

Key to RSPCA Certified is a robust certification process that includes frequent, comprehensive on-site assessments. These assessments are coordinated by the RSPCA Australia Certification Body and conducted by specially trained RSPCA Assessors.

**1** Producers looking to be certified must first read our animal welfare standard that relates to their business — then make an application to RSPCA Certified.

[rspcacertified@rspca.org.au](mailto:rspcacertified@rspca.org.au)

**2** As part of the application process the Producer will enter into a Producer Agreement with RSPCA Certified.

**3** The Certification Body will provide the Producer with application forms to join the RSPCA Certified program.

**4** Upon return of application forms, the Certification Body will review these and make arrangements for a series of assessments.

## 5 Assessment

### Producer Document Review

Before any other assessment the animal husbandry and health management practices of the applicant are verified.

### Slaughter Assessment

On-site assessment of transport and slaughter at each Producer abattoir - evaluation of animal handling, equipment, process design, conduct, monitoring and safeguards, including where relevant through review of CCTV.

### Chain of Custody Assessment

An assessment against the RSPCA Certified Chain of Custody Standard.

Reports are generated following each assessment and reviewed by the Certification Body to ensure sufficient conformance with the Program requirements. Where conformance has been demonstrated, the Certification Body will proceed with an on-farm assessment

### Farm Assessment

As part of a typical assessment, a RSPCA Assessor will evaluate areas of the site where there will be animals raised to the standard. Assessors check animal behaviour, the conditions where they are kept and how they are managed, all against the relevant standard. Depending on the size of the site, this can take a couple of hours.

**7** The Certification Body will review the report, and if the requirements of the Program have been met the Producer will receive the certification status of Certified.

The Producer will also receive a Certificate of Conformity that signifies their participation in the RSPCA Certified Program.

**6** After conducting each assessment, the Assessor will provide their report to the Certification Body.

**8** Once a Producer has applied and successfully achieved certification, they are then regularly assessed against the standards as part of the ongoing certification process.

### Year 1 of Certification

- A high level of surveillance of up to 4 farm assessments at each site within a Producer's Scope\*.
- Unannounced assessments may be conducted at numerous sites.
- An assessment of various husbandry processes that involve animal handling; the number and type of assessments is dependent upon the RSPCA Certified Program to which the Producer is certified (as far as possible these will be scheduled to coincide with farm assessments).
- If conformance in year 1 is sufficient then the farm will proceed onto the schedule for on-going certification (*where this isn't achieved the assessment requirements of year 1 will be maintained*).

### Ongoing Certification

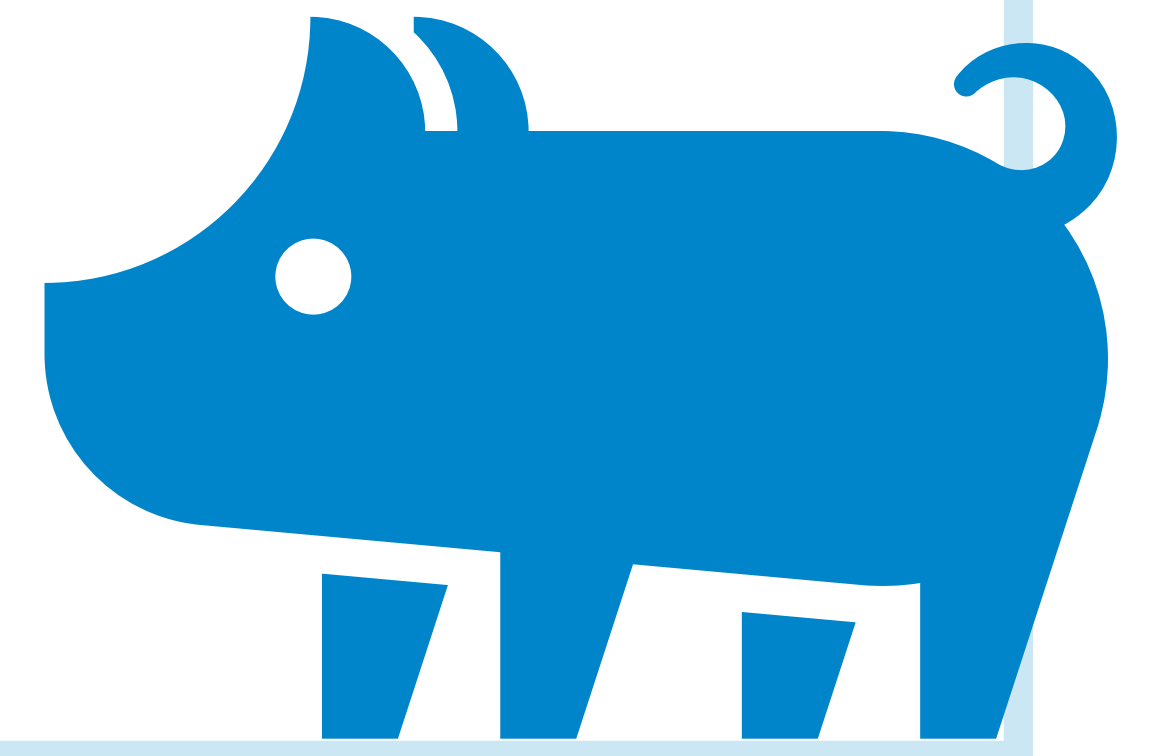
- At least one Producer Document Review assessment per year.
- At least one Chain of Custody assessment per year.
- At least one unannounced assessment of slaughter per year at each abattoir.
- At least one scheduled assessment at each farm within a Producer's Scope.
- A number of unannounced farm assessments conducted at a rate equivalent to 20% of the total number of farms in a Producer's Scope.
- An assessment of various husbandry processes that involve animal handling; the number and type of assessments is dependent upon the RSPCA Certified Program to which the Producer is certified (as far as possible these will be scheduled to coincide with farm assessments)

# What to expect on a farm assessment



RSPCA Certified Producers are committed to *raising farmed animals to a higher-welfare standard than is legally required, focusing on improving the quality of life for Australia's farmed animals.*

Farms certified against the RSPCA Australia Standards undergo stringent, regular assessments by RSPCA Assessors. Assessments aim to *make sure requirements of the relevant animal-specific standard is being met, and to highlight opportunities for improvement.*

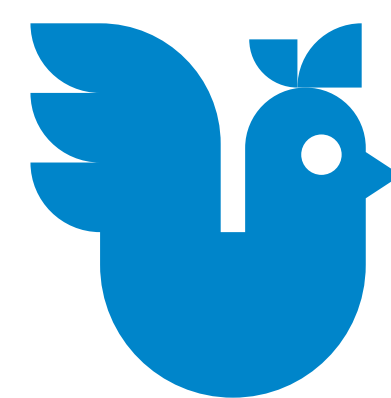


## Preparation

- 1 The Certification Body will schedule an assessment with the Producer.

## At the farm

- 2 The Assessor arrives on farm, making sure to adhere to all biosecurity and safety measures required by the farm.



- 3 Assessment will begin with an opening meeting to plan the conduct of the assessment, set timeframes, answer questions the Producer may have, and to collect any important information about the recent farm operations.



- 4 The Assessor will then conduct a review of documents and records relevant to staff training, facilities management, animal health and other materials required by the relevant standard.

- 5 Then an assessment will be made of the animals and their housing to evaluate animal behaviour and condition, and the condition and operation of their environment and housing. The Assessor will make measurements and conducts several tests as part of their evaluation.



- 6 The Assessor will then conduct a closing meeting to discuss the findings from the assessment, including discussing any nonconformities or notable observations and how these could be addressed.

## Reporting

- 7 The Assessor will complete their report and returns this back to the Certification Body.

- 8 The Certification Body will provide the report to the Producer and corresponds with them on any necessary improvements noted in the assessment findings.

