



FINAL REPORT – Professional Development Training Webinars for QA Managers

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Six webinars, each covering a regulatory topic and a 'hot topic' were delivered in 2017. These webinars aimed to build the knowledge and expertise in the Australian Red Meat Industries Quality Assurance staff. The webinars were well received. Post webinar support on topics covered during the webinars was also offered as a part of this project. Two companies utilized this opportunity with a number of participants asking questions on the topics specific to their plants following the webinars. While this project will not be continuing in 2017-18 it is recommended that professional development opportunities in regulatory affairs for Quality Assurance staff continue to be offered.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This project was for the development and delivery of six professional development training webinars for Quality Assurance staff on 'hot' industry topics (such as Animal Welfare, meat science and quality assurance advancements) and regulatory policy awareness and strategy (such as applying for Alternative Procedures and preparing for overseas audits).

The aim of the webinars was to build knowledge and expertise in the Australian Red Meat Industries Quality Assurance staff through the provision of professional development webinars. Six live webinars were held, with two of the webinars repeated on request.

Post webinar support on the topics covered in each webinar was also offered. Two companies utilized this opportunity.

3.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project were to:

- Build knowledge and expertise in the Australian Red Meat Industries Quality Assurance staff through professional development training webinars on 'hot' industry topics and regulatory policy awareness and strategies
- Increase the adoption of new scientific advancements through the training in alternative arrangement options
- Improve productivity through building capability and the implementation of efficiencies

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Six regulatory affairs webinar topics were identified covering a range of regulatory policy awareness and strategy areas. Proposed dates for the webinars were selected to allow approximately 2 months between webinars as well as ensuring there were no clashes with other professional development QA webinars or meeting as much as was possible. The proposed webinar schedule, topics and advertising strategy was approved by AMPC and published on the AMPC and Food and Veterinary Services' websites in February.

The webinars were advertised through AMPC's website, Food and Veterinary Services Pty Ltd's website and by direct email to QAs by Food and Veterinary Services, AMPC, AMIC and MINTRAC. Social media posts on Facebook and Twitter were also used by both AMPC and Food and Veterinary

Services with mutual sharing and additional sharing of the posts by the Red Meat Advisory Council. All of these avenues of advertising the webinars resulted in registrations throughout the project. Attendance was also incentivised by running a competition where attendees of three or more webinars were entered into a draw to win an iPad. This also encouraged attendance and resulted in 4 participants, from 4 different companies in the draw. The winner has been drawn and notified.

The following six regulatory affair webinars were held, followed by hot topics and an open forum for discussion.

Date/Time	Regulatory Topic	Hot Topic	Presenter
17/01/2016 (10 – 12 AEDST)	Always thought there was a better way to do something that means the same outcome? Applying for an Alternative Procedure.	What are we supposed to do with an animal welfare incident in transport, the yards or on plant?	Dr Elizabeth Wilcock
14/2/2017 (10 – 12 AEDST)	What is my role in an audit?	Changes to the Approved Arrangement Guidelines	Dr Elizabeth Wilcock
11/4/2017 (10 – 12 AEDST)	Why should we understand DAWR fees and charges are calculated and what do they all mean?	AMPC Research and Development (R&D) in the Meat Industry.	Dr Elizabeth Wilcock
6/6/2017 (10 – 12 AEDST)	What should I include in an overseas application? How to write a great overseas application for listing.	Halal	Dr Elizabeth Wilcock
15/8/2017 (10 – 12 AEDST)	How does the refrigeration index work? Understanding what the RI is, and what it isn't.	Sanctions Policy	Dr Elizabeth Wilcock
24/10/2017 (10 – 12 AEDST)	The why, when and how of applying for an instrument of exemption.	AMPC Research and Development (R&D) in the Meat Industry.	Dr Elizabeth Wilcock

WebEx was used as the platform for the webinar delivery as it had the required functionality as well as meeting commercial connectivity requirements to aid maximum attendance. Additionally, potential participants were familiar with the system, as WebEx has been used to deliver previous QA webinars. This platform allows for delivery in multiple ways for attendees to participate and interact.

To ensure that frank and open advice could be provided to participants on the topics, the webinars were not recorded. The pdf version of each presentation is being provided to AMPC with a paragraph summary to be uploaded to the AMPC website. An open offer to repeat the webinars has been in place and will continue to be offered through to the end of 2018. Post webinar support was also offered on the topics.

5.0 PROJECT OUTCOMES

Registrants and attendees came from a broad cross section including sheep, beef, pig and game processes, government officers, training organisations and industry bodies. The below table outlines the topics covered in each webinar as well as the number of registrations and attendees at each webinar.

Regulatory Topic	Hot Topic	Number of Registrations	Number of Attendees
Always thought there was a better way to do something that means the same outcome? Applying for an Alternative Procedure	What are we supposed to do with an animal welfare incident in transport, the yards or on plant?	9	6
What is my role in an audit?	Did you know the Approved Arrangement Guideline has changed? How does this affect you?	18	13
Why should we understand how DAWR fees and charges are calculated and what do they all mean?	AMPC Research and Development (R&D) in the Meat Industry – the last 6 months	6	6
What should I include in an overseas application? How to write a great overseas application for listing.	1. Halal 2. An update on the Alternative Procedure Policy	9	6
How does the refrigeration index work? Understanding what the RI is, and what it isn't.	The DAWR sanctions policy	8	8
The why, when and how of applying for an instrument of exemption.	AMPC Research and Development (R&D) in the Meat Industry – the last 6 months	4	4

Throughout the webinars there was engagement with questions and discussion. Additional questions on the topics specific to the participants' plants were also asked following the webinars. Post webinar support on each of the webinar topics was offered to participants, which two companies have utilities. Two of the webinars were also repeated on request.

The webinar format was a success and the timeframe of 1.5 – 2 hours appeared to be enough time to allow facilitation of discussions and cover the regulatory and 'hot' topics.

Feedback from webinar attendees indicated that they found the topics useful and relevant to their work. An example of some of the feedback received is provided below.

- *'The webinar was easy to follow'*
- *'I've had situations in the past where I could have used an exemption and knew they existed but not the process to gain one'*
- *'Webinar topics were well covered'*
- *'Good to see what goes on in the process'*
- *'The webinars are very helpful'*

6.0 CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Six webinars, each covering a regulatory topic and a 'hot topic' were delivered in 2017. These webinars aimed to build the knowledge and expertise in the Australian Red Meat Industries Quality Assurance staff. The webinars were well received. Post webinar support on topics covered during the webinars was also offered as a part of this project. Two companies utilized this opportunity however uptake was generally low. While this project will not be continuing in 2017-18 it is recommended that with the state and federal governments updating their policies and requirements that professional development opportunities in regulatory affairs continue to be offered for Quality Assurance staff.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1

A snapshot is attached as Appendix 1.