

PROCEDURE – BC & MS DIVISION

Ref: INT07/12436



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

BIOSECURITY, COMPLIANCE & MINE SAFETY
161 Kite Street, ORANGE NSW 2800
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Title: APPROVING HEALTH STATEMENT EXEMPT SALES FOR SHEEP
Procedure no: BC&MS Procedure 2007/009 **Issue date:** 30.06.2007
Authorised by: Executive Director, Biosecurity, Compliance and Mine Safety

OVERVIEW

This procedure document replaces Circular AI 2004/070.

Vendors selling sheep in NSW are required to provide a Health Statement for the sheep in the consignment unless they are exempt sheep.

Exempt sheep are:

- sheep being moved to slaughter, directly or via a slaughter-only sale;
- lambs accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration on which section 7 has been filled in with the words 'PRIME LAMBS FOR SLAUGHTER ONLY'; and
- sheep being sent or delivered to a Health Statement exempt sale approved by a Senior Regional Animal Health Manager (SRAHM) no later than 48 hours before the sale.

A Health Statement exempt sale is a sale that has been recommended for exemption by a District Veterinarian (DV) and approved as such by a SRAHM.

The procedure for approving Health Statement exempt sales has been revised because the previous version referred specifically to Animal Health Statements.

This revised procedure uses the more generic term Health Statements for sheep. This term includes:

- the NSW Animal Health Statement
- the NSW Sheep Health Statement
- interstate Health Statements for sheep.
- the revised procedure also lists the Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD Coordinator) (sheep) as the officer responsible for maintaining the list of Health Statement exempt sales on the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) website.
www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au

SCOPE

This procedure applies to Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff.

When approved and issued as a Written Instrument by the Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB) State Council, the procedure also applies to inspectors employed by the RLPBs.

RELATED LEGISLATION	<i>Stock Diseases Act 1923</i>
RELATED PROCEDURES	Nil
RELATED DELEGATIONS	Nil

RELATED DOCUMENTS	'Application and Approval for a Sheep Sale to be exempted from the requirements for Health Statements' form (attached).			
REVISION HISTORY	Version 1	Policy Officer JD Sheep	30/06/2007	Amendment details
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	As required			
CONTACT OFFICER	Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD Coordinator), (02) 6391 3351			

PROCEDURE

1 AUTHORITY

The requirement for Health Statements for sheep (Statements) in NSW is defined by an inspector's order for course of action under section 14(4) of the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* (SDA).

From 1 July 2004, NSW has comprised two areas: a protected area known as the OJD Exclusion Area, and a protected (control) area, known as the OJD Management Area.

There is an inspector's order for the course of action for each of the two areas.

This requirement for Statements in relation to sale has certain exceptions, one of which is that the sheep are being sold at a Health Statement exempt sale.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Responsibilities of the Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD Coordinator)

The Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD Coordinator) is responsible for

- maintaining a list of exempted sales at www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au
- requesting the NLIS data base clerk to update the website list when approval details change
- maintaining a data base of current details of exempted sales
- checking the data base listed above and notifying the relevant SRAHM in writing three months prior to the listed expiry date
- checking that the SRAHM has gained the necessary reapproval prior to the listed expiry date
- notifying the Manager Field Veterinary Services and Product Integrity, if the SRAHM fails to gain the necessary reapproval prior to the listed expiry date
- noting all approvals received from SRAHMs on the database of exempted sales

2.2 Responsibilities of SRAHMs

SRAHMs are responsible for:

- approving exempt sales within their region
- revoking approvals under particular circumstances
- maintaining written records of exempt sales within their region
- advising the Policy Officer Animal Biosecurity (OJD Coordinator) of any change in the status of exempt sales.

2.3 Responsibilities of DVs

DVs are responsible for:

- facilitating consultation between saleyard management, local stock agents and, where possible, producer representatives, regarding the feasibility and desirability of holding exempt sales
- if satisfied, recommending to the SRAHM that a sale/s be exempted
- ensuring saleyard management and agents understand the conditions of approval for exempt sale/s
- monitoring exempted sales for compliance with the conditions of approval
- advising the SRAHM if conditions are not complied with and appropriate corrective action is not taken.

2.4 Responsibilities of Rangers

Rangers are responsible for:

- monitoring Health Statement exempt sales for compliance with the conditions of approval as part of their routine saleyard duties
- alerting the saleyard manager, agents' representative and the DV if the Ranger becomes aware that an exempt sale is not being operated according to the conditions of the approval
- advising the DV of actions taken to correct the problem.

3 APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

On the recommendation of a DV, a SRAHM has the authority to approve a sale for sheep as an exempt sale subject to the following conditions:

- That signs with the following, or equivalent, wording are erected at prominent places in the saleyard:

This sale is exempted from the requirement for Health Statements for sheep. All sheep sold at this sale have been allocated zero (0) Assurance Based Credit (ABC) points for ovine Johne's disease (OJD) unless accompanied by a completed Health Statement to the contrary.

- That the invoice of sale form includes, or has attached to it, the following, or equivalent, wording:

These sheep were sold at a Health Statement exempt sale and therefore have been allocated zero (0) Assurance Based Credit points for ovine Johne's disease (OJD) unless a completed Health Statement to the contrary is attached to this invoice.

Exempt sales will normally be approved on the basis of the type of sale and the location.

The sale/s can be identified by:

- the venue and the date/s, or
- the venue and the day/s of the week, e.g. the regular Thursday 'fat sale' at a particular saleyard.

Approval of sales may be given for no more than two years and no less than 48 hours before a sale is held.

Application and approval of a sale is to be made on the *Application and Approval for a Sheep Sale to be exempted from the requirement for Health Statements* form attached to this circular.

Initial approvals should be preceded by consultation between the saleyard management, local stock agents and the DV. The aim of these consultations is to confirm that:

- on average at least 80% of the sheep sold at the sale are sold for slaughter, and
- there is local support for, and understanding of, the exemption, and
- all parties are committed to the process.

The DV should recommend that a sale/sales be exempted only if satisfied:

- with the outcome of the consultations, and
- that the conditions of the approval can be, or are being, met by the venue and the operators.

4 REVOKING AN APPROVAL

Where an inspector becomes aware that an exempt sale is not being operated according to the conditions of the approval, the inspector should promptly bring the matter to the attention of the saleyard manager and agents' representative (and their DV if the inspector is a Ranger). If the problem is not corrected, the SRAHM must be advised.

Where the SRAHM is advised by an inspector that a sale is not being operated according to the approval process and the problem has not been corrected, and the SRAHM is satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken by the DV to have the situation corrected the SRAHM should revoke current approvals, provided the revocation occurs at least 48 hours prior to the sale.

Application and Approval for a Sheep Sale to be exempted from the requirement for Health Statements.

VENUE

Name of saleyard.....

Name of owner or managing body

Address of saleyard

Name of manager Phone Fax E-mail.....

SALE/S

Day/s or date/s of sale/s
.....

CONDITIONS of APPROVAL for an 'EXEMPT' SALE

Signs with the following wording or equivalent are erected at prominent places in the saleyard:

This sale is exempted from the requirement for Health Statements. All sheep sold at this sale have been allocated zero (0) Assurance Based Credit (ABC) points unless accompanied by a completed Health Statement for sheep to the contrary.

Any invoice of sale form includes, or has attached to it, the following or equivalent wording:

These sheep were sold at an exempt sale and therefore have been allocated zero (0) Assurance Based Credit points unless a completed Health Statement for sheep to the contrary is attached to this invoice.

AGREEMENT *(to be completed by the saleyard manager on behalf of the owner/operator, AND by the President/Secretary of the local Stock and Station Agents' Association on behalf of all members)*

I agree to the above conditions for approval of exempt sale/s. I acknowledge that, if the above conditions are not adhered to, the approval for such sale/s may be withdrawn. I agree to cooperate with any inspection or audit of compliance with the conditions of approval.

Signed Name Date

Signed Name Date

RECOMMENDATION *(to be completed by the District Veterinarian)*

I recommend that this/these sale/s be exempted from the requirement for Health Statements for sheep

Signed Name Date

APPROVAL *(to be completed by the Senior Regional Animal Health Manager)*

I approve this/these sale/s as being exempted from the requirement for Health Statements for sheep

Signed Name Date

THIS APPROVAL MAY BE REVOKED IF THE SPECIFIED CONDITIONS ARE NOT COMPLIED WITH
The requirement for Health Statements for sheep (Statements) in NSW is defined by an Inspector's Order for Course of Action under section 14(4) of the Stock Diseases Act 1923 (SDA).



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

WRITTEN INSTRUMENT

state council
RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARDS

BC&MS PROCEDURE: 2007/009
Ref: INT07/12436

SC Ref: -/-/WI
DV Ref: -/-/

Approving Health Statement Exempt Sales for sheep

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: 30.06.2007

S ORR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
STATE COUNCIL
RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARDS
Date: 27.06.2007