

AI Circular: 2003/24-25  
AI Ref: 03/4761

SC Ref: 03/091/WI  
DV Ref: -/-

## ***FOOTROT NOTIFICATION POLICY AND PROCEDURES***

The attached document is a **WRITTEN INSTRUMENT** issued with the concurrence of the Director-General of NSW Agriculture under Clause 8.3 of Memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of NSW Agriculture and State Council of Rural Lands Protection Boards.

**APPROVED**

**for R F SHELDRAKE  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
NSW AGRICULTURE**

**Date: 27/8/03**

**APPROVED**

**S ORR  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
STATE COUNCIL  
RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARDS**

**Date: 27/8/03**



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## **FOOTROT NOTIFICATION POLICY**

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the Footrot Notification Procedure Circular and should replace section 4.6 of the NSW Footrot Eradication Manual.*

### **NOTIFICATION OF FOOTROT**

The NSW Sheep Industry, through the NSW Footrot Steering Committee, has requested that action be taken where virulent footrot is evident in a flock and the owner or person in charge has failed to notify the suspected presence of footrot infection.

As of 1 February 2000, the requirement to notify of the suspected presence of footrot has applied throughout New South Wales.

This policy outlines the obligations and actions required concerning the notification of footrot.

**Footrot under the Stock Diseases Act refers only to virulent footrot.**

### **Responsibilities of Owner, Occupier or Person in Charge**

Section 9 of the Stock Diseases Act requires the occupier of land on which stock are depasturing, the owner of stock, and the person in charge of travelling stock, to notify within 48 hours of it first coming to their knowledge that stock are diseased.

Section 22(1) states that the owner of stock or the occupier, manager, agent or superintendent of land is taken to know that the stock are diseased after the stock have been on the land for more than 7 days. In the case of travelling stock, the person in charge is taken to know that the stock are diseased after the expiration of 2 days.

### **Responsibilities of Persons Consulted About Stock**

Section 9 also requires a veterinary surgeon, and any other person who attends or is consulted with respect to stock, to notify within 48 hrs if they either suspect or are of the opinion that the stock are diseased.

### **Action**

Where an Inspector detects footrot and the examination of the sheep is not at the initiative of the owner or person in charge of the sheep, then the apparent failure to notify must be investigated and a recommendation made for appropriate follow-up

action. Follow-up actions associated with these investigations are outlined in the Procedures Circular.

To ensure progress of the Footrot Strategic Plan, sheep owners have a responsibility to undertake footrot eradication when footrot is found. One of the best ways of finding footrot is by industry notifying problems. This policy aims to strike a balance between maintaining the support of cooperative producers, while at the same time making it clear that regulatory measures will be taken with non-cooperative producers who place the industry at risk. Those producers who are uncertain of the cause of lameness or foot abnormalities in their sheep, and do not seek assistance to exclude footrot as the cause, are not cooperating with the program. There is an industry expectation that producers not notifying evident footrot problems will be appropriately dealt with. Prompt action in dealing with footrot infection is necessary for the continuing progress of the Footrot Strategic Plan and to protect producers who have eradicated footrot and have flocks free of the disease.

**APPROVED**

**RENATA BROOKS  
CHIEF  
DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRIES**