

Cattle tick - NSW entry requirements

September 2018, Primefact 1556, second edition
Animal Biosecurity, NSW DPI

Background

Cattle tick (*Rhipicephalus [boophilus] microplus or australis*) are a significant animal health pest in Australia causing direct production losses as well as being the vector of tick fever, a major cause of death and illness in northern Australian cattle herds.

They are endemic in the higher rainfall areas of northern Australia as shown in the map. Qld, WA and the NT have both cattle tick infested and free areas while all of NSW is a cattle tick free area.



What animals carry cattle ticks

Cattle, buffalo, bison and deer are called *primary cattle tick carriers* and cattle ticks routinely complete their life cycle on these animals. Horses, sheep, goats and camelids are called *secondary cattle tick carriers* and cattle ticks occasionally complete their life cycle on these species. Secondary cattle tick hosts usually have very few ticks present compared to primary cattle tick hosts.

Preventing cattle tick entering NSW

Cattle tick infestation is notifiable in NSW under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* and animals that carry cattle tick can only enter NSW if they meet certain inspection and/or treatment requirements before entering NSW. Animals moving to abattoirs or feedlots have less stringent requirements than animal moving to other properties. Primary cattle tick carriers are a bigger risk than secondary cattle tick carriers and have more stringent movement requirements.

Cattle tick requirements for entering NSW

There are legal controls on the entry of cattle tick carriers to NSW. These entry requirements are called 'risk minimisation requirements' and the requirements are prescribed in the *Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017*, available at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

There are a number of steps people should or must take before moving cattle tick carriers into NSW:

Step 1. Preliminary treatments

A cattle tick carrier should be free from ticks before it is moved from its place of origin in Queensland.

To be effective, preliminary treatment(s) are usually required for primary carrier species 4-7 days (or 6-9 days if the preliminary treatment involves a macrocyclic lactone [ML]) before the animal moves from its place of origin.

If any live ticks are found by an authorised officer or accredited certifier, the cattle tick carriers will not be allowed entry into NSW until the consignment is tick free on presentation for clearance 4-7 days after the previous inspection. Stock moving direct to slaughter can be re-examined at 1 day intervals.

Step 2. Understand what risk minimisation requirements apply to the movement of your animal

Table 1 summarises the risk minimisation requirements for cattle tick carriers moving from Queensland into NSW. A biosecurity certificate will need to be given for most movements of cattle tick carriers into NSW. A biosecurity certificate may be given by an:

- accredited certifier under the *Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld)*, if it occurs in Qld, or
- authorised officer under the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*, if undertaken at a NSW facility.

The biosecurity certificate states that the cattle tick carrier has met inspection and/or treatment requirements set out in the *Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017*.

Table 1: Treatment and inspection requirements for cattle tick carriers entering NSW

Origin		Destination	Species	Risk minimisation requirements *	Certification requirements	
Area	Property Type					
1	Infested area	Any property in the infested area except those in row 3 - 10	Any property in NSW	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	Certified tick free manual inspection and supervised chemical treatment	Record of movement (General) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate
2	Infested area	Any property in the infested area except those in row 3 - 10	NSW abattoir or feedlot that meets specified conditions (Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan)	Cattle Sheep Goats	Tick free visual inspection and supervised chemical treatment or Certified tick free manual inspection	Record of movement (Feedlot and abattoir) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate
3	Infested area	Feedlot that meets specified conditions (Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan)	NSW abattoir or feedlot	Cattle Sheep Goats	Feedlot managed to specified conditions (Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan) and Cattle tick carrier	Record of movement (Feedlot and abattoir)

	Origin		Destination	Species	Risk minimisation requirements *	Certification requirements
	Area	Property Type				
					was held at the feedlot for 35 days immediately before importation and Tick free visual inspection	
5	Infested Area	Any property in the infested Area	An agricultural show in NSW	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	Certified tick free manual inspection and Leaves NSW within 7 days of entry	Record of Movement (General) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate
6	Infested area	Stabled registered thoroughbred	Designated race meeting under control of a racing authority	Equine	For 35 days immediately before importation, the equine was stabled and Tick free visual inspection and Return to its State or Territory of origin within 7 days of the proposed movement date.	Record of movement (General)
7	Infested area	Competition horse	Attending horse only event at a venue where no cattle was kept within the last 12 months	Equine	Certified tick free manual inspection and 12 months before importation, the equine was not resident on land grazed by cattle or deer, or for 35 days immediately before importation, the equine was held in pasture free conditions and	Record of movement (General) and Carrier biosecurity certificate.

Origin		Destination	Species	Risk minimisation requirements *	Certification requirements	
Area	Property Type					
				The equine is clean and groomed and Travel directly to and from event and will return to its State or Territory of origin within 7 days		
9	Infested area	Horse moving from NSW into the infested area for veterinary treatment and returning to NSW	Veterinary clinic in an infested Area	Equine	Travel direct to clinic for veterinary treatment and Horse confined to clinic during stay and Tick free visual inspection when leaving the clinic	Record of Movement (Veterinarian)
10	Free area ^	Unrestricted Property	Any destination direct from free Area	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	No examination or treatment requirements.	NA
11	Free area ^	Unrestricted Property	Any destination via infested area	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	No unloading in the infested area. and No additional animals loaded from a restricted property in the free area or in the infested area	Record of Movement (General)
12	Free area ^	Restricted property	Any destination except abattoir or feedlot	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	Certified tick free manual inspection and supervised chemical treatment	Record of Movement (General) and Carrier biosecurity Certificate
13	Free area ^	Restricted property	NSW abattoir or feedlot that meets	Cattle Sheep	Tick free visual inspection and	Record of Movement

Origin		Destination	Species	Risk minimisation requirements *	Certification requirements	
Area	Property Type					
		specified conditions	Goats	supervised chemical treatment or Certified tick free manual inspection	(General) and Carrier biosecurity Certificate	
14	Free area ^	Restricted property	An agricultural show in NSW	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	Certified tick free manual inspection and Leaves NSW within 7 days of entry	Record of Movement (NSW agricultural show) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate

^ Stock must have been on an unrestricted property in the free area for 35 continuous days for this to be regarded as originating from the Free Area

* If the vehicle on which the cattle tick carrier is transported transits through an infested area, the cattle tick carrier must not be off-loaded from the vehicle, and no additional cattle tick carriers are to be loaded into the vehicle unless the additional cattle tick carriers have complied with the conditions for importation of the cattle tick carrier set out the *Biosecurity Order Permitted Activities 2016*.

Step 3. Getting a biosecurity certificate (if required)

Certification in Queensland

A register of accredited certifiers in Queensland can be found on the Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at:

www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/transporting-cattle-tick-areas/accredited-certifiers

Carrier biosecurity certification can be undertaken at various places (on farm, saleyards or at dedicated clearing facilities). In some situations, plunge dipping facilities will not be available and clearance can only be undertaken using spraying. Spraying limits the numbers that can be treated as each treatment takes much longer than plunge dipping.

Certification at NSW Facilities

Led and tractable stock can be certified by NSW DPI authorised officers at the Kirra Cattle Tick Operations Facility in Queensland. “*Led and tractable*” means that the stock can, for inspection and treatment, be reasonably expected to be capable of being safely led and restrained for treatment to the satisfaction of an authorised officer.

Carrier biosecurity certification for led and tractable stock can also be undertaken at Mount Lindesay on the Qld border. The Mt Lindesay facility is not staffed permanently and clearance through that centre can only be undertaken by prior booking through the Kirra office.

Animals that do not meet the “Led and tractable” criteria may be:

- Plunge dipped with an approved acaricide.

OR

- Re-presented at some future date when the “led and tractable” criteria are able to be met.

Step 4. Submit your paperwork before entering NSW

Prior to moving a cattle tick carrier into NSW from the cattle tick infested area or a restricted property in Queensland, a person must provide a Record of Movement by:

- emailing (cattletick@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or faxing (02 66261202) the Record of Movement 24 hours before crossing the border, **or**
- giving the Record of Movement to an authorised officer at the Kirra Cattle Tick Operations Facility, 57 Miles St Kirra Qld 4225.

Step 5. Keeping the paperwork

A copy of any carrier biosecurity certificate and the record of movement must accompany the consignment. The carrier biosecurity certificates must be retained for 2 years.

A Transported Stock Statement (TSS) is required for travel within NSW but some movements are exempt. Information about sourcing and using TSSs, exempt movements and common questions can be found on the NSW DPI website at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/stock-movements/documentation2/tss-questions-answers>

Time limits on moving a carrier

Carriers must be moved into NSW within 24 hours of completing the risk minimisation requirements included in the BOPA.

Feedlots and abattoirs - Cattle Tick Risk Management Plans

Cattle tick carriers may move from a restricted property, a property in an infested area, or a feedlot in an infested area to an abattoir or feedlot in NSW providing the feedlots in NSW or Queensland, or abattoirs in NSW have in place a Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan. This Plan is a protocol prepared by the feedlot or abattoir and auditable by the Department under which the following management steps are undertaken:

- the feedlot, including yards and handling facilities, is surrounded by a buffer zone of at least 10 metres, and the buffer is kept free of cattle tick carriers at all times, and
- feedlot pens and associated handling facilities are kept free of vegetation at all times, and
- the feedlot operator must have documented procedures to prevent an infestation of cattle tick being introduced by cattle tick carriers from an infested area, and
- cattle tick carriers must not be removed from feedlot pens for husbandry, drafting or loading for any longer than is necessary, and
- the feedlot owner must maintain records of movements of cattle tick carriers in and out of the feedlot.

Approved agricultural shows in Queensland, competitions and horse sales

Agricultural shows and horse competition organisers in Queensland and organisers horse sales may apply to NSW DPI for a biosecurity permit that will allow for the movement of horses into NSW without the requirement for a Biosecurity Certificate. The persons responsible for the agricultural show, competition or horse sale would need to demonstrate cattle tick risk management arrangements are in place, for example:

- Require all secondary carriers attending the event to be tick free before entering the event site.
- Engaging an accredited biosecurity certifier to conduct a manual inspection of all primary cattle tick carriers entering the site from a restricted property in a free area or the infested area to make sure they are tick free.

- Retain records of:
 - the details of all events (location, date);
 - the name and address of the accredited certifier performing inspections of primary cattle tick carriers;
 - the species and numbers of primary cattle tick carriers inspected into the event site.

Event organisers seeking a biosecurity permit should complete the biosecurity permit application form available on the NSW DPI website.

Moving Deer

The importation of deer from infested areas presents difficulties. Led and tractable deer can be examined and treated by spraying as for other led and tractable animals. Unbroken paddock deer require special low light handling facilities. Anyone wishing to clear deer to move to NSW from an infested area should seek advice on the construction of suitable clearance facilities.

Moving Exhibited and non domestic animals

For all enquiries regarding cattle tick requirements for moving exhibited and non domestic animals between different tick areas contact the NSW DPI's Cattle Tick program at Wollongbar on 02 6626 1201 or email: cattletick@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Camels, bison and water buffalo are classified as restricted non-indigenous animals in NSW and can only be held on licensed premises in NSW. They must be individually and permanently identified. See <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/nia>.

Using non chemical treatments to reduce the risk of cattle infestation

The *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* is outcome based which means that there may be more than one way to achieve the desired outcome that is preventing cattle tick being introduced to NSW. It is possible to use management techniques to reduce the risk of introducing cattle tick on animals entering NSW. Some standard protocols are outlined in the tables above, for example for carriers moving from feedlots or to certain events.

Note these non-chemical ways of managing the risk are referred to in Queensland by the term “dealt with in a stated way”.

To obtain authorisation for a movement following an alternative customised protocol to minimise the risk of cattle tick infestation, contact NSW DPI for approval before the movement is planned.

Definitions used in this document

Term	Definition
Acaracide	A chemical which kills or sterilizes ticks
Accredited certifier	A person trained and authorised by jurisdictional legislation to issue carrier biosecurity certificates and inspect and/or treat cattle tick carriers to verify a tick free status.
Authorised officer	A person working for NSW DPI or LLS who has been authorised under the Act to carry out various functions
Carrier biosecurity certificate	A certificate issued by an authorised officer or accredited biosecurity certifier attesting that prescribed treatment and inspection requirements have been undertaken in order to manage a biosecurity risk.
Clearance	The process of completing risk minimisation requirements for cattle tick when moving cattle tick carriers
Dipping	Immersion in a plunge dip containing an approved acaricide
Feedlot	A licenced facility where intensive animal feedlotting is periodically carried out
Free area	Any part of a state or territory declared as a cattle tick free Area under state or

Term	Definition
	territory biosecurity legislation
Infested Area	The area in Queensland, Northern Territory or Western Australia, that is not the cattle tick free zone
Live tick	A cattle tick showing movement or from which body fluids can be expressed
Macrocyclic lactone (ML)	An acaricide based on the macrocyclic lactone chemical group e.g. moxidectin,. These may be pour-on or injectable
Manual examination	A physical examination of the exterior of a restrained animal to detect the presence of cattle tick as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – manual inspection of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.
Primary cattle tick carriers	Species on which cattle tick routinely complete their life cycle(i.e. cattle, buffalo, bison, deer)
Record of movement	A document available on the NSW DPI website that contains a declaration that the cattle tick carrier satisfies or will satisfy the conditions for importation of a cattle tick carrier.
Restricted property	A property in a cattle tick free zone that is subject to a biosecurity undertaking, biosecurity direction or regulatory instrument in another State or Territory that controls or restricts the movement of animals on a property on account of cattle tick
Secondary cattle tick carriers	Species on which cattle tick occasionally complete their life cycle (e.g. horses, sheep, goats, camelids)
Spraying	Applying an acaricide by power spray in an approved manner
Supervised chemical treatment	A chemical treatment of a cattle tick carrier with an APVMA approved acaricide or endectocide for the control of cattle tick in accordance with all APVMA directions and label conditions, as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – chemical treatment of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.
Visual examination	A visual examination of the exterior of an animal from a maximum of 2 metres to detect the presence of cattle tick as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick –visual inspection of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.

More information

- NSW DPI tick page at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/health-and-disease/parasitic-and-protozoal-diseases/ticks>
- Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Biosecurity manual and procedures at https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/379138/QLD_Biosecurity_Manual_2016.pdf

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development, 2015. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent advisor.

ISSN 1832 6668

PUB17/267