



DECLARING NOTIFIABLE ANIMAL DISEASES IN NSW

AUTHORISED BY Director Animal Biosecurity

AUTHORISED DATE 10 August 2014

ISSUED BY Primary Industries, Biosecurity

VERSION 1

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	AMENDMENTS
		SECTION DETAILS
1	10/08/14	New procedure. Content updated from Policy O-062[v2] – Declaring notifiable animal diseases [v2] at INT09/1873[v2]

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 01/09/2017

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to define the circumstances and procedures for declaring animal diseases under the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* and the *Animal Diseases and Animal Pests (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991* for the purpose of notification.

Scope

This procedure applies to staff of the Department of Primary Industries as indicated in the text of the document.

Warnings

Users are reminded of the need to follow safe work practice when applying any techniques described in this publication. This includes identifying, assessing and managing any occupational health and safety risks.

Safe Work Method Statements that refer to activities included in this procedure must be used in assessing and managing risks.

PROCEDURE

Contents

1. Background.....	2
2. Procedure	3
2.1 Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases	3
2.2 Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the NSW List of Notifiable Animal Diseases	3

1. BACKGROUND

A number of animal diseases are notifiable in NSW under section 9 the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* and/or section 7 of the *Animal Diseases and Animal Pests (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991*, or section 22 of the *Apiaries Act 1985*.

This means that there is a legal obligation on members of the public such as stock owners, veterinarians or other persons who are consulted about stock, to promptly notify authorities if they know or suspect an animal has a notifiable disease.

Most notifiable animal diseases are diseases that are exotic to Australia, e.g. foot and mouth, rabies, mad cow disease. If established here, such diseases could impact severely on trade, human health or production.

International standards for disease reporting are set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and form the basis of Australia's agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases.

The agreed national list is compiled by the national Animal Health Committee and reviewed biennially (or more often if required).

The agreed national list is based on:

1. Listed diseases in the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement; or
2. OIE listed diseases that are exotic to Australia; or
3. Any other disease determined by Animal Health Committee to be suitable for inclusion after consideration of the following factors:
 - a. The disease has public health significance (including food safety); or
 - b. Disease notification is a pre-requisite for export certification for major markets; or
 - c. The disease is of national and genuine concern to Australia according to the following criteria:
 - (i) the disease (agent or strain of the disease agent) is exotic to Australia would have significant socio-economic impacts if it occurred and can be clearly described by its aetiology (causative agent); or
 - (ii) the disease (agent or strain of the disease agent) has limited distribution in Australia would have significant socio-economic impacts if it spread and can be clearly described by its aetiology (causative agent); or
 - (iii) the disease (agent or strain of the disease agent) is subject to a recognised national control or eradication programs; or
 - (iv) as agreed by all Animal Health Committee members.

All jurisdictions are required to include the diseases on the agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases as the minimum list of notifiable diseases under their own notification legislation.

Jurisdictions may add other diseases to their notification legislation where:

- the disease is endemic in other parts of Australia but is exotic to the particular jurisdiction,
- the disease is subject to a state-based disease control program,

- the jurisdiction needs certification evidence to meet a particular market.

In NSW, specific diseases are made subject to notification requirements by:

- [Proclamation](#) in accordance with section 4 of the *Stock Diseases Act 1923*, and/or
- [Order](#) in accordance with section 6A of the *Animal Diseases and Animal Pests (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991*.

2. PROCEDURE

2.1 Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases

In order to approach the national Animal Health Committee regarding the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases, a formal submission needs to be prepared and endorsed by the Director Animal Biosecurity. The submission must include:

- background information about the disease,
- the international perspective, e.g. OIE listing,
- risk assessment of the likely impact on the Australian economy, environment or human health, if the disease is added to or removed from the agreed national list,
- evidence that the submission is supported by the appropriate species biosecurity management group/s,
- evidence of industry support.

The Director is responsible for submitting the application to national Animal Health Committee and advising relevant staff and industry of the outcome.

2.2 Application for the inclusion/exclusion of a disease on the NSW List of Notifiable Animal Diseases

In order to include/exclude a disease under NSW notification legislation that is not on the agreed National List of Notifiable Animal Diseases, a recommendation to the Director Animal Biosecurity, must be prepared based on:

- background information about the disease,
- the national perspective, including reasons why the disease is/is not on the national list,
- risk assessment of the likely impact on the NSW economy, environment or human health, if the disease is added to or removed from NSW legislation,
- evidence that the submission is supported by the appropriate species biosecurity management group/s,
- evidence of industry support.

Definitions and acronyms

OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health

Legislation

- [Stock Diseases of Animals Act 1923](#)
- [Animal Diseases and Animal Pests \(Emergency Outbreaks\) Act 1991](#)
- [Apiaries Act 1985](#)

Related Documents

- Primefact – [Notifiable Animal Diseases in NSW](#)

- Procedure – Reporting emergency and other notifiable animal diseases, version 3

Contact

Role: Veterinary Officer, Animal Biosecurity Strategy and Standards

Contact no.: 02 6391 3101