



Integrity Systems

red meat customer assurance

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ASSURANCE

STAND BY WHAT YOU SELL



28 August 2017



149996 040

Peta Bell Peter & Penny Hayes
Hayes & Co Harrisville
PO Box 2
HARRISVILLE QLD 4307

Dear Peta Bell,

As a livestock producer accredited under the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program, I'm writing to inform you of important upgrades to the program that you need to be aware of. These changes are being led by the red meat and livestock industry and are being implemented to strengthen our promise to consumers, stay ahead of our competitors and to enable you and the broader industry to stand by what we sell.

As an LPA accredited producer, you can be proud to be a part of the Australian red meat industry's world leading on-farm assurance program. It provides evidence of livestock history and of on-farm practices when transferring livestock through the value chain, which gives Australian red meat its strong reputation for being safe and ethically produced, and enables access to over 100 markets around the globe for your livestock.

To date, LPA accredited producers have been required to implement on-farm practices across five program elements:

- property risk assessments
- safe and responsible animal treatments
- stock foods, fodder crops, grain and pasture treatments
- preparation for dispatch of livestock
- livestock transactions and movements.

From 1 October 2017, the new LPA program requirements will include:

- 1. On-farm biosecurity and animal welfare practices become requirements of your LPA accreditation**
 - 2. You will need to renew LPA accreditation every three years**
 - 3. You will need to complete an assessment and pay a \$66 (including GST) fee to renew accreditation.**
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What does this mean for you?

Biosecurity requirements

From 1 October 2017, you'll need to have a Farm Biosecurity Plan in place and implement best-practice biosecurity practices on your farm to ensure you're meeting LPA requirements.

A Farm Biosecurity Plan template is included with this letter, or go to www.mla.com.au/biosecurity (under Tools & Resources) to access an online version. Cattle producers who have developed a Farm Biosecurity Plan as part of their approach to Johne's Disease (JD) management will not need to complete another to meet LPA requirements. You're encouraged to complete the online biosecurity learning module available at www.mla.com.au/LPALearning to help you understand what the requirements mean for your business.

Animal welfare requirements

From 1 October 2017, you'll need to demonstrate that your on-farm handling of livestock is consistent with the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* available at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au.

Those responsible for livestock management will need to have a copy of the *Standards and Guidelines*, be familiar with its content, and advise and oversee others handling livestock in a manner that is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines.

Completing the animal welfare online learning module will support you in understanding what you need to do on farm. Visit www.mla.com.au/LPALearning to help you understand what the requirements mean for your business.

Assessment and fee

Under the new program rules, you'll need to renew your accreditation **once every three years**. This involves completing a short online assessment and paying a \$66 (including GST) fee. You'll be contacted approximately **two months** before your accreditation is due and given instructions for working through the new process online. To make sure you receive your pack, check your email and postal address details are current by logging in to the LPA Service Centre (<http://lpa.nlis.com.au>). If you do not complete the assessment and pay the fee when your accreditation is due you will no longer be LPA accredited and will not be able to access or use LPA National Vendor Declarations (NVDs).

No internet?

For those producers who do not have access to the internet, you can purchase a hard copy of LPA Learning for \$22 (including GST) via the LPA hotline on 1800 683 111. The hard copy LPA Learning pack includes an offline option for completing the assessment and accreditation.

Electronic NVDs (eNVDs)

To support producers in minimising paperwork, eNVDs are now available through the LPA Service Centre (<https://lpa.nlis.com.au>) and licensed software providers. eNVDs are now available for producers to access at no cost and allow you to complete LPA NVDs, Meat Standards Australia declarations, animal health declarations and National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme delivery documentation through a single system.

For individual supply chains that do not yet accept eNVDs, you can still access eNVDs for free and print out the declarations to accompany livestock. It is not compulsory to change to the eNVD. You can continue using the current paper version (04/13) of LPA NVDs (which will remain at \$40 per book).

Where to start

As an LPA-accredited producer you need to:

Before 1 October

- become familiar with the new biosecurity and animal welfare requirements. You can complete online training through www.mla.com.au/LPAlearning, which has dedicated modules for biosecurity and animal welfare, as well as all other LPA elements
- develop your Farm Biosecurity Plan
- learn more about the changes to LPA by reading the FAQs www.mla.com.au/lpachanges

From 1 October

- ensure that your on-farm systems meet the new requirements
- have your Farm Biosecurity Plan in place
- ensure your on-farm handling of livestock is consistent with the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* for cattle, sheep or goats
- complete the assessment and pay the fee - when your accreditation is due.

The changes are being implemented by the Integrity Systems Company, a subsidiary of Meat & Livestock Australia. They will enhance and strengthen our world-leading integrity system which underpins our reputation for safe, high quality red meat. Meeting and exceeding these requirements provides you with a competitive advantage, and the best opportunity to sell your livestock for the highest possible price in the greatest number of markets. If you have any further queries about what you need to do, email lpa@mla.com.au or call the LPA hotline on 1800 683 111.

Yours sincerely



Jane Weatherley
Chief Executive Officer
Integrity System Company

