

Chain of Custody FAQs



The RSPCA's Chain of Custody Standard refers to handling RSPCA Approved product directly. If my business doesn't handle product itself, do I still need to do an assessment?

If your business has a Trademark License Agreement with RSPCA Australia for use of the RSPCA Approved brand on product packaging or public facing material, you must complete our Chain of Custody assessment.

My business does not have a Trademark License Agreement with RSPCA Australia, do I need to complete a Chain of Custody assessment?

If your business handles RSPCA Approved product and supply businesses who market their products with the RSPCA Approved brand, then you must complete a Chain of Custody assessment.

How can I demonstrate conformance?

To demonstrate conformance, the evidence submitted by your business must clearly describe the processes, procedures or management systems in place that mean the requirements of the Chain of Custody Standard are met; responses that simply state "yes" or "no" are not sufficient.

What is the RSPCA's Chain of Custody assessment process?

See [our program process](#).

Why does the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme undertake Chain of Custody assessments?

Businesses who use the RSPCA Approved brand on their packaging or marketing materials show their use of products which are sourced from producers who have RSPCA Approved certification.

If a business makes claims to source higher welfare products and has a licensing agreement to publicly reference RSPCA Approved, then they must have systems in place to validate these claims and ensure the integrity of the RSPCA Approved brand.

The Chain of Custody assessment makes sure that the traceability requirements of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme are being met.

My business is an RSPCA Approved Licensee, why do I need to complete an assessment?

The trademark licensing agreement that your business has with RSPCA Australia requires the traceability requirements of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme to be met. This includes assessment as part of our Chain of Custody program. This is an important part of ensuring the integrity of the RSPCA Approved brand to your customers.

As part of the assessment, your business must provide evidence about the businesses processes, procedures or managing systems that show the requirements of the Chain of Custody Standard are met by completing the forms provided.

How do I complete the assessment forms if my business doesn't handle RSPCA Approved product directly?

Licensees are responsible for ensuring the correct handling, segregation and management of RSPCA Approved product within their supply chain.

If a Licensee doesn't handle (manufacture or process) product directly, the business must still demonstrate sufficient oversight of the supply chain that reasonably ensures the requirements of the Chain of Custody Standard are met.

For example, this could be demonstrated by contractual arrangements with suppliers or through internal audits of suppliers.

What is a written declaration?

A written declaration is a description of the processes, procedures or management systems that your business has that meet the requirements of the Chain of Custody Standard.

Where evidence cannot be provided of your control of a process or parts of the supply chain, a written declaration describing the controls you have that ensure conformance with the Standard may be acceptable.

I am involved in the supply chain of RSPCA Approved products; how do I complete an assessment?

If you haven't been sent a request to complete a chain of custody assessment but believe that your business is part of the supply chain of RSPCA Approved product, [get in contact with us](#).

Can't find the answer to your question? [Contact us](#).

ApprovedFarming-Traceability@rspca.org.au | 02 6282 8300

