available for their use in Saleyards and only guidelines have been generally distributed. This is a wide spread industry practice using a number of possible materials including organic and matting materials. This also applies to other factors like replacement practices and intra sale management of the organic options.

The NSQA board has written to MLA as the main industry body to request further assistance in providing more up to date guidelines and if possible standards for this area.

Previously NSQA has notified members in relation to management of steel infrastructure and soft flooring materials, e.g. to prevent rust and corrosion of vertical supports.

**RAMP STANDARDS**

Recent feedback has indicated that the Victorian Worksafe office has sent documentation to all Victorian yards in relation to ramp safety. NSQA is following this case closely to determine what actions Worksafe is undertaking as part of this campaign.

Members will be aware that a new ramp standard is now operational across the industry that applies to new installation and modifications to existing ramps. Existing ramps if still considered safe are not required to upgrade to the new standard unless they undertake a major modification or are replaced.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT NSQA THEN CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER – 0422 312607**

[**nsqaadmin@bigpond.com**](mailto:nsqaadmin@bigpond.com)

***Details are also at the AUSMEAT website***

[www.ausmeat.com.au](http://www.ausmeat.com.au/)

Just click on the NSQA Logo

**Audits should be arranged by direct contact with Wayne Williamson at AUSMEAT**

**Phone: 07 3361 9211 0427 610 463**

**LIST OF CURRENT NSQA**

**ACCREDITED SALEYARDS**

05/1998 Casino, NSW

29/2001 Coonamble, NSW

37/2002 Cowra, NSW

18/2000 Deniliquin, NSW

07/1998 Dubbo, NSW

14/1999 Finley, NSW Cattle only

41/2002 Glen Innes, NSW

39/2002 Gloucester, NSW

44/2003 Grafton, NSW

01/1998 Inverell, NSW

34/2001 Kempsey, NSW

40/2002 Lismore, NSW

36/2001 Maitland, NSW Cattle only

09/1999 Mudgee, NSW

35/2001 Narrabri, NSW Cattle only

47/2004 Bairnsdale, Victoria

19/2000 Bendigo, Victoria

51/2014 Casterton, Victoria

08/1998 Colac, Victoria

33/2001 Echuca, Victoria

27/2000 Hamilton, Victoria

31/2001 Horsham, Victoria

46/2003 Kerang, Victoria

38/2002 Ouyen, Victoria

10/1998 Shepparton, Victoria

04/1998 Swan Hill, Victoria

12/1999 Wangaratta, Victoria

49/2010 Warracknabeal, Victoria

50/2011 Wycheproof, Victoria

06/1998 Millicent, S.A.

26/2000 Mount Gambier, SA

28/2000 Naracoorte, SA

11/1999 Biloela, Qld.

48/2005 Charters Towers, Qld

03/1998 Gympie, Qld.

32/2001 Moura, Qld.

52/2016 Warwick, Qld

24/2017 Dalby, QLD