

Guidelines for Accreditation of Non-Veterinary Pregnancy Testing of Feeder and Slaughter Cattle for Export and Slaughter Cattle for Export

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY BRANCH

THESE GUIDELINES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Regulation:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au> administered by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) requires competency standards for pregnancy testing of slaughter or feeder female cattle and buffalo for export. The relevant standard (S1.9) is attached (Attachment 1).

An Export Advisory Notice (EAN) 2013-01 ID specifies additional identification and reporting requirements for the pregnancy status of cattle sourced for live export.

EAN 2016-21 (26 August 2016) – Pregnancy Declarations – all species specifies the requirements including that a list of NLIS Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFIDs) of pregnancy tested animals must be attached to the Vendor declaration.

EAN 2016-22 (26 August 2016) – Pregnancy testing requirements for cattle specifies who can and how pregnancy testing can be done for live export including that only veterinarians can test productive heifers / breeders.

For the purpose of certification of cattle intended for export from Northern Territory or Western Australia to certain countries that are not pregnant, DAWR Biosecurity Live Animal Exports accepts certification by a registered veterinarian or a person accredited by the relevant agency in the State or Territory for the purpose of certification of non-pregnant cattle for export from Northern Territory (NT) or Western Australia.

In all other jurisdictions pregnancy testing for export must be done by a registered veterinarian. Under the State Veterinary legislation, pregnancy testing is considered an act of veterinary surgery in Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Authorisation in Western Australia is managed by the WA Veterinary Surgeons Board <http://www.vsbwa.org.au>

DAWR Biosecurity Live Animal Exports will require the accreditation number of non-veterinary pregnancy testers to be written on the vendor declaration form for export. Investigation of false declarations for pregnancy testing may be made under the Export Control Act administered by DAWR Biosecurity.

Accreditation by the NT Department of Primary Industry & Resources (DPIR).

PLEASE NOTE THIS PROCESS IS UNDER REVIEW.

authorise the provision of non-veterinary pregnancy testing services for live export in the NT. A person may apply for accreditation to be recognised as a non-veterinary pregnancy tester for slaughter and feeder cattle for export from NT by:

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1. Completing the accreditation application form available on the DPIR website <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/moving-and-exporting-livestock/exporting-livestock-from-the-nt> and scroll down to - **Pregnancy Testing**.
2. Attaching a copy of the Memorandum of Grades provided by a Recognized Training Organisation (RTO) for the nationally recognized course *Pregnancy test animals AHCLSK408*

Applicants meeting these criteria will be accredited for pregnancy testing slaughter and feeder cattle for export which originate in the NT. The accreditation does not allow pregnancy testing of cattle or buffalo for export in or through other States.

A certificate of accreditation will be posted to the applicant with an accreditation number which is used when the accredited person provides certification that export cattle are non-pregnant. Accreditation will last for a period of three (3) years, providing conditions for maintenance of competency are complied with.

Maintenance of accreditation will rely on ongoing pregnancy testing activity with a moving average of at least 500 cattle per year over a three (3) year period, annual reporting of pregnancy testing activity to DPIR, pregnancy testing for export purposes.

Pregnancy Testing Training

The Charles Darwin University (CDU) Katherine Rural Campus is a Recognised Training Organisation (RTO) which provides the nationally recognized pregnancy testing training course *Pregnancy test animals AHCLSK408* and the practical test and theory examination required for export accreditation.

The assessment can be undertaken on a commercial cattle property with a suitable crush, race and forcing yards with prior arrangement through the CDU Katherine Rural Campus. The assessment can be combined with normal management activities.

Assessment by theory and practical examination will be:

- Undertake a practical examination in diagnosing 20 animals as pregnant or non-pregnant (100% accuracy).
- Undertake a theory examination (minimum score of 80%)

Katherine Rural campus contacts

General enquires | Freecall: 1800 779 577 | Ph: (08) 8973 8311

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Maintenance of Competency:

Maintenance of accreditation will rely upon the satisfactory performance of the accredited person and compliance with the conditions set out in these guidelines.

1. Accreditation is valid for a three (3) year period.
2. The accredited person must maintain records of:

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- a) the date of each pregnancy testing examination;
 - b) the name and address of the owner of the cattle;
 - c) the property on which the cattle were examined;
 - d) the number of cattle examined;
 - e) the number of cattle determined to be pregnant by the accredited person.
3. Each year, the accredited person must submit the following documentation to the Department of Primary Industry & Resources by 31 December:
- a) Pregnancy testing activity form
 - b) Pregnancy testing records for the year
4. A complaint has not been received related to competency. A formal process of investigation will be established to investigate complaints.

Evidence of pregnancy testing activity can be provided by:

- Export pregnancy testing records which can be corroborated by exporter or DAWR Biosecurity;
- Production pregnancy testing records corroborated by employer.

The Department of DPI&R may cancel the accreditation of an accredited pregnancy tester if after due enquiry there is substantiated evidence to show that a person is not competent. The person will have the opportunity to respond to evidence presented.

The criteria for maintenance of competency may be reviewed by DPIR in consultation with stakeholders. Amendments will be published on the Department of Primary Industry and Resources website, and accredited persons will be advised by mail.

Record Keeping by DPIR

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources will maintain a register of accredited persons which is published on the Department of Primary Industry & Resources website a <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/animal-health-and-diseases> and click on **Exports - Pregnancy Testing**.

A list of accredited pregnancy testers will also be provided to DAWR Biosecurity Live Animal Export veterinarians and the Northern Territory Livestock Exporters Association (NTLEA).

Accredited pregnancy testers will be notified in writing 3 months prior to the date of accreditation expiry. The current address maintained by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources will be used for contact with accredited persons. It is the responsibility of the accredited person to notify the agency of a change of address.

DPI&R Contact

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Further Information:

Charles Darwin University (CDU) Katherine Campus

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<http://www.cdu.edu.au/campuses/katherine/campus.html>

Pregnancy test animals (AHCLSK408) course details and Recognized Training Organisations (RTOs) <http://training.gov.au/Training/Details/AHCLSK408A>

Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Live Animal Exports: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/>

Australian Standards for Live Export (ASEL) V2.3 <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/>

Northern Territory Livestock Exporters Association (NTLEA) <http://www.ntlea.com.au/>

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