

# PROCEDURE – BC & MS DIVISION

Ref: 06/29 INT06/1866



**NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

**BIOSECURITY, COMPLIANCE & MINE SAFETY**  
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<b>Title:</b>	<b>PROCEDURES FOR RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE FOR FOOTROT</b>		
<b>Procedure no:</b>	BC&MS PRO 2006/004	<b>Effective date:</b>	14/03/2006
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Executive Director, Biosecurity, Compliance and Mine Safety	<b>Authorisation date:</b>	14/03/2006

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## 1. OVERVIEW

This procedure document provides guidance for the release from quarantine for footrot.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The NSW Footrot Strategic Plan was launched in 1988 with the objective of improving the productivity and welfare of sheep and goats by the progressive eradication of virulent footrot. Since that time there has been significant progress with footrot eradication throughout the state such that approximately 93% of NSW is now gazetted as a Protected Area for footrot. The Plan now places greater emphasis on regulatory activity with all properties with footrot infections subject to quarantine and required to undertake eradication of the disease. This procedure provides updated guidelines on the process for release from quarantine for footrot.

## 3. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all Senior Regional Animal Health Managers (SRAHM), District Veterinarians (DV) and Inspectors.

## 4. POLICY

The procedure document should be read in conjunction with the Release from Quarantine for Footrot Policy document (BC&MS Policy O-006).

## 5. PROCEDURE

Quarantine can be released when an Inspector is confident footrot is no longer suspected to be present on a property. Suspicion can be allayed by either destocking the infected sheep or by the completion of an approved footrot eradication program (AFEP) based on inspecting sheep's feet.

### 5.1 Release from quarantine:

#### 5.1.1 Total destocking

Quarantine restrictions may be lifted seven days after all sheep and goats have been removed from the property. The Inspector must be satisfied that all sheep had been removed at day zero. A thorough property inspection using horses or motor bikes may be necessary to ensure all sheep have been removed unless convincing evidence is provided that all sheep were destocked.

#### 5.1.2 Partial destocking

Where a DV is satisfied that footrot has only recently been introduced and is confined to certain mobs, quarantine may be lifted following destocking of all infected and high risk mobs in the flock. A clean inspection of all sheep in the remaining mobs considered to have had contact must then

be undertaken, preferably after the disease has had an opportunity to express itself or spread. Based on a risk assessment, mobs with no contact with at-risk sheep may be excluded from inspection.

The DV must make a record of the reasoning behind any decision to exclude certain mobs from the destock and subsequent inspections. Where the infected sheep have been present on the property for more than 2 months, the history of the flock should be discussed with the SRAHM and agreement reached on which are the high-risk mobs.

The DV must reconcile sheep numbers onto and off the property and must be satisfied there has been no straying between mobs. A paddock inspection after destocking should be undertaken to confirm that all at-risk sheep have gone. The fencing should be assessed to ensure it has been adequate to restrain the at-risk mob and to prevent straying after the partial destock.

Partial release from quarantine may be considered if the DV is satisfied different sheep enterprises on the one farm are run separately and a review of biosecurity/ management indicates there is no contact between infected and clean stock.

### **5.1.3 Completion of an eradication program**

Where an approved footrot eradication program (AFEP) has been completed, quarantine may be lifted after a clean release inspection. Prior to the release inspection, there should have been at least 2 clean inspections of all infected mobs (clean inspection means no infected or suspect sheep detected and no treatments undertaken). The release inspection may be done by an Inspector and/or an approved contractor working under the supervision of a veterinarian. In footrot areas where the environment is conducive to the spread and expression of footrot, inspection should be carried out at least 6 weeks after the commencement of a spread period and involve the inspection of all feet of all adult sheep with no clinical evidence of footrot being detected. Lambs on ewes need not be inspected if ewes are cleared. Any variation to these procedures, such as the use of risk assessment to reduce inspections in low-risk mobs in summer eradication programs, must be discussed and agreement reached with the SRAHM.

The DV must be satisfied that previous treatments e.g. the use of footbathing, antibiotics or footrot vaccine will not affect disease expression at the time of the release inspection (note: under the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2004*, Clause 11, vaccination for footrot is not permitted except with prior approval of the Chief Veterinary Officer).

If the DV is confident that the eradication program has been completed to a high standard, then the release inspection can be undertaken. This is where:

- Records of all inspections and treatments have been kept and examined and
- Identification and check mustering have been employed to ensure all sheep are included in the program and the release inspection and
- There has been good dialogue with the owner / contractor as the program progressed and
- In the case of a program undertaken other than by a contractor, the DV is satisfied that records are accurate and the inspections have been carried out properly and
- The Inspector has no reason to doubt and is confident footrot is no longer present in the flock.

Any variation to the above procedures must be authorised in writing by the SRAHM.

If footrot is found at a release inspection there is little point in continuing with further inspections. A review will be necessary to determine why the program failed and agreement reached on an Approved Footrot Eradication Program with high probability of success for the future. In some circumstances continuation of the inspection may be warranted as an early start to an eradication program.

Note: in exceptional circumstances when a spread period is considered unlikely to occur in a reasonable time (e.g. under prolonged drought conditions) a release inspection may proceed, with written agreement of the SRAHM, following completion of a successful approved footrot eradication program.

## **5.2 Inspector's records:**

The Inspector must keep appropriate records of release inspections on the property / owner's file. This includes dates, numbers and mobs of sheep inspected, importantly the reasons for any variation of the standard release strategy that was used and copies of authorities provided by SRAHMs where necessary.

## **5.3 Advice to owners:**

Following release from quarantine, the owner should be encouraged to continue to monitor the flock for footrot. They should be made aware that the process for releasing quarantine does not provide a guarantee that the flock is free of footrot. It is also important that the owner understands that they have a legal obligation to notify footrot should it be present in the flock, and that early detection will maximise their options for eradication. This advice should be explained to the owner and also provided in writing when the quarantine is formally released (see Circular AI 2003/24-25 Footrot Notification).

## **5.4 Post release inspections:**

A post release inspection 12 months after the release of quarantine is strongly encouraged. The inspection should involve paddock surveillance with examination of any suspect sheep. Planning for the post release inspection should be incorporated into the Board's footrot surveillance program for the next year (see Circular AI 2004/042).

## **6. DEFINITIONS**

Nil.

## **7. RELATED LEGISLATION**

*Stock Disease Act 1923*  
*Stock Disease Regulation 2004*

## **8. RELATED PROCEDURES**

- AI 2003/25 Footrot Notification Procedure
- AI 2003/23 Footrot Eradication Procedure

## **9. RELATED DELEGATIONS**

Nil.

## **10. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Nil.

## **11. REVISION HISTORY**

**Not applicable**

**12. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW**

By 1 June 2008 or earlier if required

**13. CONTACT OFFICER**

Issues Leader Flock Health. Telephone: (02) 6391 3248



NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

# WRITTEN INSTRUMENT



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## ***PROCEDURES FOR RELEASE FROM QUARANTINE FOR FOOTROT***

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

***[APPROVED]***

***[APPROVED]***

**for B D BUFFIER  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY  
INDUSTRIES  
Date: 24/02/2006**

**S ORR  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
STATE COUNCIL  
RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARDS  
Date: 13/03/2006**