

# Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (GE.11)

## Australian Animal Welfare Certification System



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## Structure of Animal Welfare in Australia

The following are responsible for Animal Welfare at processing establishments

- Individual States – Animal Welfare Acts
- Commonwealth Government – Meat Exporters
- Industry led Certification programs – encompassing customers' requirements

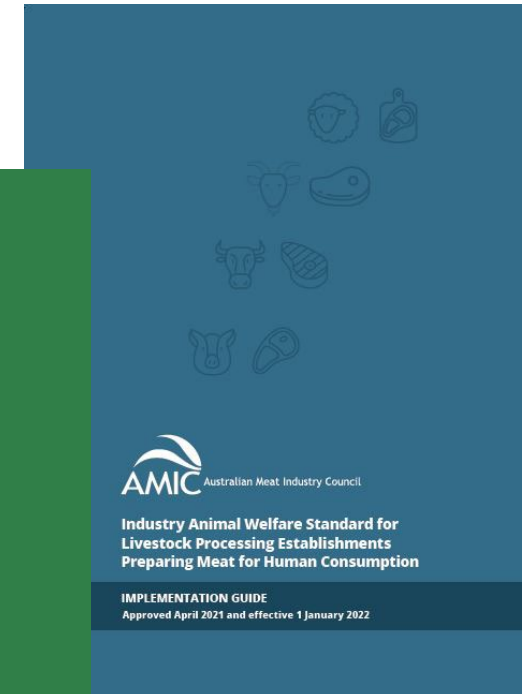
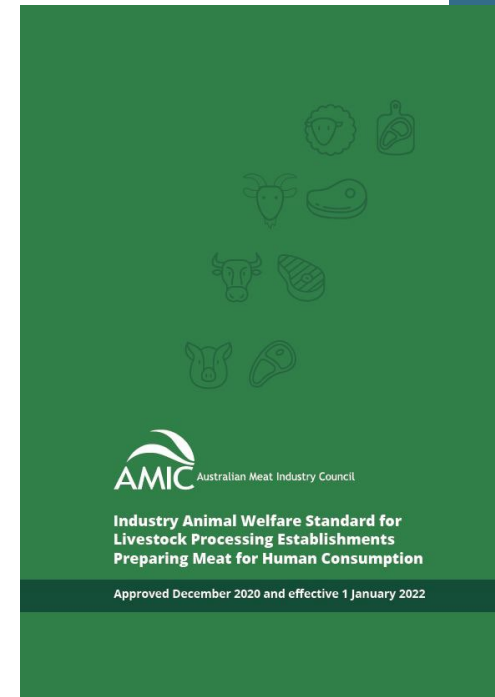


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## Industry Led Certification

- Used by livestock processors – “One-Stop-Shop” for meeting requirements
- Beef, sheep, goats, pigs, buffalo, deer and horses
- Voluntary program recognised by the Commonwealth
- Independently audited Certification program
- Demonstrate compliance with industry best practice
- From receipt through to and including slaughter
- Ensures the highest levels of management



**Standards are reviewed bi-annually to ensure best practice**



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## Global Retailers



Recognised by global retail supply chains

## Industry Led Certification

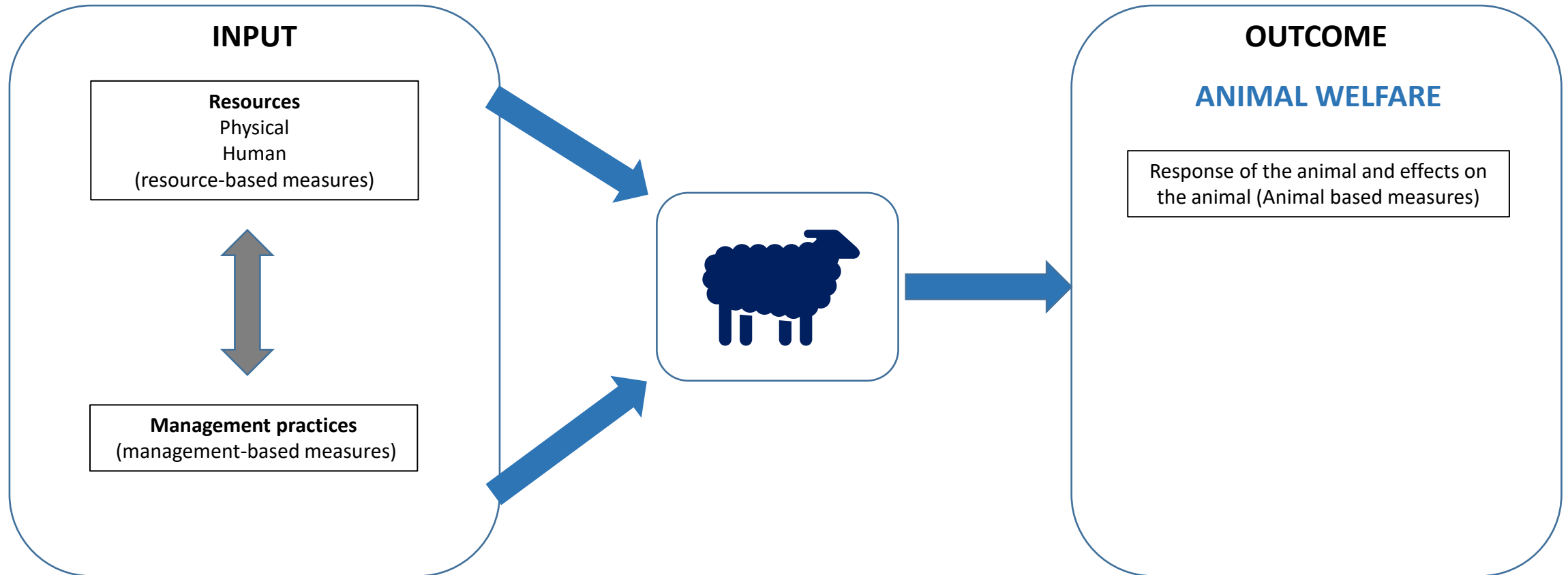
The program addresses the following areas:

- Management procedures and planning
- Human and physical resources
- Livestock management
- Livestock handling and;
- Stunning, sticking and humane slaughter.



**Demonstrates industries commitment**

## Outcome-Based Standard



**Outcomes are underpinned by science-based requirements**

## Animal based measures

- Fitness for journey
- Slipping and Falling during unloading, handling
- Stunning Efficiency (mechanical, electrical etc)
- Vocalisation (active handling, restraint)
- Use of electrical goads
- Bleed rail insensibility
- Wilful acts of abuse



**Managing the signs and symptoms**

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## Animal based measures – Examples

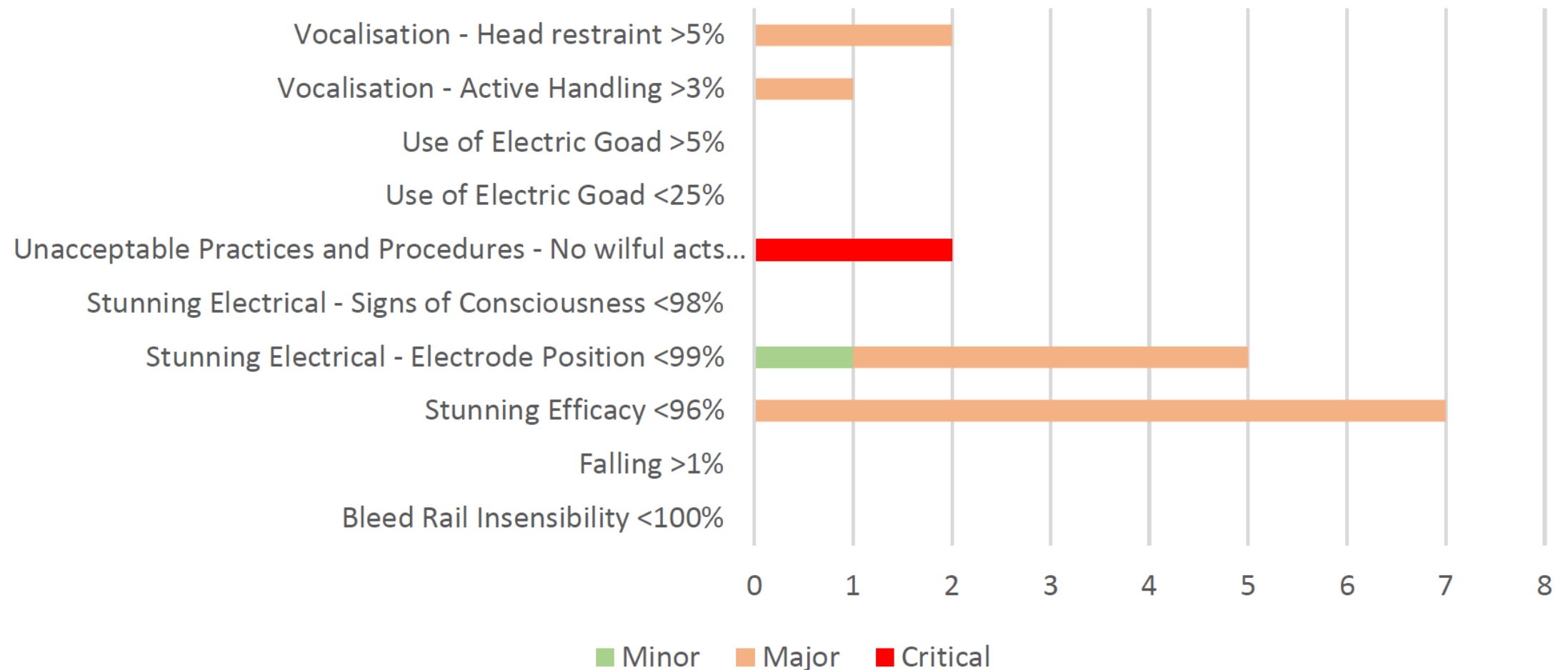
| Monitor                  | Species         | Target  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Falls                    | All             | <1%   |
| Vocalisation             | Cattle          | <3% Handling<br><5% Restraint   |
| Electric goad            | Cattle, Buffalo | <25%  |
| Electric goad            | Sheep, Goats    | <5%   |
| Electric goad            | Pigs            | <5% During handling in groups<br><25% During handling in single file race |
| Captive bolt             | All             | >96% Assess application of the first shot.                                |
| Bleed rail insensibility | All             | No signs of recovery after stunning.                                      |



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## Animal based measures – Non-Conformance by Audit Criteria - 2023



## Summary

- Monitors Animal Welfare outcomes at processing facilities.
- Meets the requirements of our global trading partners.
- Underpinned by globally recognised science-based requirements.
- >95% export meat processors are certified = approximately 80% of production.
- From January 2026 – Video surveillance will be mandatory.
- The program is underpinned by an expert Animal Welfare Committee.

## Challenges for 2025-26

- Rollout of a revised standard
- Industry training
- Animal Welfare advocacy groups