



# GUIDELINES FOR MANDATORY VIDEO MONITORING IN TASMANIAN ABATTOIRS & KNACKERIES 2024

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The objectives of mandatory video monitoring in Tasmanian livestock processing operations are to –
  - (a) assist Tasmanian livestock processing operations to continuously improve their operations and increase their accountability for animal welfare outcomes;
  - (b) underpin animal welfare by supporting livestock processors to effectively monitor through video surveillance in parts of their business which represent a high risk to animal welfare; and
  - (c) provide the regulator with greater visibility to verify compliance with animal welfare standards in livestock processing operations.
- 1.2. These *Guidelines for Video Monitoring in Tasmanian Abattoirs and Knackeries* (VMS Guidelines) have been developed as a practical set of guidelines and procedures for livestock processors to implement Video Monitoring Systems (VMS), also often referred to as ‘closed circuit television’ or CCTV.
- 1.3. The VMS Guidelines reflect requirements and recommendations that are in draft *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Livestock at Processing Establishments* (currently in development), and the *Industry Animal Welfare Standard for Livestock Processing Establishments Preparing Meat for Human Consumption* published by the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC).<sup>1</sup>
- 1.4. In developing the VMS Guidelines, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania has drawn on a similar document – the “*Guidance on the Mandatory Use of Closed-Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (England) Regulations 2018*”<sup>2</sup> published by the British Government, which introduced regulations for mandatory video monitoring in English abattoirs in 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://amic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/AMIC-Ed-3-Industry-Animal-Welfare-Standard\\_Final-effective-1-Jan-2022.pdf](https://amic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/AMIC-Ed-3-Industry-Animal-Welfare-Standard_Final-effective-1-Jan-2022.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b58a03f40f0b6338e4178f7/cctv-slaughterhouses-operator-guidance.pdf>

## 2. Scope

- 2.1. The VMS Guidelines are intended for livestock processors who are required by law to install and operate a VMS.
- 2.2. The VMS Guidelines are not a set of statutory rules and do not on their own create legally binding obligations. However, compliance with the VMS Guidelines may be required through statutory mechanisms such as accreditation conditions and enforceable instructions. Some businesses may choose to voluntarily introduce VMS in accordance with the Guidelines as a management and quality assurance tool for their business.

## 3. Interpretation

- 3.1. In the VMS Guidelines, as the context requires –
  - (a) the phrase “is to” (or “are to” in plural form) is to be construed as being directory and indicative of a minimum requirement for compliance with the Guideline; and
  - (b) the word “should” is to be construed as being advisory and indicative of a recommendation; and
  - (c) the word “may” is to be construed as being discretionary or enabling.
- 3.2. Definitions of key terms are provided in the Glossary at the end of this document.

## 4. VMS design and operation

- 4.1. Livestock processors are required, at their own expense, to have in place a VMS to assess and effectively monitor animal welfare within their facility, and use the results to inform any necessary improvements to optimise the humane treatment of animals and compliance with animal welfare and product integrity standards applying under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, the *Biosecurity Act 2019*, the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011*, and other legislation.
- 4.2. VMS cameras are to cover all critical animal welfare points to record clear surveillance of the movement of animals from arrival to exsanguination and death. The following are to be considered critical animal welfare points:
  - (a) unloading animals from vehicles into lairage;

- (b) movement of livestock towards the stunning area;
- (c) restraint and stunning of livestock;
- (d) sticking (cutting);
- (e) hoisting of livestock for bleeding; and
- (f) bleed rail.

- 4.3. The VMS is to be working and always recording when and where there are live animals present and being handled at the livestock processing premises, including delivery of animals to the premises outside normal working hours.
- 4.4. The VMS is to provide an accurate record of activity at the livestock processing premises; picture resolution is to be good enough to enable easy identification of people and animals in the recorded footage and images. Each recording made by the equipment is to display the time and date of the recording.
- 4.5. Video surveillance footage is to be kept by the processor for a minimum of 30 calendar days from the date of recording.
- 4.6. Footage is to be reviewed daily by management staff responsible for ensuring required animal welfare outcomes are being met. Footage is to be reviewed whenever an animal welfare incident occurs at the facility so that mitigation actions can be immediately implemented to prevent re-occurrence of the issue.
- 4.7. VMS equipment is to be checked daily if there is a live animal at the livestock processing premises and before any livestock processing commences to ensure the equipment is operating effectively. The following details regarding daily checks are to be recorded:
  - (a) the date and the time the equipment was checked;
  - (b) the name of the person who checked the equipment; and
  - (c) whether the equipment was operating effectively.
- 4.8. If VMS equipment is found not to be operating either during the daily check or at another time, and the malfunction cannot be rectified before processing begins, the livestock processor is to notify an Authorised Officer. The notice is to include the date and time the malfunction was identified. The livestock processor is to, within 2 business days (while plant operating) of detecting the malfunction, take steps to arrange for the repair of the VMS equipment as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 4.9. A VMS is to be capable of constant recording. It is to be able to produce footage for inspection or to be taken away by an Authorised Officer, without stopping the overall operation of the system. The processor is to supply footage to the relevant regulator upon request.
- 4.10. If a livestock processor has other CCTV cameras, for example for security or fault-finding reasons, these would not normally be considered part of the mandatory VMS required under

legislation. However, even if a camera is not part of the mandatory VMS required for regulatory purposes, Authorised Officers can use existing powers under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, the *Biosecurity Act 2019*, and/or the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011* to inspect, copy or seize records if the camera records an animal health or welfare incident.

- 4.1.1. A livestock processor and any person authorised by the livestock processor to operate a VMS is to be appropriately trained and competent to operate the VMS in accordance with these Guidelines.

## 5. Technical specifications

- 5.1. The livestock processor is to ensure that VMS equipment is appropriate and suitable for scale and nature of the livestock processing operation and is fit for the purpose of effectively monitoring compliance with regulatory standards, including these Guidelines.
- 5.2. The Australian Standards listed in the information section at the end of these Guidelines provide useful guidance in respect of VMS set-up and equipment.

## 6. Secure retention of VMS data

- 6.1. A livestock processor's VMS is to be capable of storing, processing and transmitting (for example moving to removable digital storage devices, or showing on a television monitor) footage, images and information of the same resolution and quality as the original recording. Recorded footage and images and other VMS data is to show the time, date, and location of the data's creation.
- 6.2. A livestock processor is to retain and store each day's VMS data for at least 30 calendar days after it is created. VMS data stored for longer than 30 days may be deleted if there is no other legal requirement to retain the data.
- 6.3. A livestock processor is to ensure that VMS equipment is not operated by anyone other than the livestock processor (or a person employed or authorised by the livestock processor to operate VMS equipment) while live animals are present at the livestock processing premises. VMS data is to be stored in a secure place or electronic format that is only accessible by the person in charge of the livestock processing operation, or a person authorised by the person in charge.

- 6.4. A livestock processor is to ensure that any person employed or authorised by the livestock processor to operate VMS equipment –
- (a) does not alter, manipulate, corrupt, or delete VMS data, or take any other action which –
    - (i) results in the VMS data containing false and misleading information; or
    - (ii) otherwise compromises the integrity and accuracy of the VMS data; and
  - (b) is made aware that knowingly and deliberately engaging in the conduct referred to in paragraph (a) may constitute a criminal offence.
- 6.5. A livestock processor is to have all necessary access protocols and passwords available to facilitate access to the stored VMS data for an Authorised Officer or Auditor. For legal assurance purposes, a livestock processor may have a representative present whenever Authorised Officers or Auditors view, copy, or seize VMS data or equipment.

## 7. Review and inspection of VMS data

- 7.1. A livestock processor is to regularly review VMS data to ensure that the VMS is functioning properly and accurately monitoring livestock handling activities, and that livestock handling complies with regulatory animal welfare standards.
- 7.2. A livestock processor (or employee or representative with working knowledge of the VMS) is to at all reasonable times provide access to the VMS data and equipment, to an Authorised Officer or Auditor to enable viewing of live or stored VMS data.
- 7.3. A livestock processor is to provide an Authorised Officer with all reasonable assistance in accessing VMS data. Retained VMS data that is kept at a separate location to the livestock processing premises is to be made available as soon as is reasonably practicable after it is requested by an Authorised Officer or Auditor.
- 7.4. An Authorised Officer or Auditor may request to see stored footage from any day or time in the 30 calendar days (preceding the request) when the livestock processing operation was operating.

- 7.5. Authorised Officers are empowered to inspect a VMS and any VMS data in response to a suspected animal welfare incident, and for random inspections and verification purposes. Authorised Officers, in the performance of their functions, may copy, store and retain VMS data on external devices; and seize VMS equipment, if needed, including computers and other equipment used as part of the VMS.
- 7.6. If an Authorised Officer takes equipment or VMS data, the officer will be responsible for protecting the equipment and personal information contained in the VMS data in accordance with legal requirements.
- 7.7. When an Authorised Officer takes any part of the VMS, they are to provide a written receipt of the items taken and return those items when no longer required. Where items are used as evidence in court proceedings, they should be returned to the owner as soon as possible after the court proceedings end, or otherwise as required by law.
- 7.8. If a suitable VMS is not in place after equipment is seized, an Authorised Officer may issue directions or instructions that require a livestock processor to replace equipment and state how quickly the replacement equipment is to be installed. Failure to comply with these directions or instructions may result in further enforcement action such as a criminal prosecution, infringement notice or suspension/revocation of the livestock processors accreditation.

## 8. Privacy and confidentiality

- 8.1. A livestock processor is to ensure that a VMS is not used as a listening device to record verbal conversations between individuals (including employees and agents of the livestock processor) except in circumstances where such recording is permitted and lawful under the *Listening Devices Act 1991*.
- 8.2. All persons entering onto a livestock processing premises are to be informed (through signage and other means) of the presence and operation of a VMS, and that they are likely be subject to video monitoring while on the premises.
- 8.3. Personal information (which can identify an individual) and information of a sensitive commercial or confidential nature contained in VMS data collected by an Authorised Officer or Auditor in the performance of their functions are not to be disclosed to persons other than courts, tribunals and Government and law enforcement agencies for a legitimate regulatory purpose that is authorised by law. Except as otherwise required under legislation, Authorised Officers and Government personnel are to comply with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2002* in the collection, storage and use of personal information contained in VMS data.



# 9. Glossary

**“Auditor”** means –

- (a) an approved food safety auditor within the meaning of the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011*; and
- (b) a biosecurity auditor withing the meaning of the *Biosecurity Act 2019*;

**“Authorised Officer”** means –

- (a) an Authorised Officer under the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011*;
- (b) an Authorised Officer under the *Biosecurity Act 2019*;
- (c) an officer appointed under section 13 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*;
- (d) an inspector appointed under section 36 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*;

**“livestock”** includes any abattoir animal or poultry within the meaning of the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011*;

**“livestock processing premises”** means premises on which a livestock processing operation is carried on;

**“livestock processing operation”** means –

- (a) a meat processing business within the meaning of the *Primary Produce Safety (Meat and Poultry) Regulations 2014*, or any regulations which amend or replace those regulations; and
- (b) a pet food business within the meaning of the *Primary Produce Safety (Pet Food) Regulations 2014* or any regulations which amend or replace those regulations; and
- (c) a knackery or other similar business where livestock are slaughtered for a purpose other than meat processing or pet food production;

**“livestock processor”** means –

- (a) in the case of a livestock processing operation that is the subject of an accreditation under the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011*, the accredited producer in respect of the operation; and

(b) in any other case, the proprietor or person apparently in charge of the livestock processing operation;

“**premises**” includes any land, building, shed, pen, receptacle or vehicle of any description;

“**vehicle**” means any means of transport, whether self-propelled or not, and whether used on land or sea or in the air;

“**Video Monitoring System**” or “**VMS**” means a closed-circuit television system or other system of video cameras and equipment that is capable of, as a minimum, capturing, recording, storing, replaying and transmitting video footage, images and information for the purposes of visual monitoring and surveillance;

“**VMS data**” means recorded video footage, images and information that is obtained by a video monitoring system and stored in an electronic or digital format.

## 10. Information

### TASMANIAN LEGISLATION ([www.thelaw.tas.gov.au](http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au))

#### Animal Welfare

- *Animal Welfare Act 1993*
- *Animal Welfare (Cattle) Regulations 2023*
- *Animal Welfare (Domestic Poultry) Regulations (No. 2) 2023*
- *Animal Welfare (General) Regulations (No. 2) 2023*
- *Animal Welfare (Pigs) Regulations (No. 2) 2023*
- *Animal Welfare (Sheep) Regulations 2023*
- *Animal Welfare (Transport of Livestock) Regulations (No. 2) 2023*

#### Biosecurity

- *Biosecurity Act 2019*
- *Biosecurity Regulations 2022*

#### Produce Safety and Integrity

- *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011*
- *Primary Produce Safety (Meat and Poultry) Regulations 2014*

#### Personal information protection and privacy

- *Listening Devices Act 1991*

- *Personal Information Protection Act 2002*

## **AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS FOR VMS (CCTV)**

- [AS/NZS 62676.1.1:2020](#) - System Requirements General
- [AS/NZS 62676.1.2:2020](#) - Performance requirements for video transmission
- [AS/NZS 62676.2.1:2020](#) - Video transmission protocols
- [AS/NZS 62676.2.2:2020](#) - Video transmission protocols – IP interoperability implementation based on HTTP and REST services
- [AS/NZS 62676.3:2020](#) - Analog and digital video interfaces
- [AS/NZS 62676.4:2020](#) - Application guidelines
- [AS/NZS 62676.5:2020](#) – Data specifications and image quality performance for camera devices
- [AS/NZS IEC 62676.2.31:2020](#) - Live streaming and control based on web services
- [AS/NZS IEC 62676.2.32:2020](#) - Recording control and replay based on web services

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Author: Biosecurity Tasmania  
Publisher: Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania  
Date: March 2024

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Tasmanian  
Government

**Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania**  
**Biosecurity Tasmania**

**Phone: 1300 368 550**

**Email: [Biosecurity.Tasmania@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Biosecurity.Tasmania@nre.tas.gov.au)**

**Website: [nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity](http://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity)**