

Hormone Growth Promotants (HGP) and Correct Status Declaration

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General

Part of the cattle industry's commitment to food safety and product integrity is the correct use of National Vendor Declarations (NVDs). This includes the correct declaration of the HGP status of all cattle.

Declaring cattle as HGP Free

Only declare cattle HGP free if:

- (a) they were bred on your property and you know they have never been treated with HGPs or;
- (b) you have evidence showing that these particular cattle have never in their lives been treated with HGPs.

Acceptable evidence includes:

1. an agent's post-sale summary or buyers reconciliation report identifying the seller and endorsed with the words 'HGP free'; or
2. a signed statement or LPA NVD from the previous owner declaring the cattle to be HGP free.

You must also check that the stock does not have any HGP implants in order to validate the information you have been provided in the associated documents (NVDs, post-sale summaries, buyers reconciliation reports).

Cattle that have been treated with HGPs may be identified by the presence of a triangular ear mark in the right ear and by palpating the ears to feel for the HGP implant.

Once an implant has been applied, it remains with the animal permanently and can be detected beneath the skin, even after the hormone has been depleted.

Record Keeping

It is a requirement under the *Stock Diseases Regulations 2009* clause 22 that all buyers or persons receiving cattle after sale, and all vendors or persons sending cattle to sale, must keep records of all NVDs for seven years. For agents and abattoirs the period is two years.

It is essential that vendors provide accurate information in each section of the NVD. Do not rely on memory or what you have been informed about the HGP status of the cattle.

Remember: The person who signs this Declaration is declaring all information in Part A is true and accurate.

HGP Status unknown

If you do not have the associated documents, have not validated the documents against the cattle or in any way are not 100% sure of the HGP status you must declare the cattle as HGP treated.

Use a separate document for the 'HGP free' cattle.

Misrepresentation of chemical residue status

Both the cattle industry and NSW Department of Primary Industries view false and misleading declarations regarding the residue status of cattle with utmost concern. Unacceptable contaminants in beef products destined for domestic or overseas consumption place these markets at risk and may cause serious economic impact throughout the entire economy. The value of Australian cattle and calf production (including live export) is approximately \$7.9 billion (source: Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics 2011-12).

Misrepresenting the chemical residue status of cattle may potentially jeopardise the integrity of the NSW beef production and marketing chain.

Breaches of the Legislation

Investigations of suspected HGP treated cattle that are sold as HGP free may be conducted under Commonwealth legislation if the product was destined for export markets or if the product was destined for the domestic market, under State legislation, the *NSW Stock (Chemical Residues) Act 1975* section 12B Representations on sale of stock after treatment.

A seller of stock who represents to the buyer that the stock have not been treated with a stock medicine or other substance (HGPs) specified in an order is guilty of an offence if the seller:

- (a) knew that the stock had been treated with such a stock medicine or other substance, or
- (b) did not know whether the stock had been so treated (i.e. did not know that the stock had not been treated).

Penalties for breaches of the Legislation

Stock (Chemical Residues) Act 1975 section 12. Penalty Notices (fines) of \$1,100 may be issued for breaches of this section. The maximum penalty for individuals is \$22,000 or, for an offence by a corporation, \$44,000.

Stock Diseases Regulations 2009 section 22. Penalty Notices (fines) of \$550 may be issued for breaches for failure to keep NVDs for seven years from the date of sale. The maximum penalty is \$11,000.

To avoid any penalty please ensure you meet all your compliance requirements by correctly completing each NVD.

More information

Meat and Livestock Australia, general enquires phone: 1800 023 100 (Australia only). Email: info@mla.com.au

Contact your local [NSW Livestock Health and Pest Authority \(LHPA\)](#).

From 1st January 2014 contact your [Local Land Service \(LLS\)](#) office.

Acknowledgments

Meat and Livestock Australia.

<http://www.mla.com.au/Meat-safety-and-traceability/Livestock-Production-Assurance/Vendor-declarations>

<http://www.mla.com.au/About-the-red-meat-industry/Industry-overview/Cattle>

For updates go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/factsheets

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