

CHANGES TO NFAS RULES AND STANDARDS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Changes recommended by the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) review will be introduced nationwide from November 2017, and become effective 1 March 2018.

Overall, this is a good opportunity for feedlots to review and update their Quality Management Systems. The specific changes outlined below will need to be incorporated and implemented. However, a more general update of the layout and structure of your Quality Management System may be warranted to keep it relevant to your feedlot operation.

New feedlot definition

'Feedlot' means a constructed facility with designated water points where cattle are confined with a stocking density of 25m² per standard cattle unit (SCU) or less and are fed only a prepared ration for the purposes of production.

Do I need to change anything?

A new feedlot definition has been developed which specifies a stocking density per standard cattle unit (SCU). This definition allows feedlots to be clearly differentiated from other grain-feeding production systems that operate outside of NFAS accreditation.

NFAS feedlots need to review their own stocking density to ensure it does not exceed 25m² per SCU.

More information:

Definitions of 'feedlot', 'standard cattle unit (SCU)' and 'stocking density' can be found in the *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Rules* November 2017 section 2.1 Definitions.

Module 1 – Quality Management System

ELEMENT QM7 – Notification of Non-Conforming Product/Product Recall:

Systems are in place to identify and communicate non-conforming product

- New element that expands on and strengthens the previous requirements to ensure feedlots have a mechanism to report and address non-conforming product to external customers.
- Non-conforming product can relate to food safety, product integrity or customer requirements.

Do I need to change anything?

As this is a new element, procedures need to be developed to ensure the buyer (consignee) is immediately notified when any animals dispatched from the feedlot are identified as non-conforming product. Non-conforming product includes:

- Food safety concerns – for animals sent to slaughter still within a withholding period or export slaughter interval for a veterinary chemical, animals that have come into contact with agricultural chemicals either directly or through contaminated feed or water, or animals that have had access to restricted animal material (RAM) or biosolids.
- Product integrity concerns – for the incorrect completion of NFAS delivery dockets and NVDs or the false declaration of non-HGP-treated cattle.





- Customer requirements – where animals that have been sent to slaughter fail to meet customer specifications.

Procedures may already be in place from the previous element QM2 that included performance indicators relating to buyer notification of contaminated or potentially contaminated product, or incorrectly completed NFAS delivery dockets. These procedures can be removed from element QM2 and expanded on and incorporated into this new element.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element QM7.

Module 1 – Quality Management System

ELEMENT QM8 – Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning:

Systems are in place to identify and mitigate the impact of potential emergency situations

- New element that expands risk assessment and contingency planning beyond biosecurity and animal disease.
- Direct response to past incidents and the importance of considering the risks to individual operations and potential contingencies.

Do I need to change anything?

This is a new element that increases the emphasis on the identification of risks that have the potential to negatively affect the feedlot's ability to care for animals and the environment. Feedlots need to consider the potential risks that may affect their individual site and develop documented contingency plans for these identified risks.

A number of contingency plans should already exist within your quality system Element LM8 – Contingency Planning that can be reviewed, updated and relocated to this new element.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element QM8.

Module 1 – Quality Management System

ELEMENT QM9 – Calibration:

Systems are in place to ensure that equipment used to measure and weigh are regularly cleaned and calibrated

- New element that deals with equipment calibration to ensure equipment used to measure and weigh is regularly cleaned and calibrated.
- Improves alignment of NFAS with LPA and commercial requirements such as the Woolworths Livestock Standards.

Do I need to change anything?

This is a new element requiring procedures to be developed to ensure equipment used for weighing and measuring is checked for operational efficiency before use and is calibrated regularly.



More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element QM9.

Module 2 – Food Safety Management

- The term ‘on-farm’ has been removed from the outcome for elements:
 - FS1 – Property Risk Assessment
 - FS2 – Safe and Responsible Animal Treatment
 - FS3 – Fodder Crop, Grain and Pasture Treatments and Stock Foods
 - FS4 – Preparation for Dispatch of Livestock
- Improves the terminology used within this module.
- No further changes to the elements or performance indicators.

Do I need to change anything?

Feedlots may review their quality system documentation and remove the term ‘on-farm’ from the outcomes for elements FS1, FS2, FS3 and FS4. This has had minimal impact on the performance indicators and therefore existing feedlot procedures for Food Safety Management.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Elements FS1, FS2, FS3 and FS4.

Module 3 – Livestock Management

ELEMENT LM4 – Animal Welfare:

- Updated to include reference to the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle*.
- Additional performance indicator has been included:
Procedures are in place to investigate, manage and record any incidents of animal cruelty.
- Demonstrates a commitment to the latest national welfare standards and guidelines and formalises the requirements for the investigation and management of any incidents of animal cruelty.

Do I need to change anything?

Download a copy of the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle* and review existing animal welfare procedures against these new standards and guidelines.

Develop a new procedure to investigate, manage and record any incidents of animal cruelty reported at the feedlot.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element LM4.

See [*Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle*](#)



Module 3 – Livestock Management

ELEMENT LM6 – Biosecurity:

- Additional performance indicator has been included:
The feedlot has conducted a risk assessment addressing the biosecurity risk at the feedlot site and formulated a biosecurity management plan.
- Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan is now included in this element.
- Demonstrates the increased emphasis on biosecurity and the risk assessment process.

Do I need to change anything?

A biosecurity risk assessment needs to be completed for your site and a biosecurity management plan developed for the feedlot. This plan incorporates the outcomes and measures identified in the risk assessment as well as several of the procedures from your existing biosecurity element.

It is also necessary to review and incorporate your existing Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan from Element LM8 – Contingency Planning.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element LM6.

See [National Biosecurity Manual for Beef Cattle Feedlots](#)

Module 3 – Livestock Management

ELEMENT LM7 – Livestock Incident Reporting:

- This element has been significantly updated to provide increased clarity to feedlot operators of their requirements to report incidents involving an unusual number of sick animals or deaths within a 24-hour period.
- Trigger levels have been reviewed and clear numbers provided instead of percentages.
- Emphasis is on sharing responsibilities and actions during an incident.
- Morbidity and mortality triggers clarified now within any 24-hour period.

Cattle on Feed (head)	Level 1		Level 2	Level 3
	Morbidity (pulls)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)
50 to 150	20	3	6	15
151 to 500	20	3	7	16
501 to 1000	20	3	8	17
1001 to 3000	30	3	11	20
3001 to 5000	40	4	12	21
5001 to 7500	55	6	30+	60+
7501 to 10,000	70	7	30+	60+
10,001 to 20, 000	140	9	50+	100+
20,001 to 40, 000	280	11	50+	100+
40,001 head or above	350	15	50+	100+



Do I need to change anything?

Understand that livestock incident reporting refers to any unusual number of sick animals or deaths that occur within any 24-hour period.

Identify the morbidity and mortality triggers for your relevant number of cattle on feed and review/update existing procedures to ensure reporting and recording responsibilities are identified and understood.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element LM7 and Appendix 7.

Module 3 – Livestock Management

- ELEMENT LM8 – Contingency Planning has been removed as the content has been incorporated into:
 - ELEMENT QM8 – Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning.
 - ELEMENT LM6 – Biosecurity.

Do I need to change anything?

Ensure that any procedures or plans developed previously in Element LM8 Contingency Planning have been incorporated into the relevant elements of the new standards.

Contingency plans are to be incorporated into the new Element QM8 – Risk assessment and contingency planning, while your Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Action Plan should now be included in Element LM6 – Biosecurity.

The original element LM8 can then be removed from your quality management system.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element QM8 and LM6.

Module 4 – Environmental Management

ELEMENT EM1 – Environmental Management:

- Element updated to include environmental nuisance as an issue that needs to be addressed.
- Range of potential sources of environmental nuisance and/or harm broadened to include feedlot by-products, feedlot refuse, hazardous substances and dangerous goods.
- Storage, use, containment and disposal of above sources considered.

Do I need to change anything?

Performance indicators have been updated and new ones have been added to this element. Procedures need to be developed to reduce the potential for environmental nuisance and/or harm from the storage, use and disposal of feedlot by-products, feedlot refuse, hazardous substances and dangerous goods. Containment facilities for the above items need to be in place and maintained to ensure their function.



More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element EM1.

Definitions of ‘feedlot by-products’, ‘feedlot refuse’, ‘hazardous substances’ and ‘dangerous goods’ can be found in the *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Rules* November 2017 – 2.1 Definitions.

Module 4 – Environmental Management

ELEMENT EM6 – Environmental Incident Reporting:

Systems are in place to ensure any incidents that have the potential to cause environmental harm are reported to the relevant stakeholders

- New element deals specifically with environmental incident reporting.
- Outlines responsibilities and highlights the importance of reporting.
- Complements environmental incident response management plans.

Do I need to change anything?

This is a new element that requires feedlots to have procedures in place to address the management and communication of environmental incidents to stakeholders including but not limited to neighbours, local council and/or state government.

Some feedlots may already have environmental incident response plans in place which can be incorporated into this element.

More information:

See *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Standards* November 2017 section 1.0 Standards and section 2.0 Performance Indicators – Element EM6.

A definition of ‘environmental incident’ can be found in the *National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme Rules* November 2017 – 2.1 Definitions.

When do I need to make these changes?

The new *NFAS Rules and Standards* will be introduced from November 2017, and housed on the [AUS-MEAT](#) website. However, these will not become effective until 1 March 2018. In order to ensure compliance, all changes need to be incorporated into the feedlot’s documented quality system and operations by 1 March 2018.