



FACT SHEET

APIQ[✓]® – AUSTRALIAN PORK INDUSTRY QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

What is APIQ[✓]®

APIQ[✓]® is the premier quality assurance (QA) program for pig producers in Australia. APIQ[✓]® was launched in 2010 after a major review of the existing PigPass and APIQ programs. APIQ[✓]® has helped to lift the profile of the pork industry and now covers 90 per cent of all sows in production in Australia.

APIQ[✓]® is administered by the APIQ Management Team (APIQM) which operates within Australian Pork Limited's (APL) Research and Innovation Division. APIQM is guided and governed by comprehensive Certification Policies (CP) and Administration Policies (AP) and supported by the APIQ Panel (APIQP). A panel of independent experts that assess situations and events that are outside the scope of the current CP's or address appeals and disputes.

APIQ[✓]® Certification provides customers with assurance that high standards are in place on-farm for management, food safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and traceability. It enables producers to deliver pigs of consistent quality and opens the door to both domestic and export markets.

APIQ[✓]® is based on the internationally recognised principles of Hazard identification and managing risks at Critical Control Points (HACCP). Producers identify critical control points to manage food safety on-farm and must implement and follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on-farm.

To demonstrate compliance with the APIQ[✓]® Standard and gain APIQ[✓]®, APIQ[✓]® Free Range or APIQ[✓]® Outdoor Bred Certification, producers are required to document their on-farm quality management systems in a Piggery Management Manual and implement a recording system designed to show how the APIQ[✓]® Standards are met.

The Piggery Management Manual should contain:

- A management section and statement which provides an overview of the piggery, how it is managed and its objectives;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Work Instructions and Records which demonstrate compliance with the APIQ[✓]® Standards; and
- A Food Safety Plan based on the industry HACCP plan as a minimum.

Producers are required to conduct an internal audit of their production system at least annually to identify any areas and actions where improvement is needed. Certification of the production site is then achieved following the completion of a successful external on-farm compliance audit conducted by a registered APIQ[✓]® Auditor. Successful compliance audits must be conducted annually to maintain APIQ[✓]® Certification.

What types of APIQ[✓]® Certification are available?

APIQ[✓]® offers three Certification options:

- APIQ[✓]® Certification
- APIQ[✓]® Outdoor Bred Certification
- APIQ[✓]® Free Range Certification

Plus, two optional verification Modules:

- APIQ[✓]® Gestation Stall Free (GSF)
- APIQ[✓]® Customer Specifications Module 6 (CS 6) for Coles approved suppliers.

First time producers are encouraged to contact APIQM to discuss the APIQ[✓]® program and obtain assistance in the creation of a Quality Assurance Manual tailor-made to suit their piggery.

How does APIQ[✓]® meet Regulatory Requirements?

Commonwealth and State regulatory agencies and supply chain members recognise the APIQ[✓]® program as providing the appropriate level of food safety assurance for domestic and international markets. However other QA programs, such as ISO9000 or SQF1000, may also be acceptable if they address the industry standard and legislative requirements.



In June 2008, the SAFEMEAT Partnership endorsed the points listed below as the minimum requirements for any QA program used to validate a National Vendor Declaration (NVD):

- A food safety risk assessment or equivalent;
- Standards or performance indicators that relate to the provisions on the PigPass NVD (PPNVD); and
- An approved verification arrangement, preferably including annual audit by a JASANZ accredited certification body.

SAFEMEAT also agreed that domestic abattoirs should seek the same QA requirements from suppliers as those specified by export accredited establishments. SAFEMEAT agreed to progress this position with each state government and the respective food authorities.

This means, that it is becoming increasingly necessary that pig producers are certified under an approved on-farm QA program to maintain access to both export and domestic markets.

What do I have to do to become APIQ[✓]® Certified?

- Contact APIQM and request information about APIQ[✓]® on 1800 789 099 (toll free).
- APIQM will send you the information and manuals needed to obtain certification or you can download them from: www.apiq.com.au.
- Determine which APIQ[✓]® Certification Type you would like to achieve (APIQ[✓]® Certified, APIQ[✓]® Outdoor Bred, APIQ[✓]® Free Range).
- Develop a Piggery Management Manual and suitable recording system for the size of your operation. APIQ[✓]® can provide assistance to producers creating a QA manual.
- Implement APIQ[✓]® on-farm and conduct an internal audit.
- Contact APIQM or refer to the APIQ[✓]® website – www.apiq.com.au – for a list of auditors or to register your interest for inclusion in a Regional Audit Plan (RAP).
- Have a compliance audit successfully completed by a registered APIQ[✓]® Auditor.

For more information contact APIQM on 1800 789 099 (toll free) or visit www.apiq.com.au

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