

Commodity vendor declarations

— the key to your risk management toolbox

A new suite of commodity vendor declarations (CVDs) will provide grain growers with an easy-to-use risk management tool that will protect existing markets for feed grain and ensure Australia's valuable livestock export industry remains viable well into the future.

Australian grain growers have significant input into the nation's livestock industries directly and indirectly as suppliers of grain and fodder.

In 2009-10, Australia exported 63% of its total beef and veal production, with an export value of \$4.11 billion and 57% of its sheepmeat production (45% of lamb and 86% of mutton), with an export value of \$1.39 billion.

Recent boosts to Australia's beef and sheepmeat export markets will see this beneficial relationship between the two industries continue to flourish.

Feed grains also provide a valuable source of supplementary feed through periods of pasture shortage including seasonal pasture feed gaps and drought.

As an integral link in the red meat supply chain, feed grain quality and safety is paramount to Australia's livestock export industries.

At a glance

- ▶ Australia's red meat industry provides a valuable market for the nation's grain growers, who are an integral link in the domestic and export industry supply chain.
- ▶ A new suite of commodity vendor declarations (CVDs) provides grain growers with a risk management tool when delivering grain to livestock markets.
- ▶ The suite of commodity declarations are available as an easy-to-use electronic program in the form of a free download from the internet. Registering for the CVD program can take as little as 5-10 minutes.

Livestock feed declarations have been in use as a quality assurance risk management tool since 1996 and were developed in response to meat contamination from stockfeeds containing chemical residues.

An industry review of the existing stockfeed declarations was recently carried out to better reflect the whole chain process of the cropping industry and also the by-product and fodder industries.

SAFEMEAT, on behalf of the red meat industry, has developed a new suite of livestock feed declarations. The declarations were developed in consultation with the grains and oilseeds industries, bulk grain handlers, stockfeed manufacturers, Horticulture Australia (HA), the Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) and government stakeholders.

These declarations provide grain growers and feed suppliers with an easy-to-use risk management tool to reduce the risk of meat contamination from stockfeeds that may contain residues from chemical treatments associated with the production or storage of livestock feed.

Such residues have the potential to place the integrity of the red meat and livestock industry supply chain at risk. Grain growers can reduce this risk and protect their place in the supply chain by providing commodity and by-product buyers with the relevant commodity vendor declaration form at the time of purchase.

more information

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Livestock feed declarations — the full package

There are five livestock feed declarations available: two commodity vendor declarations (CVDs) for grain and oilseed growers and traders, a multi-vendor storage declaration, a fodder vendor declaration (FVD) and two by-product vendor declarations (BVDs).

CVDs explained

CVDs relate specifically to commodities that are bought or sold as stockfeed.

Two CVDs have been developed to better meet the needs of grain growers and traders:

- ▶ Grain and oilseed grower/grain and oilseed trader
- ▶ Multi-vendor storage declaration

Growers who are supplying a single type of grain or oilseed, that has NOT been blended with another grain or oilseed need to supply the Grain and oilseed grower/grain and oilseed trader form whenever they sell feed grain to a livestock producer (see Page 3 for a sample form).

Growers supplying a blended batch of grain need to supply a Multi-vendor storage declaration CVD with their grain.

FVD and BVDs explained

The Australian Fodder Industry Association Inc (AFIA), has developed a FVD for use by its members that covers hay, silage, straw and stubble feeds:

- ▶ Fodder vendor declaration

This form is for fodders such as straw, hay, silage and sorghum stubble.

Two BVDs have been developed to better meet the needs of by-product producers and processors/manufacturers:

- ▶ By-product grower/by-product trader
- ▶ By-product food processor/manufacturer

A by-product stockfeed includes any plant material not produced primarily for livestock consumption, such as waste fruit, vegetables and fibre crops including peel, pulp, pressings, pomace, grape marc, stem and leaf material, and molasses.

It does not include grain and grain by-product, cotton, cottonseed meal or other oilseeds or oilseed meals.



Easy access

CVDs, the FVD and BVDs are available in an electronic program, which is free to download from the internet (www.mla.com.au/feeddecs).

Grain growers already using the electronic National Vendor Declaration and Waybill computer program (eDEC), can use their existing login details for the electronic CVDs, the FVD and BVDs. Otherwise, registering is a simple and well-guided process (contact lpa@mla.com.au for more details).

Registering for the program can take as little as 5–10 minutes. After accessing the website, easy-to-follow instructions assist in downloading the program, activating and filling in and printing the declarations.

Note: The program will not work on Macintosh (Apple) computers.

more information

- ▶ www.mla.com.au/feeddecs
- ▶ www.safemeat.com.au



**GRAIN AND OILSEED VENDOR
DECLARATION (Ex Grower / Grain Trader)**



Vendor (Sender)

Duplicate

Serial no. **30092766**

Please print clearly.

Vendor's trading name _____

Vendor's name (if different) _____

Vendor's postal address _____

(FULL ADDRESS INCLUDING POSTCODE)

Tel no. **0294639164** _____ Fax no. _____

PIC and/or NGR number _____

This commodity is: Direct ex paddock Ex storage

Paddock I.D./s _____

Storage I.D./s _____

Vendor's contract no. (if applicable) _____

Buyer's trading name and postal address _____

Buyer's contract no. (if applicable) _____ Tonnes represented by this declaration _____

Commodity description _____ Date of harvest . / /20

Delivery period from _____ / /20 to _____ / /20
DAY MONTH YEAR DAY MONTH YEAR

FOR ALL QUESTIONS, PLEASE READ EXPLANATORY NOTES

① Is the property on which the commodity was grown or stored certified under an independently audited QA program which includes chemical residue management relevant to the commodity being supplied?

Yes No If Yes, give details: _____
NAME OF PROGRAM CERTIFICATION NO.

② Has the commodity covered by this declaration been analysed for chemical residues by a laboratory accredited by NATA for the test type required?

Yes No If Yes, attach details of testing results on delivered product.

③ List all agricultural chemicals (excluding fertilisers) applied to the commodity whilst it was under your control (attach additional list if insufficient space):

- a. all post harvest treatments. (including fumigants and insecticides)
- b. for grains and oilseed, from commencement of flowering to harvest.

Product name	Product rate/Ha or tonne	Application date	WHP / ESI
		. / /20	
		. / /20	
		. / /20	
		. / /20	



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Print date/time: 05/08/2010 12:37:59

Phone: 0294639164

User ID: 10009207

④ List all chemicals (excluding fertilisers) applied on your property within 100 metres of the crop producing the commodity covered by this declaration from its commencement of flowering to harvest: (attach additional list if insufficient space)

Crop/situation	Product name	Product rate/Ha	Application date	WHP / ESI
			. / /20	
			. / /20	
			. / /20	
			. / /20	

⑤ Was this commodity produced within a Mandatory No-Spray Zone for a chemical not listed in Q3 or Q4? (see explanatory notes)

Yes No If Yes, chemical(s) _____

⑥ List all Neighbours' Crops grown within 100 metres of the crop from which this commodity was derived: (attach additional list if insufficient space)

Crop	Approx. harvest date (month / year)

⑦ Has the commodity been grown on a property with an assigned chemical residue status?

Yes No

If Yes, give details _____

Declaration

I _____
FULL NAME

Position _____ Phone no. 0294639164

declare that,

- a. I am the duly authorised representative of the Vendor supplying this commodity.
- b. All the information in this document is true and correct.
- c. Whilst under the Vendor's control all chemical applications to the commodity were with registered chemicals in accordance with the chemicals' registered label or APVMA permit.
- d. The commodity supplied complies with all state/territory legislation in relation to Restricted Animal Material and feeds for livestock.
- e. I have read and understood the Explanatory Notes and Questions and have answered all Questions in compliance with the Explanatory Notes.

Signature _____

Date _____
DAY MONTH YEAR



Case study — Butterfield Beef

in detail...

- ▶ Producer
Paul O'Meehan
- ▶ Location
Stirling Ranges,
Western Australia
- ▶ Enterprise
Cereals and beef



Running a nationally-accredited beef feedlot and a 3500-hectare grain operation in south-west Western Australia, producer Paul O'Meehan sees the benefits of commodity vendor declarations (CVDs) from both sides of the fence.

"Sound record keeping is the backbone of our beef and grain operations in a consumer-driven market," Paul explained.

"And CVDs are just part of the overall quality assurance and accreditation process.

"We supply beef to four key retailers — Coles, Woolworths, V&V Walsh and our own brand, Butterfield Beef," he said.

"All our retailers rely on accredited product as a marketing tool to savvy consumers — accreditation ensures a consistent, safe and environmentally-friendly product.

"In turn, this means we need to account for all our inputs and our production systems to maintain this valuable market access."

He explains that there are three pillars in the accreditation process — feed rations, animal welfare and the environment. Each pillar requires risk management procedures to ensure compliance to the system as a whole.

Business as usual

Far from being an onerous chore, Paul finds the paperwork surrounding accreditation a relatively simple, business-as-usual process.

"CVDs provide an important risk management tool that allows us to ensure our feed rations are up to scratch, not only in terms of quality, but end-product food safety — regardless of the supplier."

Paul's own grain goes through the same record-keeping processes as those he requests from his external suppliers. And being familiar with the process means he is happy to provide support for grain growers who are new to CVDs, who may not be so confident with what is required.

"Three or four years ago, when we started sourcing feed grain off farm, many of our potential grain suppliers had not come across the declaration forms before.

"But we simply include the forms as part of our supply contracts and are happy to walk growers through the process," Paul said.

Assured market access

WA grain grower Will Hull has been supplying Paul's feedlot with grain for the past three years and believes CVDs provide an important access point to valuable livestock markets and are just part of good record keeping.

"If you are QA accredited, which we are, you have all the records required to go on the CVD, which makes filling them out only a five-minute job."

Will believes most grain growers have the on-farm records anyway, even if they haven't gone through a formal accreditation process.

"Most growers keep enough records, the only difference is that you actually write down everything you do — which is just sound business management," Will said.

Will believes CVDs open doors to high-value markets and give him immediate market access and a potential marketing edge over growers who are not using CVDs.

"Because we currently use CVDs and are familiar with the process we have easy and immediate access into the feedlot market."

On-farm storage — no problems

With 11,000 hectares of mixing cropping — wheat barley canola and lupins and a small amount of GM canola — Will also takes advantage of 10,000 tonnes worth of storage capacity, which allows him to deliver grain to customers year-round.

"We store all our barley (2000–3000 tonnes), 4000 tonnes of wheat and all of our lupins (1500)," Will said.

With on-farm storage comes the need for meticulous grain hygiene and efficient insect control to maintain grain integrity and quality. But Will explains that this is no hindrance to supplying the feed-grain market as long as sound management practices are followed.

"If you've got bugs you have to get rid of them.

"Having to record your grain treatments promotes best practice and ensures you stick to withholding periods," he added.

CVDs provide grain and beef producers the ideal risk management tool as key suppliers in the food chain.

more information

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FAQs



Photo: Ben White

Are CVDs a regulatory requirement?

The short answer is no, unless the beef producer is part of the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program, whereby CVDs form an essential part of the on farm food safety/quality assurance process.

NOTE: The LPA program is not an approved QA program for grain and oilseed production.

Does my grain need to be tested for residues to comply with the requirements for a CVD?

Before supplying grain, growers should get samples tested for chemical residues and supply a copy of the laboratory's certificate of analysis with the CVD form.

NOTE: NATA is the National Association of Testing Authorities. Any test performed should be accredited as part of the laboratory's NATA accreditation to ISO 17025.

Do I need to include a record of chemicals applied to grain crops between sowing and harvest (ie during the growing season)?

For grains include all chemical applications from the commencement of flowering to harvest and all post harvest treatments (including fumigants and insecticides). If there is insufficient space, attach an additional sheet in the same format (columns).

NOTE: The withholding period (WHP) is the period stated on the product label or an APVMA permit that must elapse between the last application of a chemical and harvesting for human consumption or for stockfeed. For post-harvest use it is the period that must elapse between the last treatment and release for human consumption or for stockfeed.

NOTE: The export slaughter interval (ESI) is the minimum period that must elapse between the removal of livestock to clean pasture or feed and their slaughter, where the livestock have been consuming the treated pasture or feed prior to the expiry of any export animal feed interval.

What is a mandatory No-Spray Zone?

The Mandatory No-Spray Zone is stated on the product label or APVMA permit and is the area downwind of a

chemical application in which spray drift may cause residues in grain, grain by products and oilseed products at levels that are likely to cause unacceptable residues in animals fed those commodities.

Where my crops adjoin a neighbours property, how will this affect my CVD compliance?

List all crops grown by **neighbours** within 100 metres of the crop from which this commodity was harvested and their approximate harvest date. If a locust control authority has sprayed in the area that use should also be noted.

NOTE: You are **not** required to list chemicals applied by neighbours.

My property has been assigned a chemical residue status. How does this affect my ability to supply livestock producers?

T1, T2, T3 and T4 classifications have been allocated to properties, principally in NSW, QLD, VIC and WA, known or suspected to have significant dieldrin, DDT or other organochlorine contamination.

Very few producers are in this position. While T1, T2, T3 and T4 classifications have been allocated to properties known or suspected to have significant dieldrin, DDT or other organochlorine contamination, these do not prevent you selling stockfeed. But a purchaser may reasonably ask why your property has this unresolved status so they can determine whether the contamination could result in a contaminated stockfeed commodity.

The best thing to do if you have such a status is to work with the relevant authorities to have it removed as soon as possible.

Supplies of the suite of Commodity, Fodder and By-product vendor declarations can be downloaded from:

- ▶ www.mla.com.au/feeddecs
- ▶ www.graingrowers.com.au

more information

- ▶ www.mla.com.au/feeddecs
- ▶ www.safemeat.com.au

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