



LIVESTOCK SHIPPING SERVICES

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CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN ISRAEL SUPPLY CHAIN

Additional training and resources by Livestock Shipping Services (LSS) in ESCAS facilities in Israel is continuing to improve treatment, handling and slaughter of Australian cattle to ESCAS standards, the Managing Director of LSS Mr Ahmad Ghosheh said today.

Mr Ghosheh's comments come in response to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources release of the investigation report into the May 2014 non-compliance complaint at an abattoir facility in Israel.

"As soon as I became aware of the problems at the facility, I took swift action and with my staff, worked with the Department, the other exporter to the market and the owner of the abattoir to undertake necessary immediate changes on the slaughter floor to stop any handling and slaughter practices that did not meet the required standards.

"This was despite concerns that the cattle in question may not have been of Australian origin," Mr Ghosheh said.

"We worked with the owner and operator of the facility to deal with and ensure that handling and slaughter of cattle were corrected as quickly as was practicable. The actions taken at the abattoir included:

- Immediately suspending several employees at the facility found to be acting not in accordance with standard operating procedures and operations
- Immediately having the operator of the facility agree to full management and control of the livestock slaughter process coming under the authority of Australian representatives in the market
- Engaging and sending directly to the facility an Australian qualified veterinary consultant to review and assess slaughter procedures with full control and authority to modify and correct any process in the supply chain; and
- Commencement of an immediate intensive re-training and specialist evaluation program around point of slaughter operations to ensure OIE standards are met on a consistent basis for all cattle slaughtered at the facility.

"These actions mean that today 10 months later abattoir staff, overseen by management, are better equipped to do their jobs to the required standards and that there is a greater understanding and commitment to consistency in animal welfare practices that meet Kosher requirements."

Mr Ghosheh said that LSS continues to invest in animal welfare improvement programs in Israel and throughout the wider Middle East region.

"We as a company work with our customers to meet our obligations and responsibility to the livestock that we export through supply chains that can demonstrate continuous improvement in practices and consistent compliance with ESCAS.

"No one likes to see animals mistreated in life or death and LSS remains committed to ensuring constant improvement of in market animal welfare of livestock, Australian or otherwise."

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