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Guidelines for assessing *Bos indicus* content in Australian cattle For MSA Meat Quality Grading System

Guidelines for assessing *Bos indicus* content

To help suppliers of the Meat Standards Australia Grading scheme identify the *Bos indicus* content of cattle the following information has been put to-gether, not as a standard, but guidelines for assessing *Bos indicus* content.

Data collected to date by MSA has shown significant effect of *Bos indicus* content on palatability. Therefore *Bos indicus* content was an integral part of the carcass pathways where there were maximum breed contents allowed in various pathways. In the cuts-based model breed is still important, but now can vary over the range from 0 to 100% *Bos indicus*. *Bos indicus* content must be declared by the supplier as either less than 12%, less than 25%, less than 50%, less than 75% or greater than 75% *Bos indicus*. This declaration is to be made on the 'Meat Standards Australia Vendor Declaration' by ticking the appropriate box along with identifying the animal in the lot with the highest known or visual *Bos indicus* content by its ear tag number and stating its breed make-up.

The pictures of the animals shown in the following slides show the uppermost visual characteristics for both 50% and 25% *Bos indicus* content cattle where the breed background cannot be guaranteed. The table shows some breed percentages as well as examples of crossbred percentages.

Examples of breed crosses which show the maximum *Bos indicus* characteristics which would qualify for the <50% *Bos indicus* pathways



Maximum *Bos indicus* content characteristics for < 50% *Bos indicus* pathways

Examples of breed crosses which show the maximum *Bos indicus* characteristics which would qualify for the <26% *Bos indicus* pathways



Maximum *Bos indicus* content characteristics for < 26% *Bos indicus* pathways

For the integrity of the Meat Standards Australia grading scheme, your own product and the satisfaction of the our consumers, it is important to supply cattle of known breeding (breeder cattle of known breeding are preferred), or cattle visually assessed utilising the following pictures and 'when in doubt put the animal/lot aside'.

Breeds of cattle and their percentage of *Bos indicus* content

Breed	Percentage of <i>Bos indicus</i>
Boran	100%
Brahman	100%
Sahiwal	100%
Droughtmaster*	50%
Charbray*	50%
Brangus*	50%
Braford*	50%
Brahmousin*	50%
Santa Gertrudius	38%
Tuli	0%
Belmont Reds**	0%
Hereford	0%
Angus	0%

* Please note that these breeds may vary in their *Bos indicus* percentage. The percentage may range from 25% to 75% depending upon the breed make-up. It is important to assess these cattle on *Bos indicus* characteristics, or on known breeding.

** Belmont Reds are 50% Africander base, but have been classed as *Bos taurus*.