



CASE STUDY 2.13 AMPC RD&E



ANIMAL WELFARE AUDITING

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

The project addresses a growing need for animal welfare auditors to demonstrate specific technical skills required to undertake animal welfare audits in terms of practical experience, formal training and technical background.

BACKGROUND

In the past five years regulators, third party auditors, corporate customers and internal auditors have engaged in ever more rigorous review and audit of animal welfare practices and outcomes in Australian meat processing plants. This auditing has been carried out against the Australian Standard, Codes of Practice, the industry animal welfare standard and the range of corporate standards.

This auditing has been undertaken by a disparate group of auditors with a wide range of backgrounds varying from food technologists to veterinary officers. However to date there has been no requirement to have any specific technical skills to undertake animal welfare audits in terms of practical experience, formal training or technical background. This has meant that on occasions animal welfare key performance indicators have been misunderstood or misinterpreted by either auditors or processors.

In the USA this issue has been addressed by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization, Inc. (PAACO) and the American Meat Institute (AMI) by holding auditing training which feature training and lecturers by leading animal welfare experts such as Temple Grandin.

PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

MINTRAC, with the assistance of the AMPC/AMIC National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, will review the current science and research into animal welfare auditing and then develop an accredited animal welfare auditing training course, supporting training materials and assessment tools.

The training will be trialed with animal welfare trainers, and then four pilot auditing courses will be conducted across the industry.

AMPC will develop the strategy for dissemination.



OBJECTIVES

This project seeks to:

- Provide standardised training for animal welfare auditors in the meat industry
- Ensure a consistent approach to animal welfare auditing across the industry
- Facilitate a consistent approach and interpretation of animal welfare standards across the industry.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

Products

- Accredited training program plus supporting training and assessment materials
- Training
- Train-the-trainer program
- Four pilot courses

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional information can be found in the 'Reports Library' on AMPC's website at www.ampc.com.au. Alternatively, you can contact the AMPC office by phoning 02 9436 0383 or by emailing info@ampc.com.au

