

RSPCA CERTIFIED

Operating Rules

Contents

Contents.....	1
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Eligibility.....	2
3. Certification Process.....	2
4. RSPCA Australia Standards.....	4
5. RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard.....	5
6. RSPCA Certified Programs.....	5
7. The Certification Body.....	5
8. Becoming a Licensee.....	6
9. Certification as a Producer.....	7
10. Maintaining permission to use the RSPCA Certified Mark.....	9
11. Assessments and Maintenance of Certification.....	9
12. Authorised Assessors (Assessors).....	10
13. Consequences for noncompliance with these Rules.....	10
14. Dispute Resolution.....	10
15. Definitions.....	11
ANNEX 1: Assessment of Standards.....	13
Chain of Custody Program.....	14
Meat Chicken Program.....	16
Turkey Program.....	18
Layer Hen Program.....	20
Pig Program.....	22
Farmed Atlantic Salmon Program.....	25

1. Introduction

- (a) These are the operating rules (**Rules**) that relate to the RSPCA Certified Mark owned by RSPCA Australia. These Rules may be amended at any time by RSPCA Australia, subject to the provisions of the Trade Marks Act 1995.
- (b) RSPCA Australia is the owner of the RSPCA Certified Mark.
- (c) The RSPCA Certified business unit of RSPCA Australia manages the administration and use of the RSPCA Certified Mark in accordance with these Rules.
- (d) The RSPCA Certified Scheme (formerly known as the RSPCA Accreditation Scheme and the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme) is a farm animal welfare certification scheme that was created to improve farm animal welfare in Australia, whilst also providing guidance and a trustworthy choice for consumers who want to purchase higher welfare products.
- (e) These Rules and the Standards have been developed and authorised by the RSPCA Australia Certification Committee to provide Producers and Licensees with an understanding of the Certification requirements and to provide transparency of the expectations and process that needs to be followed to obtain and maintain Certification.
- (f) The RSPCA Australia Certification Committee is a committee of RSPCA Australia with a mandate to ensure that the integrity, intentions, objectives and vision of the Standards and RSPCA Australia are maintained in the RSPCA Certified Scheme and in particular the use of the RSPCA Certified Mark.
- (g) RSPCA Australia grants the right to use the RSPCA Certified Mark on any products in accordance with these Rules.

2. Eligibility

- (a) RSPCA Australia requires that any business seeking permission to use the RSPCA Certified Mark be:
 - i. A legitimate business with a registered Australian Business Number;
 - ii. Operating in Australia;
 - iii. Have products intended for production or distribution in the Australian market; and
 - iv. Meet all regulatory requirements of their sector.
- (b) RSPCA Australia reserves the right to request evidence at any time to verify the eligibility criteria above is met for businesses who have been authorised to use, or who seek to use, the RSPCA Certified Mark.

3. Certification Process

Licensees

- (a) The RSPCA Certified Mark is permitted for use on RSPCA Certified Products by Licensees subject to:
 - i. compliance with these Rules; and
 - ii. execution of and compliance with a Trade Mark Licensing Agreement.
- (b) Licensees may market RSPCA Certified Products from Producers to their customers.

- (c) The Trade Mark Licensing Agreement requires that:
 - i. These Rules are complied with;
 - ii. RSPCA Certified Brand Guidelines are complied with;
 - iii. The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard are met; and
 - iv. Products are sourced from Producers certified to an RSPCA Certified Program.

Producers

- (d) Producers that participate in RSPCA Certified Programs and supply RSPCA Certified Products to Licensees must enter into an agreement with RSPCA Australia (**Producer Agreement**).
- (e) The Producer Agreement requires that:
 - i. These Rules are complied with;
 - ii. The Producer operates or has a supply contract with farms and facilities that meet the requirements of RSPCA Certified Programs;
 - iii. The Producer is subject to assessment by the Certification Body at farms and facilities that supply RSPCA Certified Products to Licensees; and
 - iv. The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard are met.
- (f) Unless they are also a Licensee, Producers are only permitted to use the RSPCA Certified Mark on RSPCA Certified Products that they produce and handle on behalf of a Licensee, and which are marketed and sold by the Licensee. A Producer's use of the RSPCA Certified Mark in any other way is limited to the terms of the Producer Agreement.
- (g) If a Producer is seeking to use the RSPCA Certified Mark on Certified Products that they market and sell themselves, the Producer must also be a Licensee and execute and comply with the requirements of a Trade Mark Licensing Agreement.
- (h) Producers certified to RSPCA Certified Programs shall be issued with a Certificate of Conformity that confirms this status and that lists all farms and facilities in their Scope of Certification from which RSPCA Certified Products can be sourced.

Farms

- (i) Producers may source products from third party farms and request that RSPCA Australia includes these farms in their Scope of Certification. Farms and farmers in a Producer's Scope of Certification have no direct contact or relationship with RSPCA Certified.
- (j) Farms must meet all applicable requirements of the RSPCA Certified Program the Producer is certified to.
- (k) Farms are only permitted to be named in the Scope of Certification of one Producer at any one time.
- (l) Farms named in the Scope of Certification of a Producer that produce RSPCA Certified Products on behalf of that Producer, are not permitted to use the RSPCA Certified Mark, or to otherwise represent that they have been certified by RSPCA Australia.
- (m) Farms shall not be issued with certificates or other devices that reference any association with RSPCA Australia.
- (n) For the purposes of the Certification Process these farms are termed **Units of Certification (UoCs)** of the Producer.

Abattoirs

- (o) Producers must operate or contract with abattoirs for the slaughter of RSPCA Certified Products for supply to Licensees. These abattoirs are dealt with as UoCs in the Scope of Certification of the Producer.

- (p) Abattoirs that meet the requirements of an RSPCA Certified Program in their handling and processing of RSPCA Certified Products are permitted to reference the RSPCA Certified Mark only in relation to the RSPCA Certified Products. These abattoirs shall only use the RSPCA Certified Mark on RSPCA Certified Products and shall not make any other claims to their association with the RSPCA Certified Mark or be permitted to use the RSPCA Certified Mark for any other purpose.

Outdoor Certification

- (q) RSPCA Certified Products that meet the additional requirements in the Standards for the provision of outdoor access to animals may associate the RSPCA Certified Mark with further words that reflect this, as set out in the RSPCA Certified Brand Guidelines.

4. RSPCA Australia Standards

- (a) RSPCA Australia owns and publishes the following Standards:
 - i. RSPCA Australia Layer Hens Standard
 - ii. RSPCA Australia Pigs Standard
 - iii. RSPCA Australia Meat Chickens Standard
 - iv. RSPCA Australia Turkeys Standard
 - v. RSPCA Australia Farmed Atlantic Salmon Standard
 - vi. RSPCA Australia Dairy Calves Standard
- (b) The Standards focus on the welfare of animals farmed for food and offer improved welfare above that of conventional farming systems and the minimum that is required by law.
- (c) The Standards consider farming in the Australian environment and the opportunities to improve animal welfare within the commercial realities of farm animal production on farm, at transport and at slaughter.
- (d) RSPCA Australia Science and Policy team are responsible for developing and reviewing the Standards.
- (e) The process for the development and review of Standards includes the review of scientific literature and relevant industry practices, and consultation with a range of stakeholders, including through a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of academics, industry representatives and other experts to provide advice. The Standards are approved through a process at RSPCA Australia that involves the organisation's Animal Welfare and Ethics Committee, and the RSPCA Australia Board.
- (f) With continuous improvement in mind, Standards are reviewed and updated approximately every five years to ensure their continued relevance. Interim reviews of Standards are conducted approximately one year after their implementation to address any learnings from the assessment and certification process and ensure their effectiveness in meeting the objectives.
- (g) Critical issues that necessitate amendment to the Standards (including new scientific developments or changes to industry practice or legislation) may be dealt with at any time during the lifespan of the Standard.
- (h) The implementation of changes to Standards following review shall be determined by the RSPCA Certified business unit in consultation with Producers and the RSPCA Australia Certification Committee and the Certification Body.

- (i) Feedback on all Standards may be provided by anyone at any time by contacting RSPCA Australia via the contact form on www.rspca.org.au. Licensees and Producers may also provide both informal and formal feedback directly to the RSPCA Certified business unit by email.
- (j) The Standards are publicly available at www.rspca.org.au.

5. RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard

- (a) Businesses that produce, process and in any other way handle RSPCA Certified Products must meet the requirements of the Chain of Custody Program.

6. RSPCA Certified Programs

- (a) For the purposes of Certification each Standard and its associated assessment requirements are termed as a Program and are named as such e.g. Producers supplying RSPCA Certified chicken meat must comply with the requirements of the Meat Chicken Program.
- (b) The general requirements for RSPCA Certified Certification apply to all Programs.
- (c) The frequency and the type of assessments conducted as part of each Program varies and are set out in Annex 1.

7. The Certification Body

- (a) Certification to RSPCA Certified Programs shall be through the conduct of assessments as set out in Annex 1 and associated certification activities that are referenced in this document.
- (b) The General Manager of the RSPCA Certified business unit shall appoint a Certification Body to conduct the process of Certification.
- (c) The **Certification Body** will be either:
 - 1. An internal division of RSPCA Australia (the RSPCA Australia Certification Body) that shall:
 - i. Provide certification services to the RSPCA Certified business unit but that shall operate through policy and procedure independently of RSPCA Certified and RSPCA Australia, other than through those means set out in these Rules (i.e. through the directives of the Certification Committee).
 - ii. Carry out assessment activities (including desk-top reviews, farm and abattoir site visits, raise nonconformities and check corrective actions, and make Certification decisions) in an independent, impartial and objective manner through the implementation of practices aligned with ISO/IEC 17065.
 - iii. Appoint, train and ensure the competency of Authorised Assessors (**Assessors**) and other personnel critical for the provision of Certification activities.
 - 2. Third-party certification bodies that shall be required to:

- i. Be certified to ISO/IEC 17065 and carry out assessment activities (including desk-top reviews, farm and abattoir site visits, raise nonconformities and check corrective actions, and make Certification decisions) in an independent, impartial and objective manner.
 - ii. Maintain finances, reserves and insurances to ensure ongoing delivery of assessment and Certification activities, and to cover liabilities arising from its provision of Certification activities under the scheme.
 - iii. Appoint, employ, train and ensure the competency of authorised Assessors and other personnel critical for the provision of certification activities.
- (d) A person shall be designated to be the Certification Manager who is authorised by the RSPCA Certified business unit to direct activities as necessary to certify, or to remove certification of Producers to RSPCA Certified Programs.
- (e) The Certification Manager shall have:
 - i. demonstrated experience, expertise and competencies relevant to the field of accreditation and certification
 - ii. a comprehensive understanding of the RSPCA Certified Scheme and its rules, practices, process, operations, polices and objectives
- (f) The Certification Manager is responsible for the design and maintenance of systems, procedure, process and competencies for the effective implementation of these Rules with due regard for international best practice and alignment with ISO/IEC 17065.
- (g) The Certification Manager makes certification decisions through their review of the completed assessment and certification reports and the application of these Rules (noting that in those instances where this is not possible, the Certification Committee makes certification decisions).

8. Becoming a Licensee

Application Process:

Step 1: Contact RSPCA Certified.

Applicant companies contact RSPCA Certified to signify their desire to become a Licensee, by using the contact information on the RSPCA Certified website.

Step 2: Preliminary evaluation of the Applicant and their proposed use of the RSPCA Certified Mark.

RSPCA Certified will enter into preliminary discussions with the Applicant to understand its business, the products it handles or markets, its proposed use of the RSPCA Certified Mark, and its eligibility for the use of the RSPCA Certified Mark. RSPCA Certified will evaluate the preliminary information and, if appropriate, authorise the progression to the next steps of the application process. RSPCA Certified will correspond with the Applicant to notify it of the outcome of the preliminary evaluation. Failure by an Applicant to progress to the next steps in the application process shall not prevent the Applicant from making future applications.

Step 3: Acceptance of terms of the Application process and payment of Fees.

The Applicant must accept the terms of the application process and pay the Application Fee, which covers the Chain of Custody assessment, which is not refundable. The application process (steps 1 – 4) must be completed within 3 months of the application. Additional fees may be applicable if reapplication or the repeat of the application process is necessary.

Step 4: Chain of Custody assessment.

The Applicant must be assessed by the Certification Body and demonstrate its conformance with the requirements of the RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard.

Step 5: Decision by RSPCA Certified.

Upon confirmation that the Applicant has passed the Chain of Custody assessment by the Certification Body, RSPCA Certified will evaluate the application and upon authorisation of the CEO of RSPCA Australia make the decision to enter into a Trade Mark Licensing Agreement with the Applicant. RSPCA Certified will correspond with the Applicant to notify it of the outcome of their application. Failure by the Applicant to complete the application process successfully will not prevent the Applicant from making future applications.

9. Certification as a Producer

Application Process:

Step 1: Contact RSPCA Certified.

Applicant companies contact RSPCA Certified to signify their desire to become a Producer for the supply of RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee of the RSPCA Certified Mark, by using the contact information on the RSPCA Certified website.

Step 2: Preliminary evaluation of the Applicant.

RSPCA Certified will enter into preliminary discussions with the Applicant to understand its business, the products it handles, the Licensee it intends to supply with RSPCA Certified Products and its eligibility for association with the RSPCA Certified Mark. Only Applicants that meet the eligibility criteria will progress to step 3.

Step 3: Acceptance of terms (Producer Agreement) and payment of fees.

The Applicant must enter into a contractual agreement with RSPCA Australia (Producer Agreement) that outlines the terms of its certification and includes its acceptance of the conditions of the application and Certification process. The Applicant must pay a Fee, which is not refundable, that covers the Certification Body application process.

Start of the Certification Body application process:

Step 4: Applicant completes application forms.

RSPCA Certified will instruct the Certification Body to begin its application process with the Applicant.

The Applicant must complete application forms supplied by the Certification Body that require the submission of information on the Applicants operations, policies, and practices and specific information about the UoCs (farms and abattoirs) that they propose to be within their Scope of Certification. The Certification Body shall make a preliminary evaluation of the application information submitted and where sufficient details are understood about a Producers operations the application process shall proceed to subsequent steps.

Step 5: Producer Document Review assessment

The Applicant must demonstrate its conformance with a Producer Document Review assessment conducted by the Certification Body that will evaluate documents relating to staff training and competence, animal husbandry, animal health management and animal handling and slaughter that are requirements of the relevant RSPCA Australia Standard.

Step 6: Chain of Custody assessment

The Applicant must be assessed by the Certification Body and demonstrate its conformance with the requirements of the RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard.

Step 7: On-site assessments

On-site assessments will be conducted by Authorised Assessors. The assessments will test conformance with all requirements of the RSPCA Certified Program to which certification is sought and that are applicable at the UoC.

On-site assessments must be completed at abattoirs and of all handling processes as identified in Annex 1, and at all farm sites intended to participate in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products.

It is not a requirement that all sites of a Producer that may ultimately seek certification are certified at this stage, however, only those assessed can participate in the supply of RSPCA Certified Producers upon successful completion of the application process.

Step 8: Certification Decision

The assessment findings will be shared with the Applicant, who will be provided an opportunity to respond and perform corrective and preventative actions. The Certification Body shall consider the findings and responses, and the Certification Manager shall notify the Producer and RSPCA Certified of the decision to certify the Applicant and those assessed sites as UoCs in the Scope of Certification of the Producer, or otherwise. Decisions made by the Certification Manager may be appealed to the Certification Committee within 30 days of the Certification Decision.

If the application is successful, the Producer will be issued with a **Certificate of Conformity** and be permitted to supply RSPCA Certified products to Licensees from those UoCs in its Scope of Certification. Producers and UoCs in their Scope of Certification shall be subject to the Certification Process and assessment frequency set out in Annex 1. New UoCs may be added to the Producers Scope of Certification only after successful close out of all assessments applicable to the UoC. A notice shall be issued at the end of each calendar month to all Producers that lists all UoCs in their Scope of Certification and supersedes all previously issued notices; their supply of RSPCA Certified Products is limited to only those products sourced from the UoCs listed on the most recent notice.

10. Maintaining permission to use the RSPCA Certified Mark

- (a) RSPCA Certified shall be responsible for determining the continued use of the RSPCA Certified Mark by Licensees through:
 - i. The routine management of the terms of the Trade Mark Licensing Agreement,
 - ii. The routine evaluation of the use of the RSPCA Certified Mark on products, websites, retail and other commercial materials, publications and references.
 - iii. The successful conduct and close out of Chain of Custody assessment of the Licensee's handling of RSPCA Certified Products.
 - iv. The successful conduct and close-out of Chain of Custody assessments at all businesses in the supply chain of RSPCA Certified Products to the Licensee.
- (b) The Certification Body shall be responsible for the conduct of Chain of Custody assessments and shall report findings and conclusions to RSPCA Certified.

11. Assessments and Maintenance of Certification

Producers

- (c) The Certification Body shall conduct assessments of Producers and UoCs in their Scope of Certification of the type and at the frequency specified for each RSPCA Certified Program in Annex 1.
- (d) Assessments shall test all requirements of the RSPCA Certified Program that can be reasonably tested by an Assessor at the UoC, noting that the extent to which the requirements can be tested is dependent upon the nature of the UoCs operations (whether it is a farm or an abattoir), and age of animals.
- (e) Assessments shall be valid only when an Assessor is able to evaluate sufficient evidence to determine conformance with the requirements of the RSPCA Certified Program at a UoC. Invalid assessments must be rescheduled to fulfil the requirements of the Program; an additional Fee may be applicable.
- (f) Assessments shall be conducted by Assessors at farms and abattoirs, and during transport and slaughter. Assessors shall evaluate documents, records and management practices.

- (g) Assessments of RSPCA Certified Programs place significant weight on an Assessors evaluation of evidence of animal husbandry and handling practices at farms, and handling and slaughter practices at abattoirs, and of animal handling during those practices identified in Annex 1.
- (h) Assessments may be scheduled in advance or may be conducted unannounced.

12. Authorised Assessors (Assessors)

- (a) Assessors shall be trained and authorised to conduct assessment of RSPCA Certified Programs by RSPCA Certified.
- (b) RSPCA Certified authorised Assessors must:
 - i. Possess the generic competencies that align with the requirements for auditor competence described by ISO/IEC 19011:2018.
 - ii. Possess the specific knowledge of the RSPCA Certified Program and Standard and industry sector to which they apply and have the skills necessary to achieve the objectives of assessments.
 - iii. Complete training and participate in on-going professional development as directed by RSPCA Certified.

13. Consequences for noncompliance with these Rules

- (a) RSPCA Australia may cancel the right to use the RSPCA Certified Mark for breaches to these Rules that are not remedied on reasonable notice, subject to the terms of the Trade Mark Licensing Agreement, or Producer Agreement as applicable.

14. Dispute Resolution

- (a) In the event of refusal of an application for use of the RSPCA Certified Mark:
 - i. The applicant may lodge an appeal to the decision made by RSPCA Certified to the CEO of RSPCA Australia;
 - ii. The appeal must be made in writing and within 30 days of the notice of refusal; and
 - iii. The CEO of RSPCA Australia shall within 10 business days of the receipt of the appeal negotiate in good faith to resolve the issue.
- (b) In the case of breaches of the terms of the Trade Mark Licensing Agreement with RSPCA Australia the process for dispute resolution described in the Agreement shall be followed.
- (c) In the case of breaches of the terms of the Producer Agreement with RSPCA Australia the process for dispute resolution described in the Agreement shall be followed.

15. Definitions

In these rules:

Applicant means any entity that has applied for Certification.

Authorised Assessors (Assessors) has the meaning given in clause 12.

Certificate of Conformity is an annual document issued to Producers by the Certification Body that confirms that the requirements of the RSPCA Certified Program named on the document have been met

Certification means the result of the process by which an Applicant is determined by RSPCA Certified to satisfy the requirements in these Rules to use the RSPCA Certified Mark.

Certification Body has the meaning given in clause 7.

Certification Process means the series of activities that must be carried out in order to achieve Certification.

Conformance means the fulfilment of a requirement of an RSPCA Certified Program.

Licensee means a legal entity that has executed a Trade Mark Licence Agreement with RSPCA Australia;

Producers means a legal entity engaged in the farming and/ or slaughter of animals that meets the requirements of an RSPCA Certified Program.

RSPCA Australia Certification Committee is a committee of RSPCA Australia responsible for setting the operating parameters of the Certification Process and establishing certification rules, adjudicating exemptions and appeals, and making certification decisions where the Certification Manager is unable.

RSPCA Certified Mark means the trade marks which are the subject of:

Australian TM 2457809 and as depicted below



Australian TM 2476676 and as depicted below



Australian TM 2476677 and as depicted below



RSPCA Certified means the business unit of RSPCA Australia that manages and administers the RSPCA Certified Program

RSPCA Certified Brand Guidelines is a document included in a Licensing Agreement that outlines the specifications of how the RSPCA Certified logo(s) and name may be used on and off product packaging. Including marketing and advertising materials.

RSPCA Certified Product(s) means any animal-based products supplied to a Licensee by a Producer who has been assessed and certified against an RSPCA Certified Program.

RSPCA Certified Program means the Producer's operations that must be assessed and the requirements that must be met as set out in the Annexure, to assess whether the Producer meets the Standard.

Scope of Certification means all UoCs, facilities and processes performed at UoCs that are associated with a Producer, that are assessed and have met the requirements of RSPCA Standards, and from which can be sourced animals intended to be marketed with the RSPCA Certified Brand.

Standards has the meaning given in clause 4;

Trade Mark Licence Agreement means an agreement between a person or legal entity and RSPCA Australia which authorises and governs the use of the RSPCA Certified Mark;

Unit of Certification (UoC) means the operation that is part of a Producer's Scope of Certification where assessments are conducted; typically farms and abattoirs. For the purposes of the Chain of custody Program, UoC applies to all entities in the supply chain of RSPCA Certified products to a Licensee.

ANNEX 1: Assessment of Standards

RSPCA Certified Programs prescribe the specific requirements for assessments that must be conducted and met by Licensees, Producers and UoCs in a Producers Scope of Certification.

These specific requirements define the number, frequency, and type of assessments that must be conducted and at which conformance with the requirements of the relevant Standard must be achieved. The differences between RSPCA Certified Programs reflect the specific requirements of the Standard, and husbandry practices of the species being farmed, and the opportunities within the normal practices of husbandry to conduct meaningful assessments.

The requirements for the Chain of Custody Program apply to all applicants and participants involved or seeking to be involved in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products; Licensees, Producers and UoCs in a Producers Scope of Certification.

The requirements for each species-specific Programs apply to all Producers that are applicants or participants involved or seeking to be involved in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products.

The requirements for initial certification are different to the requirements for on-going certification in some RSPCA Certified Programs.

The specific requirements for certification to each RSPCA Standard and the RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard are as follows:

Chain of Custody Program

The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Program apply to all Licensees, Producers and UoCs in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products in the supply chain to a Licensee.

Initial certification of Licensees requires them to demonstrate conformance with the requirements within their own, directly controlled operations. The maintenance of a Licensees certification has the additional requirement that all entities (UoCs) from which they source RSPCA Certified Products demonstrate through assessments by the Certification Body that they conform with the requirements of the Chain of Custody Standard. Licensees must cease receiving supplies of RSPCA Certified Products from entities that do not meet the requirements; failure to do so shall affect a Licensee's certification.

	Requirement	Assessments	Permitted to use RSPCA Certified Mark
Licensees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To declare all business, sites and locations owned, contracted or operated by the Licensee that handle RSPCA Certified products (excluding retail). 2. To declare all businesses in their supply chain of RSPCA Certified products, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abattoirs • Post-slaughter processing • Further processing and value-adding • Storage and distribution centres 3. To notify the Certification Body of changes to the businesses in their supply of RSPCA Certified Products, as declared, within 30 days of the change being effective (including the addition of new businesses and the removal of existing businesses). 	Of all distribution centres and processing facilities including abattoirs owned, contracted, or operated directly by the Licensee	<p>YES</p> <p>Upon acceptable conformance demonstrated at their owned and operated businesses.</p> <p>Maintenance of Certification requires acceptable conformance to be demonstrated at all entities in their supply chain.</p>

	Requirement	Assessments	Permitted to use RSPCA Certified Mark
UoCs in a Licensees supply chain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To demonstrate effective controls within their operations that ensure the provenance of products supplied as RSPCA Certified. 2. To declare all businesses, sites and locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From which they source RSPCA Certified products (inputs) • To which they supply RSPCA Certified products (outputs). 	Of all distribution centres and processing facilities including abattoirs owned, contracted, or operated by the UoC that handle RSPCA Certified products	<p>NO</p> <p>UoCs shall receive confirmation of their fulfilment of the requirements of the Program.</p> <p>UoCs are permitted only to make claims about their fulfilment of the Program to other parties in the supply chain of the Licensee.</p>
Producers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To demonstrate effective controls within their operations that ensure the provenance of products supplied as RSPCA Certified. 2. To declare all businesses, sites and locations to which RSPCA Certified products are supplied. 	<p>Of abattoirs that handle RSPCA Certified products for the Producer</p> <p>Of distribution centres and further processing facilities that operate for the Producer</p>	<p>NO¹</p> <p>In the context of this Program, Producers are a UoC of the Licensee.</p> <p>Producers are not permitted to make claims about their fulfilment of the Program to any party other than the Licensee</p>

¹ Noting that it is possible for a business to be both a Producer and a Licensee and that as a Licensee they may make claims about their fulfilment of the requirements of this Program as this relates to the handling of RSPCA Certified products marketed by them under the terms of the Trade Mark Licensing agreement with RSPCA Australia

Meat Chicken Program

The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Meat Chicken Program apply to all Producers that are applicants or participants involved or seeking to be involved in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. Certification shall be only of animals and products that have been raised and assessed against the requirements of the Standard for the entirety of their production cycle.

Initial Certification

Applicant Producers must fulfil all of the following initial certification requirements before they are permitted to supply RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. It is typical that the fulfilment of these requirements will take approximately 6 months.

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment at brooding and/or growing sites	At least of 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of the process of catching for slaughter	At least at 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of the process of transport to slaughter	Of animals from at least 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of slaughter at an abattoir	At least at 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

Maintenance of Certification

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment of the process of placement of animals within the brooding/ growing site	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 20 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment at brooding and/or growing sites	Every UoC, at least 1 scheduled assessment per year. Additional unannounced assessments at a rate proportionate to 20% ² of UoCs in the Producer's scope of certification
On-site assessment of routine animal handling process e.g. sample weighing, conduct of hock & foot lesion scoring	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 20 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of the process of catching for slaughter	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 10 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of the process of transport to slaughter	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 10 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of slaughter at an abattoir	At least 1 unannounced assessment per year at every abattoir handling animals from certified UoCs.
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

² The rate at which unannounced assessments are conducted shall be reviewed annually; it is anticipated that this rate shall increase over time.

Turkey Program

The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Turkey Program apply to all Producers that are applicants or participants involved or seeking to be involved in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. Certification shall be only of animals and products that have been raised and assessed against the requirements of the Standard for the entirety of their production cycle.

Initial Certification

Applicant Producers must fulfil all of the following initial certification requirements before they are permitted to supply RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. It is typical that the fulfilment of these requirements will take approximately 6 months.

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment at brooding and/or growing sites	At least of 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of the process of catching for slaughter	At least at 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of the process of transport to slaughter	Of animals from at least 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of slaughter at an abattoir	At least at 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

Maintenance of Certification

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment of the process of placement of animals within the brooding/ growing site	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 20 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment at brooding and/or growing sites	Every UoC, at least 1 scheduled assessment per year. Additional unannounced assessments at a rate proportionate to 20% ³ of UoCs in the Producer's scope of certification
On-site assessment of routine animal handling process e.g. sample weighing, conduct of hock & foot lesion scoring	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 20 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of the process of catching for slaughter	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 10 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of the process of transport to slaughter	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 10 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of slaughter at an abattoir	At least 1 unannounced assessment per year at every abattoir handling animals from certified UoCs.
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

³ The rate at which unannounced assessments are conducted shall be reviewed annually; it is anticipated that this rate shall increase over time.

Layer Hen Program

The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Layer Hen Program apply to all Producers that are applicants or participants involved or seeking to be involved in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. Certification shall be only of animals and products that have been raised and assessed against the requirements of the Standard for the entirety of their production cycle.

Initial Certification

Applicant Producers must fulfil all of the following initial certification requirements before they are permitted to supply RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. It is typical that the fulfilment of these requirements will take approximately 9 months.

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment at laying sites	At least of 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of the process of depopulation	At least at 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of the process of transport to slaughter	Of animals from at least 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
On-site assessment of slaughter at an abattoir	At least at 1 UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

Maintenance of Certification

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment of the process of placement of animals within a rearing site	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 20 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment at laying sites	Every UoC, at least 1 scheduled assessment per year. At least 1 additional unannounced assessment per year and up to a rate proportionate to 20% ⁴ of UoCs in the Producer's scope of certification
On-site assessment of the process of depopulation	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 10 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of the process of transport to slaughter	At least at the rate of 1 assessment per 10 farms certified per year. Assessment may be unannounced.
On-site assessment of slaughter at an abattoir	At least 1 unannounced assessment per year at every abattoir handling animals from certified UoCs.
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

⁴ The rate at which unannounced **assessments** are conducted shall be reviewed annually; it is anticipated that this rate shall increase over time.

Pig Program

The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Pig Program apply to all Producers that are applicants or participants involved or seeking to be involved in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee.

Applicant Producers must fulfil all of the initial certification requirements before they are permitted to supply RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. It is typical that the fulfilment of these requirements will take approximately 9 months.

Initial Certification

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment of the process of transport/ unloading at breeding site	At least 1 time at every UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification.
On-site assessment at breeding sites	
On-site assessment of the process of vaccination of breeding animals	
On-site assessment of the process of artificial insemination/ natural mating (where pens are used)	
On-site assessment of the process of loading of cull breeders	
On-site assessment of the process of weaning, loading and transport of weaners to growing site	
On-site assessment of the process of unloading of weaners at growing site	
On-site assessment of a growing site	
On-site assessment of the process of vaccination of growers	
On-site assessment of the process of weighing of growers	
On-site assessment of the process of loading for slaughter	
On-site assessment of the process of slaughter, including unloading, at an abattoir	At least 1 time at every abattoir before products are marketed as RSPCA Certified.

Type of Assessment	Requirement
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

Maintenance of Certification

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment of the process of transport/ unloading at breeding site	At least 1 time per year at any 1 UoC within the Producers Scope of Certification.
On-site assessment at breeding sites	
On-site assessment of the process of vaccination of breeding animals	
On-site assessment of the process of artificial insemination/ natural mating (where pens are used)	
On-site assessment of the process of loading of cull breeders	
On-site assessment of the process of weaning, loading and transport of weaners to growing site	
On-site assessment of the process of unloading of weaners at growing site	
On-site assessment of a growing site	
On-site assessment of the process of vaccination of growers	
On-site assessment of the process of weighing of growers	At least 1 time per year at every UoC within the Producers Scope of Certification.
On-site assessment of the process of loading for slaughter	
On-site assessment of the process of slaughter, including unloading, at an abattoir	At least 1 unannounced assessment per year at every abattoir handling animals from certified UoCs.

Type of Assessment	Requirement
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.

Farmed Atlantic Salmon Program

The requirements of the RSPCA Certified Farmed Atlantic Salmon Program apply to all Producers that are applicants or participants involved or seeking to be involved in the supply of RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. Certification shall be only of animals and products that have been raised and assessed against the requirements of the Standard for the entirety of their production cycle.

Applicant Producers must fulfil all of the initial certification requirements before they are permitted to supply RSPCA Certified Products to a Licensee. It is typical that the fulfilment of these requirements will take approximately 30 months.

Initial Certification

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment at breeding stock supplier site ⁵	At least 1 time at every UoC proposed to be within the Producers Scope of Certification.
On-site assessment at broodfish rearing site	
On-site assessment of the process of spawning	
On-site assessment at hatchery site	
On-site assessment of hatchery processes; management and handling of eggs and juvenile fish	
On-site assessment freshwater growing site	
On-site assessment of hatchery process of grading	
On-site assessment of the process of vaccination (both IP and immersion where practiced)	
On-site assessment of the process of road transport to growing site (both smolts and fry where practiced)	
On-site assessment at marine growing site	

⁵ Assessment of 3rd-party supply sites is not required.

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment of the process of AGD treatment	
On-site assessment of the process of wildlife deterrent device deployment	
On-site assessment of the process of slaughter at an abattoir	At least 1 time at every abattoir before products are marketed as RSPCA Certified.
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.
Assessment of regulatory and 3 rd -party environmental certification compliance; a desktop assessment	Conducted directly with the Producer.

Maintenance of Certification

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment of the process of spawning	At least 1 time per year at any 1 UoC within the Producers Scope of Certification.
On-site assessment of hatchery processes; management and handling of eggs and juvenile fish	
On-site assessment of hatchery process of grading	
On-site assessment of the process of vaccination (both IP and immersion where practiced)	
On-site assessment of the process of road transport to growing site (both smolts and fry where practiced)	
On-site assessment of the process of AGD treatment	
On-site assessment of the process of wildlife deterrent device deployment	

Type of Assessment	Requirement
On-site assessment at breeding stock supplier site ⁶	At least 1 time per year at every UoC within the Producers Scope of Certification.
On-site assessment at broodfish rearing site	
On-site assessment at hatchery site	
On-site assessment at freshwater growing site	
On-site assessment at marine growing site	
On-site assessment of the process of slaughter at an abattoir	At least 1 unannounced assessment per year at every abattoir handling animals from certified UoCs.
Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody Program requirements; a desktop assessment of documents	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their practices that ensure the provenance and traceability of RSPCA Certified Products.
Producer Document Review assessment; a desktop assessment	Conducted at least 1 time per year directly with the Producer of their staff training, animal husbandry and animal health management practices.
Assessment of regulatory and 3 rd -party environmental certification compliance; a desktop assessment	Conducted at least 1 time every 3 years directly with the Producer.

⁶ Assessment of 3rd-party supply sites is not required.