

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FOR THE MEETING OF THE WOOL INDUSTRY EDP USERS GROUP HELD ON MONDAY THE 17th OF MARCH 2008**SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES****1. Mulesing Status**

The mulesing issue has been a high profile issue in the wool industry for several years. Prior to Christmas AWI issued a declaration form to be put onto sample boxes and it has been requested that it is formalised by putting the information into EDI transmissions. ISAC has also met and recommended that it be included in every lot transmitted for auction and a degree of urgency was expressed.

It was discussed as to which record it was best suited to put the data into, several options were considered including the 20 record but the final decision was made to put it into the 21D record.

Mulesing status will be a two character mandatory field with the 21D record also becoming mandatory and also non-excludable in the RFD document. The committee agreed to take the 21D record out of the DO document as it is no longer required in the DO document

2. AWEX-ID V3.2S

The AWEX-ID working group had recently met and confirmed some changes for the next version of AWEX-ID as had been discussed at the last WIEDPUG meeting. Qualifier codes P & K will be swapped as well as a change of code for fellmongered from M to G. AWEX-ID version 3.2 will be released in July 2008 with the changes. These changes affect the DMFR declared qualifier codes & wool sub category.

3. EDI Future Directions

Concern was expressed as to whether or not the entire group was totally behind XML being the correct way for the industry to move. Although the current 80 character format is an old standard it does currently suit the industries needs and does have the advantage of not requiring any short term cost outlay, it does however have its disadvantages. It would be good if the industry could take a positive approach selecting the best way forward for EDI transmissions in the industry.

The comments from the last meeting were that the issue would meander unless an external consultant was brought in to assist with the decision process. In response to this, as the external consultant option was not supported by several members of the group, it was proposed that a pilot would be set up to run a proof of concept test. Due to commitments for preparing for the next version change in July 2008 it would not be practical to start the proof of concept trial before then. If any other party wanted to be involved in the trial it would be welcomed.

It was noted that it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain programmers that are able to work with the older standards and in the future costs associated with maintaining staff to work with these standards will continue to increase. Also one way of overcoming the complexities of moving to XML may be to establish a XML / CSV type network.

Concern was expressed that XML is a Microsoft based standard so if the internal systems are Microsoft based it offered easy integration however if the systems were not Microsoft it just meant more work. A hybrid XML / CSV network may be the correct solution to allow an easier transition.

It was noted that there are many external software suppliers that do not have input into this group and they would be greatly affected by the outcome of the XML discussions.

A one page notice will be produced and issued to the industry under the WIEDPUG banner to make the industry aware of the current status of the issue.

4. Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is TBA.

It was decided during the meeting that the next version release would be on Monday the 21st of July 2008 and it would be Version 30.