

# **AUSTRALIAN / NEW ZEALAND MEAT GRADES COMPARISONS**

<p><b>AUSTRALIAN GRADE</b> (As described in Aus-Meat Language)</p>	<p><b>NZ EQUIVALENT</b> (As described in New Zealand Meat Guide to beef carcass classification, 1 October 1996)</p>
<p><b>ALTERNATIVE CATEGORIES</b></p>	
<p><b>Y</b> = Yearling Beef. No permanent incisors. Female, or castrated male, or entire male with no secondary sexual characteristics.(SSC)</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg. and over. Bull: <b>XY</b> (See note 3) <b>Note: a) Steer and Heifer can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b> <b>b) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b></p>
<p><b>YS</b> = Yearling Steer. No permanent incisors. Castrated male and entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg and over. Bull: <b>XY.</b> (See note 3) <b>Note: a) Steer and Heifer can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b> <b>b) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b></p>
<p><b>YG</b> = Young Beef. No more than 2 permanent incisors. Female, or castrated male, or entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg. and over. Bull: <b>XY.</b> (See note 3) <b>Note:</b> <b>a) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b> <b>b) Steer and Heifer can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b></p>
<p><b>YGS</b> = Young Steer. No more than 2 permanent incisors. Castrated male or entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg. and over. Bull: <b>XY.</b> (See note 3) <b>Note:</b> <b>a) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b> <b>b) Steer and Heifer Beef can be processed and packaged without differentiation</b></p>
<p><b>YP</b> = Young Prime Beef. No more than 4 permanent incisors. Female, or castrated male, or entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg. and over. Bull. (See note 3) <b>Note:</b> <b>a) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b> <b>b) Steer and Heifer Beef can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b></p>

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<p><b>YPS</b> = Young Prime Steer. No more than 4 permanent incisors. Castrated male or entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg. and over. Bull. (See note 3). <b>Note:</b> <b>b) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b> <b>c) Steer and Heifer Beef can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b></p>
<p><b>PR</b> = Prime Beef. No more than 7 permanent incisors. Female, or castrated male, or entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg. and over. Prime cow grades: <b>P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 160 Kg. and over. M Cow grade: <b>M.</b> Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight. Bull. (See note 3) <b>Note:</b> <b>a) Heifer is classified Prime Cow or M Cow upon eruption of 7th permanent incisor.</b> <b>b) M Cow may include Steer and Heifer carcasses under 145 Kg. Prime Cow carcasses under 160 Kg. or carcasses that are excessively yellow.</b> <b>c) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b></p>
<p><b>PRS</b> = Prime Steer. No more than 7 permanent incisors. Castrated male, or entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight: 145 Kg and over. Bull. (See note 3) <b>Note:</b> <b>a) Steer and Heifer Beef can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b> <b>b) Heifer is classified as Prime Cow or M Cow upon eruption of 7th permanent incisor.</b> <b>c) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b></p>

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<p><b>S</b> = Ox. Female or castrated male or entire male. Female. No more than 7 permanent incisors. Male. No SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg. and over. Prime Cow grades: <b>P, T, F.</b> Weight range 160 Kg. and over. M Cow grade: <b>M</b> Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight. Bull. (See note 3) <b>Note:</b> <b>a) Steer and Heifer Beef can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b> <b>b) Heifer is classified as Prime Cow or M Cow upon eruption of 7th permanent incisor.</b> <b>c) M Cow may include Steer and Heifer carcasses under 145 Kg. Prime Cow carcasses under 160 Kg. or carcasses that are excessively yellow.</b> <b>d) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b></p>
<p><b>SS</b> = Steer. 8 permanent incisors. Castrated male or entire male with no SSC.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer Grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg and over. Bull. (See note 3) <b>Note:</b> <b>a) Steer and Heifer Beef can be processed and packaged without differentiation.</b> <b>c) Heifer is classified Prime Cow or M Cow upon eruption of 7th permanent incisor.</b> <b>c) Bull is not packed with Steer and Heifer.</b></p>
<p><b>C</b> = Cow. 8 permanent incisors. Female.</p>	<p>Prime Cow Grades: <b>P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 160 Kg. and over. M Cow grade: <b>M</b> Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight. <b>Note:</b> <b>M Cow Grade may include Steer or Heifer carcasses under 145kg, Prime Cow carcasses under 160 Kg and carcasses that are excessively yellow.</b></p>

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<b>BASIC CATEGORIES</b>	
<p><b>B</b> = Bull. 0-8 permanent incisors. Entire male or castrated male showing SSC.</p>	<p>Bull grades: <b>M, TM, and XY Bull.</b> (See note 3) Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight.</p>
<p><b>A</b> = Beef. 0 to 8 permanent incisors. Female, or castrated male or entire male with no SSC. Primal cuts from Veal carcasses (70.1-150Kg.) can be included in this Basic Category.</p>	<p>Steer and Heifer grades: <b>A, L, P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 145 Kg and over. Prime Cow grades: <b>P, T, F.</b> Weight range: 160 Kg. and over. M Cow grade: <b>M.</b> Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight. Bull grade: <b>XY.</b> (See note 3). Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight. Veal: See Veal over page.</p>
<p><b>V</b> = Veal. Female or entire male with no SSC. Weight range: 0 to 70 Kg., and 70.1 to 150 Kg when carcass shows youthfulness and pinkish flesh.</p>	<p>Veal grades are not included in NZ Meat Guide to beef carcass classification, 1 October 1996. Description and definition of Veal is detailed in Domestic Market guide, NEW ZEALAND STANDARD – <b>NZS 8403:1987</b></p>
<b>ALTERNATIVE CATEGORIES OF BULL</b>	
<p><b>YE</b> = No permanent incisors. Not assessed for SSC. Entire male. Weight range: Over 150 Kg.</p>	<p>Bull grades: <b>XY.</b> Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight.</p>
<p><b>YGE</b> = No more than 2 permanent incisors. Not assessed for SSC. Entire male. Weight range: Over 150 Kg.</p>	<p>Bull grades: <b>XY.</b> Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight.</p>
<p><b>BYG</b> = No permanent incisors. Castrated male or entire male with SSC. Weight range: Over 150 Kg.</p>	<p>Bull grades: <b>XY.</b> Weight range: No minimum or maximum weight.</p>

**NOTES:**

1. The standards discussed here are export slaughter-based comparisons. This paper has been written to consider a comparison against actual imports of beef from Australia. .
2. Some New Zealand domestic slaughter abattoirs may use NEW ZEALAND STANDARD – **NZS 8403:1987** for carcass descriptions.
3. New Zealand bovine classification system does not require assessment of bull (entire) carcasses for secondary sexual characteristics (SSC). NZ Bull that may qualify for Australian 'entire with no SSC,' would be young lightweight Bull not yet exhibiting excessive masculine characteristics. Very small numbers of this type of carcass could be found in NZ Bull grade **XY**. It is unlikely that these carcasses would be found in aged Bulls.
4. New Zealand Bull grade **XY** will be replaced by Selected Young Beef (SYB) on January 1st 2004.
5. Aus-Meat language states that packs of mixed products of Bull (B) and Beef (A) shall be described as 'Bull and Beef' or with the cipher 'BA'