

Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS)

The Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports (IGLAE) is undertaking a review to examine the processes and systems that support the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's (the department) decision-making regarding approvals, monitoring, reporting, compliance and responsive actions undertaken towards industry exporting livestock through the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS).

The ESCAS is a supply chain assurance framework system requiring industry to have commercial arrangements with supply chain partners that upholds international World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) animal welfare standards for Australian livestock. ESCAS regulates animal welfare outcomes from the point of disembarkation in the importing country through to the point of slaughter.

The consideration of upholding good animal welfare standards of Australian livestock are consistently at the forefront of the Australian public's interest especially since the suspension of the live cattle trade to Indonesia on 8 June 2011.

Exporters must maintain control and traceability of livestock along the supply chain. Facilities within the supply chain need to be independently audited according to the department's requirements. Exporters are required to provide the department with an end of processing report and an independent performance audit report.

Any non-compliance reported along the supply chain is investigated by the department. All ESCAS performance reports are published on the department's website (following completion of any investigations).

In scope

The scope of this review covers the department's systems and processes for implementation of the ESCAS system, and will consider:

- the supply chain movement of Australian feeder and slaughter livestock being exported from the point of disembarkation through to the point of slaughter in an overseas country
- the ESCAS approval process, including variations
- how international animal welfare standards are upheld
- the extent to which ESCAS provides assurance of control through the supply chain
- the extent to which ESCAS provides assurance of traceability through the supply chain
- if the department provides assurance of compliance with the legislation, standards, policies and procedures for the export of livestock
- Livestock Global Assurance Program (LGAP), Collective Standards for Animal Welfare (CSAW) and other third party assurance systems
- the department's processes for engagement and consultation with industry, government agencies and other stakeholders in managing animal welfare issues
- ESCAS reporting requirements including the investigation process of reported and unreported incidents

- examine the efficacy, timeliness and transparency in the department’s risk management system, including the extent to which they contribute to strategic risk-based regulatory practice and informing improvements in the management of animal welfare
- the independent auditing process
- in-market consultation countries: Middle East (Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, UAE, Israel, and Jordan), Indonesia, South East Asia (Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, and Cambodia)
- if departmental work instructions are current and relevant.

Out of scope

This review will not examine:

- supply chain elements related to the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL)
- livestock other than sheep, goats, cattle (feeder and slaughter), buffalo, deer and camelids
- the livestock exporter’s approved arrangement
- the granting of export licenses, permits and health certificates
- cost-recovery charges
- importing country requirements
- the former Livestock Export Accreditation Program
- mixture of ESCAS and non-ESCAS livestock being processed in the one facility

Preparing your submission

Prior to making a submission it is recommended that you consider the scope of the review above; submissions that address topics outside of the scope may not be considered further.

When making a submission, the inclusion of specific examples or data, where possible, will assist the Inspector-General. Submissions are not required to meet a defined format or length but you should include a summary of your key comments if the submission is greater than three pages.

Contact

If you wish to discuss this review or how to make a submission you can contact iglae@agriculture.gov.au or call + 61 2 6271 6361