



Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock 4.0: review of pregnancy-related requirements



Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock 4.0: review of pregnancy-related requirements

© Commonwealth of Australia 2025

Ownership of intellectual property rights

Unless otherwise noted, copyright (and any other intellectual property rights) in this publication is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia (referred to as the Commonwealth).

Creative Commons licence

All material in this publication is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) except content supplied by third parties, logos and the Commonwealth Coat of Arms.

**Cataloguing data**

This publication (and any material sourced from it) should be attributed as: DAFF 2025, *Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock 4.0: review of pregnancy-related requirements*, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Canberra, CC BY 4.0.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone 1800 900 090

Web agriculture.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Australian Government acting through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has exercised due care and skill in preparing and compiling the information and data in this publication. Notwithstanding, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, its employees and advisers disclaim all liability, including liability for negligence and for any loss, damage, injury, expense or cost incurred by any person as a result of accessing, using or relying on any of the information or data in this publication to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

Contents

Introduction	1
Scientific literature and other research	2
Data analysis	3
General data findings	3
Stakeholder engagement	6
Rationale for proposed amendments	11
Proposed amendments	11
Appendix A	24
References	33

Tables

Table 1 Species and end use of exported livestock from 2 November 2020 to 1 August 2024	3
Table 2 Existing and proposed definitions of ‘spay declaration’	12
Table 3 Existing and proposed buffalo pregnancy related requirements by sea	14
Table 4 Existing and proposed cattle pregnancy related requirements by sea	16
Table 5 Existing and proposed buffalo pregnancy related requirements by air	19
Table 6 Existing and proposed cattle requirements by air	21
Table A1 Existing and proposed goat pregnancy-related standards by sea	24
Table A2 Existing and proposed sheep pregnancy-related standards by sea	25
Table A3 Existing and proposed general pregnancy-related standards by air	26
Table A4 Existing and proposed alpaca pregnancy-related standards by air	27
Table A5 Existing and proposed camel pregnancy-related standards by air	28
Table A6 Existing and proposed deer pregnancy-related standards by air	29
Table A7 Existing and proposed goat pregnancy-related standards by air	30
Table A8 Existing and proposed sheep pregnancy-related standards by air	31

Figures

Figure 1 Species and end use of exported cattle from 2 November 2020 to 1 August 2024	4
Figure 2 Percentage of buffalo, cattle and sheep exports by destination region	5

Introduction

The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) set out the pregnancy-related requirements that exporters must meet to export livestock from Australia. ASEL pregnancy-related requirements aim to accurately determine the pregnancy status of exported livestock and ensure appropriate management and positive animal welfare outcomes throughout the supply chain.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has undertaken a review of ASEL pregnancy-related requirements to address stakeholder feedback, which included:

- The potential shortage of veterinarians with competency in manual pregnancy diagnosis of cattle could:
 - impact the ability of exporters to meet ASEL pregnancy testing requirements
 - threaten the sustainability of supplying export pregnancy testing services.
- ASEL should allow for greater flexibility in the methods of pregnancy testing of cattle and buffalo to reflect the latest available science and industry best practice.
- ASEL should balance the practicalities of pregnancy testing methods with the related risks, including the risk of incorrect pregnancy diagnosis.
- ASEL should allow for longer validity periods for breeder cattle pregnancy tests.
- ASEL should clarify the validity period for feeder and slaughter cattle pregnancy tests and allow for an option to apply for an extension to this validity period.
- The wording in ASEL pregnancy-related standards should be simplified to improve readability and reduce repetition.
- The use of terms 'certify' and 'certification' should be clarified in ASEL.

The review of pregnancy-related requirements also aligns with the Inspector General of Live Animal Exports (2020) [Implementation of Moss Review recommendations: review report 2020/02](#), which recommended ASEL is regularly reviewed to accommodate changes in science and evidence and to allow consideration of issues raised by industry.

In determining the suitability of ASEL pregnancy-related requirements, we:

- reviewed available scientific literature and other research
- analysed data on pregnancy-related outcomes in registered establishments and on vessels
- reviewed stakeholder feedback
- undertook internal and external consultation, including targeted stakeholder engagement.

Key findings from these activities are presented in this paper.

Scientific literature and other research

Bagley et al. (2022) state that manual palpation and ultrasound are safe and accurate methods of pregnancy diagnosis and foetal aging. Balhara et al. (2013) found that both methods are accurate and require a high degree of operator skill and experience.

Most scientific sources agree that both methods have advantages and limitations. For example, Cottle and Kahn (2014) found that in intensively managed herds, ultrasound allows for earlier pregnancy detection and accurately assesses foetal age. However, in later stages of pregnancy, ultrasound becomes less effective at foetal aging as the size and depth of the foetus within the abdomen becomes too great to allow complete visualisation (Thomas, Poock & Smith 2021, Jephcott & Peterson 2019, Colloton 2014). Alternatively, manual palpation may be more commonly used to detect pregnancy in extensively managed herds with year-round breeding. The [National Animal Disease Information Service](#) (2024) states that ‘for an experienced vet, there will be little difference in accuracy between pregnancy diagnosis by palpation and by ultrasound, with >95% of empty and pregnant cows being identified correctly’.

Several studies found that ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis is minimally invasive to the animal (Balhara et al. 2013) and can result in less operator strain and injury (Bagley et al. 2022). Beef Central (Jephcott & Peterson 2019) states that ultrasound’s big advantage is less operator fatigue and reduced risk of injuries.

The [Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock: Sea Transport – final report](#) (ASEL Review Technical Advisory Committee 2019) endorsed that ASEL applies different pregnancy testing requirements to cattle with different end uses. For example, ASEL requires that breeder cattle must have their pregnancy status and stage of pregnancy assessed, whereas feeder and slaughter cattle must be confirmed as non-pregnant. Additional pregnancy testing requirements for breeder cattle reflect the higher risk profile for this cohort of animals – for example, an increased risk of heat stress, metabolic disorders, abortion, premature birth, dehydration and injury (European Food Safety Authority Panel on Animal Health and Welfare 2022, Moore et al. 2014, WA DPIRD 2019).

Data analysis

To assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of ASEL's different pregnancy-related requirements for cattle and buffalo with different end uses (breeder, feeder, slaughter), we analysed available data reported in LIVEXCollect (LXC) and Tracking Animal Certification for Export (TRACE). We also reviewed independent observer reports.

We reviewed data on pregnancy-related health and welfare outcomes for cattle, buffalo and sheep travelling on 850 voyages, comprising 1,023 consignments. The consignments departed Australia over a 3.75-year period from 2 November 2020 to 1 August 2024 and travelled to 3 destination regions (Middle East, Southeast Asia and East Asia).

Destination countries were grouped by region to reflect similar voyage routes and duration. For the purposes of this analysis:

- the Middle East consists of Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates
- East Asia consists of Japan and China
- Southeast Asia consists of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

In total, we reviewed data for over 4.7 million animals exported by sea.

General data findings

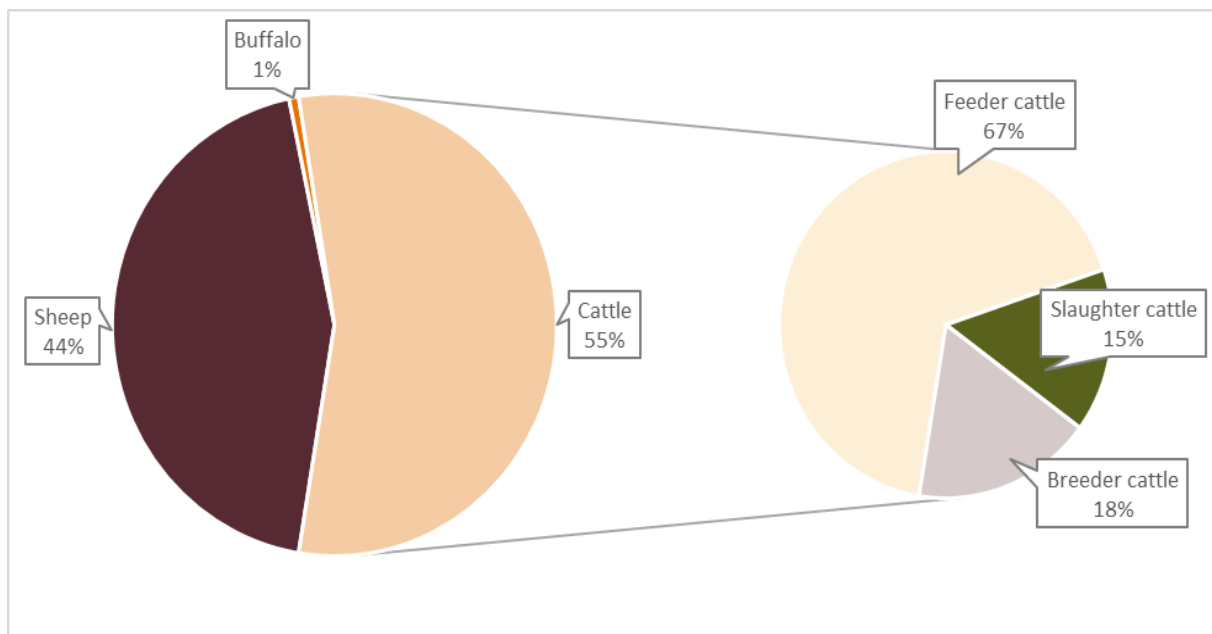
Species and end use of livestock

Of all livestock exported from 2 November 2020 to 1 August 2024, 55% were cattle, 44% were sheep and 1% were buffalo (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Of the cattle, 67% were feeder, 15% were slaughter and 18% were breeder (Figure 1). Most sheep and buffalo were feeder or slaughter (99.9% and 96% respectively).

Table 1 Species and end use of exported livestock from 2 November 2020 to 1 August 2024

Species	Breeder (no.)	Feeder (no.)	Slaughter (no.)	Total (no.)	Total (%)
Buffalo	1,305	23,643	8,682	33,630	1
Cattle	457,807	1,764,221	401,637	2,623,665	55
Sheep	674	258,708	1,839,671	2,099,053	44
Total	459,786	2,046,572	2,249,990	4,756,348	100

Figure 1 Species and end use of exported cattle from 2 November 2020 to 1 August 2024

Departure port and breed

In total, 41% of all livestock departed from Australia's northern ports (Broome, Darwin, Townsville or Wyndham). These animals were predominantly *Bos indicus* cattle or buffalo. Of the cattle exported from northern ports, 80% were feeder, 18% were slaughter and 2% were breeder. No sheep were exported from northern ports.

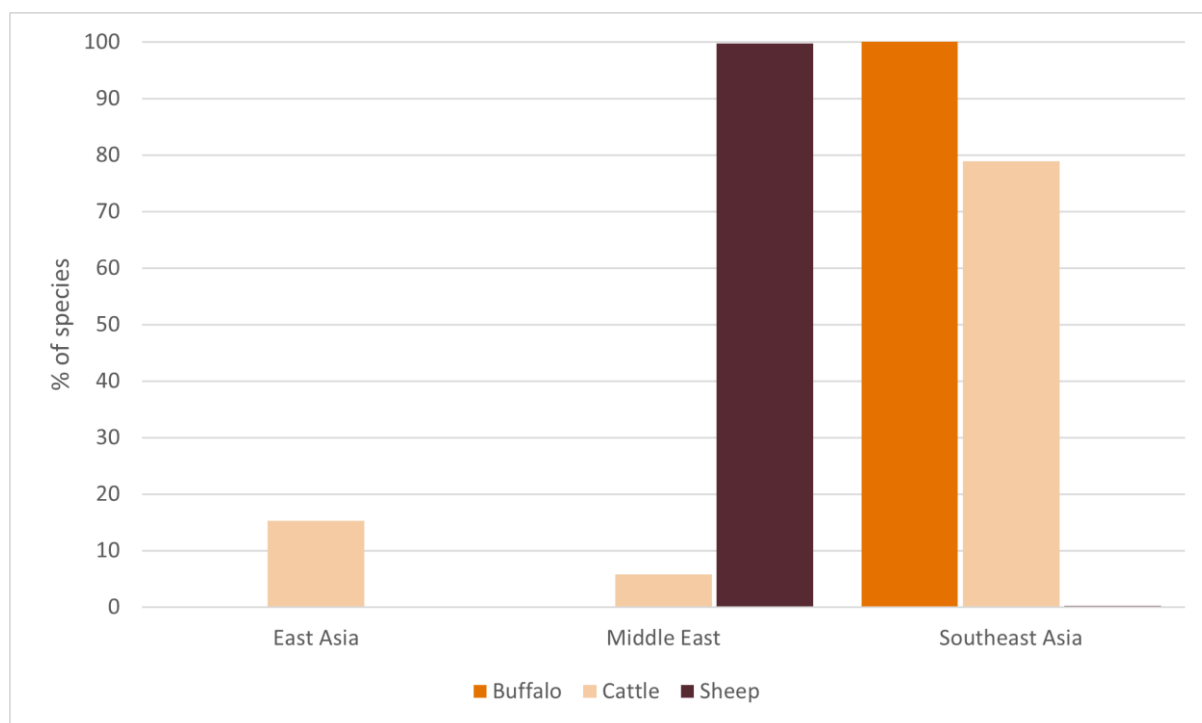
The remaining 59% of all livestock departed from Australia's southern ports (Brisbane, Fremantle, Port Adelaide or Portland). These animals were all feeder and slaughter sheep and predominantly *Bos taurus* cattle. Of the cattle exported from southern ports, 57% were breeder, 34% were feeder and 9% were slaughter.

Of the sheep exported from Australia, 87.6% were slaughter, 12.3% were feeder and less than 1% were breeder.

Destination regions

As shown in Figure 2:

- 100% of sheep were exported from southern ports, with over 99% exported to the Middle East.
- 100% of buffalo were exported from northern ports to Southeast Asia.
- 78.9% of cattle were exported to Southeast Asia, 15.3% to East Asia and 5.8% to the Middle East. There was an association between departure port and destination region. This is because cattle with the same end use are typically exported to the same destination.
 - Of the cattle exported from northern ports, 100% were exported to Southeast Asia.
 - Of the cattle exported from southern ports, 56% were exported to East Asia, 23% were exported to Southeast Asia and 21% were exported to the Middle East.

Figure 2 Percentage of buffalo, cattle and sheep exports by destination region

Pregnancy-related data findings

Of the 1,023 consignments analysed in this review, 132 were breeder consignments (around 13% of total consignments):

- 65 breeder consignments carried animals all declared as non-pregnant
- 67 breeder consignments carried a proportion of animals declared as pregnant.

These breeder consignments carried a total of 459,786 livestock (around 10% of total exported livestock).

Over 99% of breeder livestock were cattle. Of all exported breeder cattle:

- 93% (429,836) were declared as non-pregnant and 7% (29,950) were declared as pregnant
- 82% were exported to China, with 99% of these declared as non-pregnant
- around 17% were exported to Southeast Asia, with 29% of these declared as pregnant
- approximately 1% were exported to the Middle East, with most declared as pregnant.

Pregnancy-related health and welfare outcomes

This review analysed the reported pregnancy-related health and welfare outcomes for over 4.7 million animals. We focused on outcomes for breeder livestock because they are the only cohort of animals that can be exported pregnant. Reporting indicated that in total, 12 births and 10 abortions occurred on vessels.

Of the 12 births:

- 2 occurred in a single consignment of breeder cattle declared to be pregnant – records indicate these cattle were pregnancy tested by manual palpation
- 1 occurred in a feeder cattle consignment
- 9 occurred in slaughter sheep consignments.

Of the 10 abortions:

- all were reported in consignments of *Bos taurus* breeder cattle declared to be pregnant – records indicate these cattle were pregnancy tested with a combination of manual palpation and blood testing
- all occurred between day 1 and day 13 of the voyages
- all occurred in cows ranging from 11 weeks to 6 months pregnant.

An accredited veterinarian was on board for 11 of the 12 births and 7 of the 10 abortions. From the reporting provided, it was difficult to determine the health and welfare outcomes of livestock that had birthed or aborted. Generally, actions taken by the stockperson or accredited veterinarian to support the dam after birth were rarely reported. Veterinary treatment for the dam was reported in one case only. Similarly, reporting on the health and welfare outcomes of live young born on vessels was rare.

ASEL regulates requirements and manages risks up until completion of disembarkation in the destination country. For this reason, pregnancy-related outcomes in destination countries (in-market) are outside the scope of ASEL regulation and could not be assessed for this review. However, the health and welfare risks to pregnant livestock are likely to be more significant during periods of increased stress, such as during transportation, compared to after arrival in-market. In addition, ongoing veterinary care is likely to be more readily available once animals arrive in-market.

Independent observer report findings

Independent observer reports did not identify negative animal health and welfare impacts related to pregnancy. Observers travelled on 26 voyages during the period of this analysis and reported one pregnancy-related event, which resulted in the birth of twin lambs. The lambs were euthanised, and the ewe recovered and was discharged with the rest of the consignment.

Data analysis summary

- Data analysis did not identify systemic issues with incorrect pregnancy diagnosis.
- The combined rate of birthing and abortion on vessels was 0.0005%.
- Pregnancy-related health and welfare outcomes were rarely reported.

Stakeholder engagement

The department undertook extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders who raised pregnancy-related matters for consideration, including veterinarians who perform export pregnancy-

testing services (export veterinarians), exporters, the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), the Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV) and regional veterinary officers (RVOs).

Stakeholders identified differences in breed, end use and husbandry practices of cattle exported from northern Australia compared to those exported from southern Australia. For example, cattle exported from southern Australia are typically *Bos taurus* breeds (dairy or beef) and are exported as breeder animals. These cattle are smaller and lighter (usually between 200 kg and 300 kg) compared to northern cattle and have shorter breeding periods (typically no longer than 3 months) or timed breeding by artificial insemination. Female breeders are either exported non-pregnant (this includes most breeder cattle exported to China), or pregnancy tested in-calf (this includes many breeder cattle exported to Southeast Asia).

In contrast, cattle exported from northern Australia are typically *Bos indicus* breeds exported as feeder or slaughter animals. These cattle are larger and heavier compared to southern cattle and may have a yearlong breeding season. The longer breeding period means that, at the time of pregnancy testing, cattle may be at widely different stages of pregnancy. ASEL requires that feeder and slaughter cattle must be exported non-pregnant.

ASEL sets out different pregnancy testing requirements for animals with different end uses. Additional pregnancy testing requirements for breeder cattle reflect the higher risk profile for this group of animals. For example, feeder and slaughter cattle may be pregnancy tested by a competent pregnancy tester (lay person) where allowed by state or territory legislation and must be assessed as non-pregnant. Female breeder cattle must be pregnancy tested by a registered veterinarian and in some cases a PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarian, who must assess the pregnancy status and, where pregnant, the stage of pregnancy.

These differences in breed, size and potential stage of pregnancy impact the most appropriate method of pregnancy testing, which is reflected in ASEL requirements.

Potential workforce shortages

Several export veterinarians and exporters identified an impending shortage of veterinarians with the necessary PREGCHECK accreditation and competency in manual pregnancy testing and diagnosis required under ASEL.

PREGCHECK is a nationally recognised pregnancy testing accreditation scheme, that requires qualifications in addition to standard veterinary registration (AVA 2025). The scheme promotes accountable identification and certification of individual cattle pregnancy status by member-only accredited veterinarians, administered by the ACV (a special interest group of the AVA). PREGCHECK approves both manual palpation and ultrasound for pregnancy diagnosis in cattle.

Stakeholders state the impending shortage is due to a range of reasons, including:

- the retirement of veterinarians experienced in manual pregnancy testing
- the widespread preference amongst veterinarians for using ultrasound for pregnancy diagnosis
- that manual pregnancy testing poses an increased risk of injury to the operator, compared to ultrasound testing, impacting the sustainability of offering pregnancy testing services

- that some veterinarians are reluctant to become PREGCHECK-accredited for reasons including the cost burden of accreditation and membership or the perception they would be required to undertake excessive manual pregnancy testing work.

Stakeholder views differed on whether a shortage of PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians existed Australia-wide. There was however a consensus that there could be difficulty in securing adequate numbers of PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians to undertake pregnancy testing, particularly of large consignments of cattle. This could result in cattle spending longer periods of time in registered establishments (where pregnancy testing frequently occurs), increased costs to exporters and the risk that exporters may be unable to meet ASEL requirements due to workforce shortages.

A stakeholder suggested that more veterinarians would choose to become PREGCHECK-accredited if there was greater flexibility around the permitted methods of pregnancy testing in ASEL.

Flexibility around pregnancy testing methods

Several export veterinarians and exporters have suggested that ASEL should permit the use of ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis for all cattle, not just those too small to be safely manually palpated. They state that ultrasound is now a widely used technology in the industry and that broadening its use will:

- provide an alternative to manual palpation that is likely to reduce the risk of short or long-term injury to the tester
- provide added flexibility for veterinarians to determine the most appropriate pregnancy testing method based on the circumstances in front of them
- promote a more sustainable service to the live export industry by providing increased flexibility around options for pregnancy testing that are more attractive to veterinarians
- optimise the accuracy of pregnancy diagnosis by facilitating the use of a discipline in which modern veterinarians are skilled and competent.

The AVA and the ACV approve both manual palpation and ultrasound for pregnancy diagnosis in cattle and endorse manual palpation as the gold standard for pregnancy diagnosis. The ACV recommend that cattle identified as non-pregnant by ultrasound should be confirmed by manual palpation to account for false negatives.

Suitability of ASEL pregnancy testing requirements

Stakeholders raised concerns around the suitability and adequacy of ASEL pregnancy testing requirements. Matters raised included that ASEL requirements may:

- not adequately address the risks relating to pregnancy testing, including the risk of incorrect pregnancy diagnosis
- breach third-line forcing laws by requiring that some pregnancy testing must be undertaken by PREGCHECK-accredited vets only.

Stakeholders also hold concerns that ASEL requirements may not adequately address the risk of incorrect pregnancy diagnosis either due to the method of pregnancy testing, the competency of the tester or the failure of the spay procedure (a surgical means of contraception in female animals).

Incorrect pregnancy diagnosis (or failure of the spay procedure) could result in pregnant animals, or animals beyond gestational limits being loaded onto vessels.

Spaying of cattle is largely restricted to cattle in northern Australia in situations where control of bulls is difficult (MLA 2024). Some stakeholders suggested that all female cattle (including spayed females) should be pregnancy tested to account for the incidence of spay failure. Some stakeholders have estimated this to be between 1% and 20%. However, no data or analysis has been provided to support this estimated failure rate. The department notes that Jubb (2003) found a widely used spay procedure (the Willis dropped ovary technique) was 92% to 97% effective in preventing pregnancy, depending on operator experience. The department's data analysis of pregnancy-related health and welfare outcomes did not identify systemic issues with incorrect pregnancy diagnosis. This is supported by the combined rate of birthing and abortion for cattle on vessels which was 0.0004%. Therefore, there is insufficient supporting data to justify an added requirement to pregnancy test all spayed cattle.

Several stakeholders have advocated that pregnancy testing of breeder cattle on voyages of any length should be restricted to PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians only. The department acknowledges that some industry stakeholders may have commercial interests related to ASEL pregnancy testing requirements. For example, PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians may advocate for only PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians to undertake pregnancy testing. Equally, exporters may advocate for pregnancy testing to be as simple and straight-forward as possible.

The Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) considered view was to retain the existing flexibility in the standards for pregnancy testing on shorter voyages, and that pregnancy testing for longer voyages should remain the domain of PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians. The department's data analysis of pregnancy-related health and welfare outcomes did not identify systemic issues with incorrect pregnancy diagnosis on voyages of any length with the reported rate of birthing and abortion for cattle at 0.0004%. Therefore, there is insufficient supporting data to justify adding further pregnancy testing restrictions for breeder cattle.

The department has reviewed ASEL's requirement to, in certain situations, use PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians only and confirmed that this requirement does not contravene the exclusive dealing provisions outlined in s47 of the [Competition and Consumer Act 2010](#).

Validity of pregnancy test certification

Some stakeholders, including RVOs, have suggested the pregnancy test certification validity for pregnant breeder cattle should be extended from 30 days to between 45 and 60 days, and that ASEL should include a pregnancy test certification validity extension option for feeder and slaughter cattle. Stakeholders state the validity extension would avoid unnecessary repeat pregnancy testing (e.g. in the event of a voyage delay) which could negatively impact animal welfare. In addition, a validity extension would reduce the administrative burden on exporters and the department.

The TAC (2019) considered the issue of validity extension for breeder cattle and recommended an extension beyond 30 days be permitted only where the exporter can demonstrate the extension will not impact animal welfare and where circumstances are outside the exporter's control (such as a voyage delay).

This recommendation was implemented in ASEL 3.0 and resulted in a new standard (standard 1.4.7). Feedback from RVOs confirms that extensions are granted at the regional level, in line with TAC recommendations. This allows for validity extension requests to be considered on a case-by-case basis. This ensures that the exporter has addressed animal welfare concerns and that departmental officers are satisfied that breeder cattle are not exported if they will be more than 190 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country.

To address stakeholder feedback, we are publicly consulting on a proposal to extend the validity period for pregnant breeder cattle from 30 days to 45 days. We are also clarifying the validity period for feeder and slaughter cattle pregnancy tests and publicly consulting on an option to apply for an extension to this period. A proposed extension would be limited to circumstances outside the exporters control such as a voyage delay, and where exporters can demonstrate the extension will not impact animal welfare outcomes.

Clarifications and clerical matters

A stakeholder raised that in some jurisdictions, to 'certify' the pregnancy status of an animal is an act of veterinary science to be performed by a registered veterinarian only and that it is not appropriate for a competent pregnancy tester (lay person) to 'certify' the pregnancy status of an animal. However, a competent pregnancy tester may 'declare' the pregnancy status of an animal.

To clarify this matter, the department proposes to use the words 'declare' and 'declaration' instead of 'certify' and 'certification', when referring to pregnancy attestation by a competent pregnancy tester. Where pregnancy attestation is performed by a registered veterinarian, 'certify' remains appropriate.

This stakeholder also provided details of a change in the name of the PREGCHECK scheme, which is now in upper case.

Stakeholder engagement summary

- For cattle and buffalo, ASEL should provide increased flexibility around the required method of pregnancy testing so that the veterinarian performing testing can determine the most appropriate method based on the circumstances in front of them.
- ASEL should allow for longer validity periods for breeder cattle pregnancy tests.
- ASEL should provide an option to apply for an extension to extend the validity periods for feeder and slaughter cattle pregnancy tests.
- Some stakeholders called for pregnancy testing of all spayed cattle, but there was insufficient evidence of failure of the spay procedure to support this proposal.
- Some stakeholders called for pregnancy testing of breeder cattle to be performed by PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarians only, but there was insufficient evidence of incorrect pregnancy diagnosis to support this proposal.

Rationale for proposed amendments

The proposed changes to pregnancy-related standards address stakeholder feedback, including:

- The potential impending shortage of veterinarians with competency in manual pregnancy diagnosis, which could impact the ability of exporters to meet ASEL pregnancy testing requirements.
- ASEL should allow for greater flexibility around permitted methods of pregnancy testing.
- ASEL should more appropriately balance the practicalities around method of pregnancy testing with the related risks.
- ASEL should allow for longer validity periods for breeder cattle pregnancy tests.
- ASEL should clarify the validity period for feeder and slaughter cattle pregnancy tests and allow for an option to extend the validity period to account for factors such as voyage delay.
- Wording in ASEL should be simplified and clarified in pregnancy-related standards, where possible, to improve readability and reduce repetition.

In developing the proposed amendments to pregnancy-related standards, the department considered findings from data analysis, which identified a negligible rate of birthing or abortion on vessels and did not identify systemic issues with incorrect pregnancy diagnosis. The proposed changes also considered available science, other research and feedback from internal and external consultation, including targeted stakeholder engagement.

The proposed changes provide registered veterinarians, including those with PREGCHECK-accreditation, with greater flexibility and discretion to determine the most appropriate pregnancy testing method to use, depending on the animal's presentation, the competency of the operator and other circumstances. This balances the best animal health and welfare outcomes with practical and operational considerations and the tester's skill and competence.

The proposed amendments also aim to improve the readability and accuracy of standards by clarifying the use of some terms and removing repetitive content across multiple standards. The proposed new definitions of 'Pregnancy declaration' and 'Pregnancy certification' describe existing requirements that a tester must include when attesting to pregnancy status. This allows for repetitive and administrative content to be removed from multiple standards, simplifying the standards and improving their readability. We propose to more appropriately use the terms 'declare', 'declaration', 'certify' and 'certification' when referring to pregnancy attestation. We also propose to change the term 'ultrasound foetal measurement' to 'ultrasound' as it is implied measurements are taken when determining days pregnant.

Clerical changes update the PREGCHECK scheme's name change, which is now in upper case.

Proposed amendments

Add definitions

'Pregnancy declaration' means a declaration made by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian that states the pregnancy status of an animal and if pregnant, the number of days pregnant. It must include the tester's name, registration number (or other authorisation), their

signature and attestation to current experience and competency in pregnancy testing for the particular species. The declaration must also contain the date of the procedure, method of testing, the individual animal's NLIS number for breeder sheep and goats and all buffalo, cattle, camelids and deer or the mob's identification for feeder and slaughter sheep and goats. The requirement for mob level identification for feeder and slaughter sheep and goats remains in place until individual electronic identification (eID) is mandatory in all jurisdictions.

'Pregnancy certification' means a certification made by the testing veterinarian that states the pregnancy status of an animal and, if pregnant, the number of days pregnant. It must include the veterinarian's name, registration number, their signature and attestation to current experience and competency in pregnancy testing for the particular species, or their PREGCHECK-accreditation number. The certification must also contain the date of the procedure, method of testing, and the individual animal's NLIS number for breeder sheep and goats and all buffalo, cattle, camelids and deer.

Revise definition of 'spay declaration'

The proposed definition in Table 2 replaces 'certifying' with 'that states' and 'also contains' with 'must also contain'. The proposed definition also requires the spay operator's name and contact information.

Table 2 Existing and proposed definitions of 'spay declaration'

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
'Spay declaration' means a declaration certifying an animal has been spayed, made by the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed, including their name, contact information and signature. The declaration also contains the animal's individual NLIS identification number, date of procedure and type of the procedure.	'Spay declaration' means a declaration that states an animal has been spayed, made by the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed, including their name, contact information and signature. The declaration must also contain the spay operator's name and contact information, the animal's individual NLIS identification number, date of procedure and type of procedure.

Amend pregnancy-related standards

Table 3 to Table 6 compare the existing pregnancy related standards with proposed amendments for ASEL 4.0 in a side-by-side format for ease of comparison. The proposed amendments include changes to pregnancy related requirements and clerical changes.

The proposed changes to standards 1.2.5, 1.2.6, 1.4.5 and 1.4.6 (Table 3 and Table 4) allow greater flexibility to use ultrasound as the method of pregnancy testing. Clerical changes include removing repetitive and administrative content and more accurate use of the words 'certify' and 'certification' and 'declare' and 'declaration'. The proposed changes also condense the standards, with 'd' no longer required because the content has been incorporated into other parts of the standards.

The proposed changes to standard 1.4.7 (Table 4) allow for an extension to the validity period of pregnancy tests for pregnant breeder cattle (from 30 days to 45 days). The proposed changes also clarify the validity period for feeder and slaughter cattle pregnancy tests and allow for an extension to this validity period.

The proposed changes to standards 6.3.5, 6.3.6, 6.5.4 and 6.5.5 (Table 5 and Table 6) allow greater flexibility to use ultrasound as the method of pregnancy testing. Clerical changes include removing repetitive and administrative content and more accurate use of the words 'certify' and 'certification' and 'declare' and 'declaration'. The proposed changes also condense the standards. In standards 6.3.6 and 6.5.5 'd' is no longer required because the content has been incorporated into other parts of the standards.

The tables in [Appendix A](#) present changes that are clerical in nature only. The tables compare the existing pregnancy related standards with proposed clerical changes for ASEL 4.0.

Sections of relevant standards that do not contain proposed amendments are marked '[unchanged]'.

Table 3 Existing and proposed buffalo pregnancy related requirements by sea

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>1.2.5 Female buffalo sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be accompanied by a spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 30 days prior to export using the Willis dropped ovary technique and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or b) be accompanied by a spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 280 days prior to export and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or c) be pregnancy tested within 30 days prior to export, by a registered veterinarian or competent pregnancy tester who must certify in writing that the animal is not detectably pregnant and include with the certification their name, registration or accreditation number (or other authorisation) and signature, and the animal's individual NLIS identification number and the date of the procedure, and d) undergo pregnancy testing as per c) by manual palpation or an approved blood test (as accreditation/authorisation permits). 	<p>1.2.5 Female buffalo sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must either be spayed or be not detectably pregnant according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian or competent pregnancy tester within 30 days prior to export by either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) manual palpation ii) an approved blood test iii) ultrasound if performed by a registered veterinarian b) if spayed, the spay procedure must occur not less than 30 days prior to export using the Willis dropped ovary technique or not less than 280 days prior to export if using any other technique c) animals must be accompanied by a spay declaration, pregnancy declaration or pregnancy certification.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>Registered veterinarians may use ultrasound if the animal is too small to be manually palpated.</p>	
<p>1.2.6 Female buffalo sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 220 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country, and must be pregnancy tested within 30 days prior to export:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) by a registered veterinarian using an approved blood test, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, undergo testing as per b) or c), or b) if the voyage is less than 10 voyage days, by a registered veterinarian that attests to current experience and competency in buffalo pregnancy diagnosis, using manual palpation, or by a registered veterinarian that is accredited under the PREGCHECK (NCPD) scheme if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, using ultrasound, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, or c) if the voyage is 10 voyage days or more, by a registered veterinarian that is accredited under the PREGCHECK (NCPD) scheme, using manual palpation or if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, using ultrasound, and 	<p>1.2.6 Female buffalo sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 220 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country and must be accompanied by pregnancy certification. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) by an approved blood test and if the test result is positive undergo further testing as per b) or c), or b) if the voyage is less than 10 voyage days, be pregnancy tested using manual palpation or ultrasound, or c) if the voyage is 10 voyage days or more, be pregnancy tested by a PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarian using manual palpation or ultrasound.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, and d) with the certification stating the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, the veterinarians name, registration number and signature, their attestation to experience and competency, or for voyages 10 days or more or animals tested by ultrasound, their PREgCHECK accreditation number and a statement of their accreditation. 	

Table 4 Existing and proposed cattle pregnancy related requirements by sea

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>1.4.5 Female cattle sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be accompanied by a spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 30 days prior to export using the Willis dropped ovary technique and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or b) be accompanied by a spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 280 days prior to 	<p>1.4.5 Female cattle sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must either be spayed or be not detectably pregnant according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian or competent pregnancy tester within 30 days prior to export by either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) manual palpation ii) an approved blood test iii) ultrasound if performed by a registered veterinarian

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>export and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or</p> <p>c) be pregnancy tested within 30 days prior to export by a registered veterinarian, or competent pregnancy tester, who must certify in writing that the animal is not detectably pregnant and include with the certification their name, registration or accreditation number (or other authorisation) and signature, and the animal's individual NLIS identification number and the date of the procedure, and</p> <p>d) undergo pregnancy testing as per c) by manual palpation or an approved blood test (as accreditation/authorisation permits). Registered veterinarians may use ultrasound if the animal is too small to be manually palpated.</p>	<p>b) if spayed, the spay procedure must occur not less than 30 days prior to export if using the Willis dropped ovary technique or not less than 280 days prior to export if using any other technique</p> <p>c) animals must be accompanied by a spay declaration, pregnancy declaration or pregnancy certification.</p>
<p>1.4.6 Female cattle sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 190 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country, and must be pregnancy tested:</p> <p>a) by a registered veterinarian using an approved blood test, and</p> <p>i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or</p> <p>ii) if the test result is positive, undergo testing as per b) or c), or</p> <p>b) if the voyage is less than 10 voyage days, by a registered veterinarian that attests to current experience and competency in cattle pregnancy diagnosis, using manual palpation or by a registered veterinarian that is accredited under the PREGCHECK</p>	<p>1.4.6 Female cattle sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 190 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country and must be accompanied by pregnancy certification. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <p>a) using an approved blood test and if the test result is positive, undergo further testing as per b) or c), or</p> <p>b) if the voyage is less than 10 voyage days, be pregnancy tested using manual palpation or ultrasound, or</p> <p>c) if the voyage is 10 voyage days or more, be pregnancy tested by a PREGCHECK-accredited veterinarian, using manual palpation or ultrasound.</p>

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>(NCPD) scheme if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, using ultrasound, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, or <p>c) if the voyage is 10 voyage days or more, by a registered veterinarian that is accredited under the PREgCHECK (NCPD) scheme, using manual palpation or if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, using ultrasound, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, and <p>d) with the certification stating the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, the veterinarians name, registration number and signature, their attestation to experience and competency, or for voyages 10 voyage days or more or animals tested by ultrasound, their PREgCHECK accreditation number and a statement of their accreditation.</p>	
<p>1.4.7 Pregnancy test certification for Standard 1.4.6 is valid for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 30 days for pregnant cattle, unless an exporter has applied for a certification validity extension, and received approval in writing from the department, prior to loading, and 	<p>1.4.7 Unless a validity extension request has been approved in writing by the department prior to loading, the pregnancy test declaration or certification is valid from the date of the procedure or collection of blood sample for a period of:</p>

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
b) 60 days for not detectably pregnant cattle, from the date of the procedure or collection of blood sample.	a) 30 days for feeder and slaughter cattle b) 45 days for pregnant breeder cattle c) 60 days for not detectably pregnant breeder cattle.

Table 5 Existing and proposed buffalo pregnancy related requirements by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>6.3.5 Female buffalo sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be accompanied by a spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 30 days prior to export using the Willis dropped ovary technique and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or b) be accompanied by a spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 280 days prior to export and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or c) be pregnancy tested using manual palpation, approved blood test, or if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a registered veterinarian who must certify in writing that the animal is not 	<p>6.3.5 Female buffalo sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must either be spayed or be not detectably pregnant according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian within 30 days prior to export by either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) manual palpation ii) an approved blood test iii) ultrasound b) if spayed, the spay procedure must occur not less than 30 days prior to export if using the Willis dropped ovary technique or not occur less than 280 days prior to export if using any other technique c) animals must be accompanied by a spay declaration or pregnancy certification.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, registration number and signature, and the animal's individual NLIS identification number and the date of the procedure.</p>	
<p>6.3.6 Female buffalo sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 220 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department, and must be pregnancy tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) by a registered veterinarian using an approved blood test, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, undergo testing as per b) or c), or b) by a registered veterinarian that attests to current experience and competency in buffalo pregnancy diagnosis, using manual palpation, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, or c) by a registered veterinarian that is accredited under the PREgCHECK (NCPD) scheme if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, using ultrasound, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or 	<p>6.3.6 Female buffalo sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 220 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided for in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department and must be accompanied by pregnancy certification. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an approved blood test and if the test result is positive, undergo further testing as per b), or b) by manual palpation or ultrasound c) for not detectably pregnant buffalo, the pregnancy certification is valid for 60 days from the date of the procedure.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, and d) with the certification stating the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, the certifier's name, registration number and signature, their PREgCHECK-accreditation number and a statement of their accreditation if ultrasound is used, and the animal's individual NLIS identification number. Certification is valid for 60 days for not detectably pregnant buffalo, from the date of the procedure. 	

Table 6 Existing and proposed cattle requirements by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>6.5.4 Female cattle sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be accompanied by a vendor spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 30 days prior to export using the Willis dropped ovary technique and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or b) be accompanied by a vendor spay declaration from the owner or manager of the premises where the procedure was performed including name, contact information and signature, that certifies that the animal has been spayed not less than 280 days prior to export and includes the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, or 	<p>6.5.4 Female cattle sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must either be spayed or be not detectably pregnant according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian within 30 days prior to export by either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) manual palpation ii) an approved blood test iii) ultrasound b) if spayed, the spay procedure must occur not less than 30 days prior to export if using the Willis dropped ovary technique or not less than 280 days prior to export if using any other technique

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>c) be pregnancy tested using manual palpation, approved blood test, or if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a registered veterinarian who must certify in writing that the animal is not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, registration number and signature, and the animal's individual NLIS identification number and the date of the procedure.</p>	<p>c) animals must be accompanied by a spay declaration or pregnancy certification.</p>
<p>6.5.5 Female cattle sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 190 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department, and must be pregnancy tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) by a registered veterinarian using an approved blood test, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, undergo testing as per b) or c), or b) by a registered veterinarian that attests to current experience and competency in cattle pregnancy diagnosis, using manual palpation, and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, or 	<p>6.5.5 Female cattle sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 190 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided for in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department and must be accompanied by pregnancy certification. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an approved blood test and if the test result is positive, undergo further testing as per b), or b) by manual palpation or ultrasound c) for not detectably pregnant cattle, the pregnancy certification is valid for 60 days from the date of the procedure.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>c) by a registered veterinarian that is accredited under the PREgCHECK (NCPD) scheme if the animal is too small to be manually palpated safely, using ultrasound, and</p> <p>i) if the test result is negative, be certified in writing as not detectably pregnant, or</p> <p>ii) if the test result is positive, be certified in writing as pregnant with number of days pregnant stated, and</p> <p>d) with the certification stating the animal's individual NLIS identification number and date of the procedure, the certifier's name, registration number and signature, their PREgCHECK-accreditation number and a statement of their accreditation if ultrasound is used, and the animal's individual NLIS identification number. Certification is valid for 60 days for not detectably pregnant cattle, from the date of the procedure.</p>	

Appendix A: Clerical amendments

Table A1 to Table A8 compares existing standards with proposed clerical amendments.

Table A1 Existing and proposed goat pregnancy-related standards by sea

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
1.6.6 Female goats sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester who must certify in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of goats, signature, the mob's identification, and the date of the procedure.	1.6.6 Female goats sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian who must declare in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant.
<p>1.6.7 Female goats sourced for export as breeder animals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound foetal measurement within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester, and b) be certified in writing by the competent pregnancy tester as either not detectably pregnant or pregnant and if pregnant include the number of days pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of goats, signature, the individual identification number of the animal and the date of the procedure, and c) be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country. 	<p>1.6.7 Female goats sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export b) be accompanied by a pregnancy declaration.

Table A2 Existing and proposed sheep pregnancy-related standards by sea

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>1.7.5 Female sheep with a weight of 40 kg or more, and all female fat-tailed sheep sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester who must certify in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of sheep, signature, the mob's identification, and the date of the procedure.</p>	<p>1.7.5 Female sheep with a weight of 40 kg or more, and all female fat-tailed sheep sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian who must declare in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant.</p>
<p>1.7.6 Female sheep sourced for export as breeder animals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound foetal measurement within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester, and b) be certified in writing by the competent pregnancy tester as either not detectably pregnant or pregnant and if pregnant include the number of days pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of sheep, signature, the individual identification number of the animal and the date of the procedure, and c) be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country. 	<p>1.7.6 Female sheep sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of discharge in the importing country. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export b) be accompanied by a pregnancy declaration.

Table A3 Existing and proposed general pregnancy-related standards by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
6.1.3 Livestock sourced for export must be:	6.1.3 Livestock sourced for export must be:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identified in accordance with state and territory and NLIS requirements, and b) be traceable to the property of source, and c) accompanied by correctly completed and signed movement records such as NVDs/waybills, and d) individually identified where testing, including pregnancy testing, is required during preparation, excluding feeder/slaughter sheep and goats where the pregnancy testing certification may identify animals to a mob-based level, and e) accompanied by any test results, including all pregnancy testing and spay declarations where applicable. Laboratory test reports must include the results of testing undertaken and the below information in a single report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the NLIS identification number of the animal where individual identification is required by state or territory legislation, and ii) the PIC where the animal was sampled, and iii) the visual tag number of the animal (if applied). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) [unchanged] b) [unchanged] c) [unchanged] d) individually identified where testing (including pregnancy testing) is required during preparation, except for feeder and slaughter sheep and goats where the pregnancy declaration may identify animals to a mob-based level, and e) [unchanged]

Table A4 Existing and proposed alpaca pregnancy-related standards by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
<p>6.2.3 Female alpacas with a weight of 35 kg or more sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a registered veterinarian with demonstrable current experience in camelid pregnancy diagnosis, who must certify in writing that the animal is not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number, statement of experience, signature, the animal's identification and the date of the procedure.</p>	<p>6.2.3 Female alpaca with a weight of 35 kg or more sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a registered veterinarian, who must certify in writing that the animal is not detectably pregnant.</p>
<p>6.2.4 Female alpacas with a weight of 35 kg or more sourced for export as breeder animals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound foetal measurement by a registered veterinarian with demonstrable current experience in camelid pregnancy diagnosis, and b) be certified in writing by the testing veterinarian as either not detectably pregnant or pregnant and, if pregnant, include the number of days pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number, statement of experience, signature, the individual identification number of the animal and the date of the procedure. Certification is valid for 60 days for not detectably pregnant alpaca, from the date of the procedure, and c) be not more than 227 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department. 	<p>6.2.4 Female alpaca with a weight of 35 kg or more sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 227 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided for in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department and must be accompanied by pregnancy certification. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound b) for not detectably pregnant alpaca, pregnancy certification is valid for 60 days from the date of the procedure.

Table A5 Existing and proposed camel pregnancy-related standards by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
6.4.4 Female camels sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a registered veterinarian with demonstrable current experience in camelid pregnancy diagnosis, who must certify in writing that the animal is not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number, statement of experience, signature, the animal's identification and the date of the procedure.	6.4.4 Female camels sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a registered veterinarian, who must certify in writing that the animal is not detectably pregnant.
<p>6.4.5 Female camels sourced for export as breeder animals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound foetal measurement by a registered veterinarian with demonstrable current experience in camelid pregnancy diagnosis, and b) be certified in writing by the testing veterinarian as either not detectably pregnant or pregnant and, if pregnant, include the number of days pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number, statement of experience, signature, the individual identification number of the animal and the date of the procedure. Certification is valid for 60 days for not detectably pregnant camels, from the date of the procedure, and c) be no more than 250 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department. 	<p>6.4.5 Female camels sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 250 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided for in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department and must be accompanied by pregnancy certification. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a registered veterinarian according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound b) for not detectably pregnant camels, pregnancy certification is valid for 60 days from the date of the procedure.

Table A6 Existing and proposed deer pregnancy-related standards by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
6.6.6 Female deer sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester, and certified in writing by the tester as not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of deer, signature, the animal's identification and the date of the procedure.	6.6.6 Female deer sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian, and declared in writing by the tester as not detectably pregnant.
<p>6.6.7 Female deer sourced for export as breeder animals must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pregnancy tested using ultrasound foetal measurement by a competent pregnancy tester, and b) certified in writing by the competent pregnancy tester as either not detectably pregnant or pregnant and if pregnant include the number of days pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of deer, signature, the individual identification number of the animal and date of the procedure. Certification is valid for 60 days for not detectably pregnant deer, from the date of the procedure, and c) no more than 155 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export for red, sambar, chital, hog, fallow or sika breed deer, unless otherwise provided in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department, or d) no more than 160 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export for rusa and wapiti/elk breed deer, unless otherwise provided in a last 	<p>6.6.7 Female deer sourced for export as breeder animals must be pregnancy tested by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian and accompanied by a pregnancy declaration. Pregnancy testing must be performed according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) pregnancy tested using ultrasound b) unless otherwise provided for in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department, deer must be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) no more than 155 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export for red, sambar, chital, hog, fallow or sika breed deer, or ii) no more than 160 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export for rusa and wapiti/elk breed deer c) for not detectably pregnant deer, the pregnancy declaration is valid for 60 days from the date of the procedure.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department.	

Table A7 Existing and proposed goat pregnancy-related standards by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
6.7.5 Female goats sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester who must certify in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of goats, signature, the mob's identification and the date of the procedure.	6.7.5 Female goats sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian who must declare in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant.
6.7.6 Female goats sourced for export as breeder animals must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound foetal measurement by a competent pregnancy tester, and b) be certified in writing by the competent pregnancy tester as either not detectably pregnant or pregnant and if pregnant include the number of days pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of goats, signature, the individual identification number of the animal and the date of the procedure. Certification is valid for 60 days for not detectably pregnant goats, from the date of procedure, and 	6.7.6 Female goats sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided for in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department and must be accompanied by a pregnancy declaration. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian according to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound b) for not detectably pregnant goats, the pregnancy declaration is valid for 60 days from the date of the procedure.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
c) be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department.	

Table A8 Existing and proposed sheep pregnancy-related standards by air

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
6.9.4 Female sheep with a weight of 40 kg or more, and all female fat-tailed sheep, sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester who must certify in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of sheep, signature, the mob's identification, and the date of the procedure.	6.9.4 Female sheep with a weight of 40 kg or more, and all female fat-tailed sheep, sourced for export as feeder or slaughter animals must be individually pregnancy tested using ultrasound within 30 days prior to export, by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian who must declare in writing that the animals are not detectably pregnant.
6.9.5 Female sheep sourced for export as breeder animals must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound foetal measurement by a competent pregnancy tester, and b) be certified in writing by the competent pregnancy tester as either not detectably pregnant or pregnant and if pregnant include the number of days pregnant. The certification must include the certifier's name, veterinary registration number or attestation to experience and skill in pregnancy testing of sheep, signature, the individual identification number of the animal and the date of the procedure. Certification is valid for 60 days for not detectably pregnant sheep, from the date of the procedure, and 	6.9.5 Female sheep sourced for export as breeder animals must be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided for in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department and must be accompanied by a pregnancy declaration. Pregnancy testing must be performed by a competent pregnancy tester or registered veterinarian according to the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be pregnancy tested using ultrasound b) for not detectably pregnant sheep, the pregnancy declaration is valid for 60 days from the date of the procedure.

ASEL 3.3 version	Proposed ASEL 4.0 version
c) be no more than 100 days pregnant at the scheduled date of export, unless otherwise provided in a last third of pregnancy management plan approved in writing by the department.	

References

- ASEL Review Technical Advisory Committee 2018, [Review of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock: Sea Transport – final report](#), Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra, accessed 7 April 2025.
- AVA 2025, [PREGCHECK](#), Australian Veterinary Association, Canberra, accessed 24 March 2025.
- Bagley, JE, Richter, MP & Lane, TJ 2022, [The Role of Transrectal Sonography in Pregnancy Diagnosis in Cattle](#), *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*, vol. 39, issue 1, pp. 50–60, DOI: 10.1177/87564793221120260, accessed 10 April 2025.
- Balhara, AK, Gupta, M, Singh, S, Mohanty, AK & Singh, I 2013, [Early pregnancy diagnosis in bovines: current status and future directions](#), *Scientific World Journal*, issue 958540, pp. 2–10, DOI: 10.1155/2013/958540, accessed December 2024.
- Colloton, J 2014, [Reproductive Ultrasound of Female Cattle](#), *Bovine Reproduction*, pp. 326–46, DOI: 10.1002/9781118833971.ch36, accessed 10 April 2025
- Cottle, D & Kahn, L 2014, [Beef Cattle Production and Trade](#), 1st edition, CSIRO Publishing, Victoria, accessed December 2024.
- European Food Safety Authority Panel on Animal Health and Welfare 2022, [Welfare of cattle during transport](#), *EFSA Journal*, vol. 20, issue 9, DOI: 10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7442, accessed December 2024.
- IGLAE 2020, [Implementation of Moss Review recommendations: review report no. 2020/02](#), Inspector-General of Live Animal Exports, Canberra, accessed December 2024.
- Jephcott, S & Peterson, D 2019, [Man versus machine: Weighing up manual preg testing vs ultrasound](#), Beef Central, Bulimba, Queensland, accessed 10 April 2025.
- Jubb, TF, Fordyce, G, Bolam, MJ, Hadden, DJ, Cooper, NJ, Whyte, TR, Fitzpatrick, LA, Hill, F & D’Occhio, MJ 2003, [Trial introduction of the Willis dropped ovary technique for spaying cattle in northern Australia](#), *Australian Veterinary Journal*, vol. 81, pp. 66–70, DOI: 10.1111/j.1751-0813.2003.tb11436.x, accessed December 2024.
- MLA 2024, [Castrating and spaying](#), Meat and Livestock Australia, Sydney, accessed December 2024.
- Moore, SJ, O’Dea, MA, Perkins, N, Barnes, A, & O’Hara, AJ 2014, [Mortality of live export cattle on long-haul voyages: pathologic changes and pathogens](#), *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*, vol. 26, issue 2, pp. 252–65, DOI: 10.1177/1040638714522465, accessed December 2024.
- NADIS 2024, [Part - 5 Pregnancy Diagnosis](#), National Animal Disease Information Service, Pembrokeshire, UK, accessed 10 April 2025.
- Thomas, J, Poock, S, Smith, E 2021, [Determination of Pregnancy Status in Beef Herds](#), University of Missouri Extension, Missouri, accessed 10 April 2025.