

HGPs and beef production

Some countries and customers will not accept beef or beef products that are treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGPs).

To protect Australia's access to these markets – and the industry's global reputation – every farmer, grazier, lot feeder and livestock agent must use HGPs appropriately. This includes accurately recording HGP use along the beef supply chain.

What are HGPs?

HGPs are slow-release implants that contain natural or synthetic hormones used to improve growth rates and feed efficiency in cattle.

A list of HGP products available in Australia are available on the SAFEMEAT website.

How do HGPs work?

HGPs come in the form of implants placed under the skin on the back of the ear of cattle, continuously releasing low doses of hormones.

Why are HGPs used?

HGPs improve feed conversion in cattle, making individual producers and the Australian beef industry more competitive in international markets.

Why must HGP use be declared?

Some markets do not allow the use of HGPs at any stage of the production of meat. To supply these markets, it is important that robust systems are in place to provide processors, regulators and markets with confidence that the animals have never been treated with HGPs.

Are there consequences for getting it wrong?

Detection of HGPs by markets requiring HGP-free product, could result in Australia being excluded from that market and could jeopardize the industry's global reputation. Regaining market access could require industry to introduce more restrictive and expensive programs to demonstrate HGP-freedom.

Processors have rigorous programs to verify the accuracy of NVDs. False answers to NVD questions may result in property audits, suspension from the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program, government prosecution, and legal action against individual producers.

Know your responsibilities in using HGPs

Farmers, graziers, lot feeders and livestock agents must follow these steps to fulfil legal responsibilities and protect Australia's market access.

1. Have a registered PIC

To purchase HGPs from an authorised seller, you must have a Property Identification Code (PIC).

2. At the time of purchase, complete a HGP purchaser declaration form and provide it to the supplier

Your supplier should have copies of this form or you can access it on the APVMA website. This form includes details about you, the HGP supplier, which HGP products will be implanted into which cattle, and the details of the property where the cattle will be implanted.

3. Use HGP products according to the label directions

Approved guidelines for use of HGP products are prominent on the label. Follow these guidelines which can include information on dosage, application, withholding periods and more.

4. Identify HGP-treated cattle with a triangular ear punch mark

The prescribed ear punch mark shall be in the form of an equal sided triangle with sides of 20mm; applied so as to leave a space on all sides within the margin of the right ear.

If an animal has previously been treated with HGPs and has been ear punched with the prescribed mark, there is no requirement to add another mark.

Only the approved ear punch available from authorised retailers of HGPs may be used.



5. Keep a record each time an animal is treated with HGPs

This includes date of treatment; description, location and number of livestock treated; and details of the product used (including trade name, batch number and dose).

Keeping records and identifying treated cattle with a triangular ear punch mark are legal requirements in all states and territories, and are requirements of the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program.

6. Declare animals treated with HGPs on the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form

See details on next page.

Declare HGP-treated cattle accurately on NVDs

National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) are legal document that are key to Australian beef's traceability and market access.

Answer the hormonal growth Promotant (HGP) question correctly to avoid penalties and protect access to HGP-free markets.

It is an offence to represent HGP-treated cattle as being untreated and doing so can result in a penalty.

If you are unsure whether cattle have ever in their lifetime been treated with HGPs, tick 'Yes' on Question 1 of the NVD.

Have any of these cattle ever been treated with an HGP?

Tick **YES**
on the
NVD if:

- ☒ You are in doubt
- ☒ Records say yes
- ☒ Animals have a triangular hole in their right ear
- ☒ You can see or feel an old implant or steel bead in their left ear

NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATION (CATTLE) AND WAYBILL C0720

This form cannot be used where eligibility for the EU market is required.

Part A To be completed by the owner or person who is responsible for the husbandry of the cattle.

Owner of cattle (FULL TRACKING NAME) (ADDRESS) (RESIDENCE) (STATE)

Property/place where the journey commenced (ADDRESS) (RESIDENCE) (STATE)

Property Identification Number (PIN) (STATE)

Describe the cattle (Name) (Breed) (Age) (Sex) (Weight) (Other details)

1 Have any of the cattle in this consignment ever in their lives been treated with a hormonal growth promotant (HGP)?
(Use a second document for mixed consignments.)
Yes ☐ No ☐

2 Have any of these cattle been treated with a hormonal growth promotant (HGP) in the last 6 months?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 9)

3 Has the owner or person responsible for the husbandry of the cattle been treated with a hormonal growth promotant (HGP) in the last 6 months?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 9)

4 In the past 60 days, have any of these cattle been fed by-product stockfeeds?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, attach a list of the by-product stockfeeds, date when last fed and a copy of an analyst's report if available.

5 In the past 6 months have any of these animals been on a property listed on the ERP database or placed under any restrictions because of chemical residues?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 9)

6 Are any of the cattle in this consignment still within a Withholding Period (WHP) or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) as set by APVMA or SAFE MEAT, following treatment with any veterinary drug or chemical?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 9)

7 In the past 60 days, have any of the cattle in this consignment consumed any material that was still within a withholding period when harvested, collected or first grazed?
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, give details: (Record additional details in question 9)

8 In the past 42 days, were any of these cattle
a) grazed in a spray risk area; or
b) fed fodders cut from a spray drift risk area? (See Explanatory Notes for definition of spray drift risk area.)
Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes, Date sprayed: / /20

9 Please include any additional information below
eg: vaccination programs, animal health certification, additional declarations, etc.

Declaration

I, FULL NAME, FULL ADDRESS, declare that I am the owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the cattle and that all the information in part A of this document is true and correct. I also declare that I have read and understood all the questions that I have answered, that I have read and understood the explanatory notes, and that, while under my control, the cattle were not fed restricted animal material (including meat and bone meal) in breach of State or Territory legislation.

Signature* Date* / /20

*Only the person whose name appears above may sign this declaration, or make amendments which must be initialed.

Tel no. Fax no.

Email.

Part B To be completed by the person in charge of the cattle while they are being moved. Completion of this part is optional in SA and VIC.

Movement commenced: / /20 (am/pm)

Vehicle registration number(s):

I am the person in charge of the cattle during the movement and declare all the information in Part B is true and correct.

Date / /20 Tel no.

If the vehicle is carrying the cattle, other vehicle registration numbers are to be recorded.

Tick **NO** if you are 100% sure animals have not been treated with HGPs.

Remember both male and female cattle can be treated with HGPs.

If in
doubt,
tick **YES**

