

Stockfeed vendor declarations

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Introduction

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm food safety program. It meets the stringent requirements of beef export markets, providing assurances about the safety of red meat grown by Australian cattle producers. Part of the LPA program ensures that livestock are not fed any material that may contain unacceptable chemical residues or restricted animal material. Obtaining vendor declarations from fodder and stockfeed producers helps beef producers comply with that requirement.

Types of vendor declarations

When purchasing stockfeeds, producers may receive, or can request the following vendor declarations:

1. Commodity Vendor Declaration (CVD)

All introduced feeds should be accompanied by a CVD, where possible. Alternatively, producers need to assess the risk of chemical residues or have the feed tested. A CVD can be downloaded from the MLA website or as one of the online EDEC form options. Note that the By Product Vendor Declaration is no longer available, with all stockfeeds now covered by a CVD.

2. Fodder Vendor Declaration

This declaration can be used by fodder (eg hay, silage) producers and is provided by the Australian Fodder Industry Association.

3. Stock food supplier declaration form

This form is provided to members of the Stock Feed Manufacturers Council of Australia who can then supply them to clients ie stockfeed users.

Using the stock feed declarations

Producers can use the information provided on the feed declaration forms to declare information about meat safety in the relevant questions of the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) forms for sale stock. Without one of the above forms for feed that is purchased and fed to stock, producers must answer "Don't know" to Question 7 of the cattle NVD, if those stock are sold within 60 days of consuming the feed.

Feed testing

To have stock feeds tested for chemical residues, a list of accredited laboratories is available from the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia, www.nata.asn.au

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