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OCTOBER 2009

PRIMEFACT 910

SECOND EDITION

Moving sheep into and within NSW

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This document covers all wool, meat, dairy, pet, show and commercial sheep. The summary provides a brief overview of movement requirements, and is followed by more specific movement requirements and exemptions.

Summary of movement requirements

- All sheep entering and moving within NSW must have an **approved NLIS tag**.
- All sheep moving within NSW must be accompanied by fully completed documentation, either a **national vendor declaration (NVD)** or a **transported stock statement (TSS)**.
- There are strict **footrot** requirements for sheep entering NSW.
- Restocker sheep must be accompanied by a **Sheep Health Statement** if being offered for sale or agistment, or if entering an OJD Exclusion Area.
- **Lice infested** sheep cannot be moved in public places unless they are going to slaughter.
- Sheep infected with **ovine brucellosis (OB)** cannot be offered for sale or moved in public places.
- There are strict **cattle tick** requirements for sheep entering NSW from cattle tick infested areas.

Animal welfare

There are minimum animal welfare requirements for the transport and keeping of sheep in NSW.

The *'Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: The Sheep'*, provides directions on how to ensure the welfare of sheep in transit.

The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (POCTA) defines the minimum standard for the keeping of all animals, including sheep.

NLIS – moving sheep into NSW

Tags

All sheep entering NSW must have an approved NLIS ear tag. An approved ear tag is one that conforms with the national standard approved by Meat and Livestock Australia, and has a property identification code (PIC) printed on it.

Note: sheep can enter NSW from Western Australia with a tag that is printed with the owner's registered brand instead of the PIC. They do not need to be retagged.

Remember: it is illegal to remove any NLIS tag.

Paperwork

All sheep entering NSW must be accompanied by a movement document with the following information.

- The number and type of sheep.
- The date the sheep left the previous property.
- The PIC of the previous property.
- The PICs on the ear tags of the sheep. If the consignment is made up of sheep from several sources then all the different PICs must be recorded (unless the sheep have been retagged with the PIC of the previous property).

This information is supplied by completing a national vendor declaration (NVD) or a transported stock statement (see below).

NLIS – moving sheep within NSW

Tags

You must not move a sheep within NSW unless it has an approved ear tag in its ear.

Approved ear tags for your property are printed with your property identification code (PIC). They can be either breeder tags (coloured according to the year of birth) or post-breeder tags (pink).

Any sheep born on your property must be tagged before it leaves, ideally with your breeder tag in the correct year colour. A sheep can only have one breeder tag.

If a sheep bred on your property has lost its tag, you must re-tag it with either your breeder tag or your pink post-breeder tag before it leaves your property.

If you have purchased untagged sheep, you must tag them with your pink post-breeder tags before moving them off your property.

If you have purchased tagged sheep, you can choose to tag them with your pink post-breeder tags.

Each time a sheep moves to another property it may be given the post-breeder tag of that property. This means a sheep can have several post-breeder tags.

Remember: it is illegal to remove any NLIS tag.

Tag exemptions

There are few exemptions from tags. Further information is available from any Livestock Health and Pest Authority (formerly Rural Lands Protection Board) office (www.lhpa.org.au).

Paperwork

All sheep moving within NSW must be accompanied by a movement document, either a NVD or TSS, with the following information.

- The number and type of sheep.
- The date the sheep left the previous property.
- The PIC of the previous property.
- The PICs on the ear tags of the sheep. If the consignment is made up of sheep from several sources then all the different PICs must be recorded (unless the sheep have been retagged with the PIC of the previous property).

National vendor declaration

A national vendor declaration (NVD) is required for the MLA Livestock Production Assurance Scheme and provides valuable information about chemical residues in livestock. Most stock buyers will not

purchase sheep that do not have an NVD. When a fully completed NVD is available a separate transported stock statement is not required.

Transported stock statements – moving sheep within NSW

Transported stock statements, or TSSs, are primarily used to guard against stock theft. A completed transported stock statement must accompany any sheep being moved by vehicle within NSW.

The vehicle transporting the sheep can be stopped by an authorised officer under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* or a Police Officer and the transported stock statement must be produced on request.

Note: a fully completed national vendor declaration is a valid transported stock statement.

Transported stock statements are available individually or in booklets (not available electronically) from your local Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

Walking stock permit

Sheep walked along any public road must have a walking stock permit. Applications must be made to the Livestock Health and Pest Authority at least 2 days prior to the sheep being walked on the road.

A walking stock permit does not meet NLIS requirements and does not replace an NVD.

Footrot

Most of NSW is a Footrot Protected Area and notification and quarantine measures apply throughout the entire state.

This means that sheep cannot enter NSW unless they are:

- free of virulent footrot and accompanied by a valid footrot declaration or by a Sheep Health Statement with the footrot section completed,
- or**
- going directly to an abattoir, or
 - going directly to an approved slaughter-only sale, or
 - going directly to a feedlot authorised to accept infected sheep, or
 - moving under an inspector's order or permit.

Cattle tick

Sheep being moved into NSW from Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia are subject to restrictions on account of cattle tick.

The restrictions vary according to whether the sheep originate from tick free or tick infested zones in these states.

For information about the requirements, contact the NSW Cattle Tick Program on (02) 6626 1201.

OJD and Sheep Health Statements

NSW is divided into an Exclusion Area and a Management Area for ovine Johne's disease (OJD) control. There are no restrictions on moving sheep into and within NSW on account of OJD, but there is a requirement to declare the OJD status of restocker sheep in particular circumstances. The declaration must be made on a Sheep Health Statement.

Restocker sheep being moved specifically for sale or agistment:

- into the OJD Management Area, or
- within the OJD Management Area, or
- within the OJD Exclusion Area,

must be accompanied by a completed Sheep Health Statement that is:

- given to the person taking delivery of the sheep, and
- provided to prospective buyers or agistees of the sheep for them to inspect.

Restocker sheep being moved into the OJD Exclusion Area for any purpose must be accompanied by a completed statement that is:

- given to the person taking delivery of the sheep, and
- provided to prospective buyers or agistees of the sheep for them to inspect, and
- provided, along with details in writing of the destination property of the sheep and the name of person in charge, to the local Livestock Health and Pest Authority within 7 days of entry into the Exclusion Area.

Sheep Health Statements and maps of OJD Exclusion Areas are available from www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au, your stock and station agent or your local Livestock Health and Pest Authority (www.lhpa.org.au).

Paperwork exemption

A Sheep Health Statement is not required for:

- sheep being moved directly to slaughter

- sheep going for slaughter via a slaughter-only sale
- lambs accompanied by an NVD marked at section 7 with the words 'Prime lambs for slaughter only'
- sheep delivered to a Sheep Health Statement exempt sale
- sheep moved in accordance with a written permit or order under the *Stock Diseases Act 1923*.

For more information about OJD, visit the website www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au.

Lice

- Lousy sheep cannot be moved in public places in NSW unless they are:
- going directly to an abattoir, or
- going directly to an approved slaughter-only sale, or
- going directly to a feedlot authorised to accept infected sheep, or
- moving under an inspector's order or permit.

Ovine brucellosis

Sheep infected with ovine brucellosis cannot be offered for sale or moved in public places in NSW unless they are:

- going directly to an abattoir, or
- going directly to an approved slaughter-only sale, or
- going directly to a feedlot authorised to accept infected sheep, or
- moving under an inspector's order or permit.

A voluntary NSW ovine brucellosis accreditation program is well supported by industry. Contact any DPI or Livestock Health and Pest Authority office for details.

Importation of fodder

If you plan to move sheep into NSW and are bringing plant based feed with them you must meet the requirements for the importation of plant material into NSW. These requirements vary depending on the state of origin.

See [Information on importing fodder into NSW from interstate](#) (Primefact 42). For more details, call NSW DPI Agricultural Compliance on (02) 6391 3384.

Emergency animal disease

- If you suspect that sheep being moved into or within NSW are infected with an emergency animal disease, you must call the emergency

animal disease hotline on 1800 675 888. See [Emergency animal diseases](#) (Primefact 588) for details.

major disease risk for either you or your neighbour!

Biosecurity guidelines for sheep owners

Biosecurity helps you to protect your sheep from pests and diseases. This means avoiding or managing disease risks. The main biosecurity risks for sheep owners are:

- Not keeping your own sheep in good health.
- Introducing other sheep onto your property.
- Agisting your own sheep elsewhere then bringing them home.
- Neighbours with diseased sheep.

You can minimise these risks by following a few simple guidelines.

Good health

- Provide all sheep with adequate food, water and shelter.
- Check all stock regularly.
- Plan your shearing, joining, crutching, lambing and marking programs to avoid undue stress and disease risk.
- Implement appropriate vaccination and drenching programs.
- Isolate/test/treat sick stock.
- Don't feed your sheep with any manufactured feeds marked 'contains restricted animal material'.

Introductions

- Check the disease status of any sheep before you buy, borrow or agist them – get it in writing.
- Quarantine any introductions and inspect/drench/vaccinate/test them before you let them anywhere near your other stock.

Agisting your own stock elsewhere

- Before you sign up, check the disease status of the agistment land, the stock on it and any neighbouring flocks.
- When your sheep come home treat them like any other introductions.

Sheep neighbours

- Maintain good boundary fences.
- Talk to your neighbours about disease risk.
- Watch for strays and work out a strategy – putting them back over the fence can be a

Where to find movement documents

Transported stock statement	Call in to your local Livestock Health and Pest Authority
National vendor declaration	www.mla.com.au
Sheep Health Statement	www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

More information

For more information on moving sheep into and within NSW, and for details of the relevant legislation, contact any NSW DPI or Livestock Health and Pest Authority office, or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/stock-movements

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ISSN 1832-6668

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Job number 9712 PUB09/135