

Upgrade of the meat inspection exam generator

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Project Description

In 2013 MINTRAC created the first Meat Inspection Exam Generator which was CD based and had a trainer and student version. The generator enabled RTO staff and students to generate exams from a data base of questions and a limited library of images.

This upgrade has aimed at not only improving the content but also to produce a web-based resource that can be accessed on-line by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), meat inspection students, registered meat inspectors, third party providers, and processing companies .

The purpose of the exam generator is to provide a resource to generate exams to cover the knowledge component of meat inspection topics. The exams generated can be used to assess students undertaking accredited course in meat inspection or to assess the competency and knowledge of existing meat inspectors.

Project Content

The exam generator has a data base of 2100 questions and 1200 images that will be available to RTO trainers and the industry to test for competency and knowledge of meat inspection and quality assurance. The exam generator data base consists of;

- multiple choice questions
- true and false questions
- short answer questions
- image questions of disease, conditions and dispositions.

The number of image questions in this version has been greatly expanded because the exam generator now has a direct link to the Disease and Contamination Image library and its 1200 images. All the images in the library can now be formatted into questions that require the disease or condition to be identified and the disposition that should be made by a meat inspector.

The questions and images are coded against one or more topics for example ante mortem ovine then sub groups such as diseases, conditions and dispositions. The exam generated for these codes will give an exam which asks questions about the diseases and conditions seen at ante mortem inspection of sheep or lambs and what dispositions should be made. It will also include images of these diseases and conditions

Project Outcome

The exam generator with its comprehensive bank of questions allows the assessor to set a large number of unique test papers for any one topic with virtually no additional work for the assessor. This increases the reliability of the assessments and standardizes the questions used by the RTOs across Australia.

The data base created by this upgrade will allow for the future expansion of the exam generator to cover more topics. The upgrade will also allow for the coding of questions against the knowledge requirements of specific Units of competency. This feature will be of significant benefit to RTOs who need to prove compliance with the assessment requirements of the Meat Industry's Training Package.

The new format means MINTRAC can upgrade the data base of questions and images at any time and users can access the latest version on line. This means errors can be corrected promptly and additions made in a timely fashion.

Benefit for Industry

The Exam Generator allows the creation of reliable assessment tools for a wide range of meat inspection and quality assurance topics. The additional function that the exam generator plays is one of standardising the assessment of competency across the nine RTOs active in the provision of meat inspector training.

In the same way that a national training package and uniform training materials have helped standardize training so uniform assessment tools help make the training outcomes between RTOs consistent. This is important in giving Australian regulators and importing country reviewers confidence in the standard of meat inspection training here in Australia.