



HOW TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL WOOL DECLARATION CORRECTLY

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL WOOL DECLARATION?

The National Wool Declaration (NWD), see attached example of the current Version 7.0, is a voluntary Declaration that allows Owners/Managers to provide information to Buyers/Processors/Retailers on the Mulesing Status and Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk (DMFR) of their mobs of sheep and lines of wool.

WHAT IS THE NWD – INTEGRITY PROGRAM (NWD-IP)?

The NWD-IP is an industry program conducted by AWEX. Through randomly selected Desk Audits, Pain Relief Verifications and On Farm Inspections, AWEX determines whether the Mulesing Status Declarations are correct (Compliant), or not (Non Compliant).

HOW IS THE NWD INFORMATION USED?

Buyers use the information in the NWD to make purchasing decisions in good faith and on behalf of their clients.

If the buyer's client (the processor) requests that wool be sourced from sheep that are; for example, Non Mulesed (NM) or mulesed with Pain Relief (PR), the buyers expect the information in the NWD to be correct.

If a Declaration (regardless of type) is found to be Non Compliant, the buyers (and the broker) of the incorrectly declared wool are informed and they will consider their position.

In addition, instances of Non Compliance can seriously reduce the credibility of the Declarations, which reflects badly on the Australian wool industry.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE NWD?

The NWD is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager. The wool classer should only fill out the Mulesing Status and DMFR details if the

grower gives clear advice on this. When the Declaration is being signed, the wool classer should ensure that the Owner/Manager is fully aware of Mulesing Status declared for each mob. The NWD **must be signed** by the Owner/Manager to be valid.

WHICH SHEEP BREEDS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A MULESING STATUS DECLARATION?

All sheep breeds and their crosses, of any age, are eligible for a Mulesing Status Declaration.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF MULESING?

Mulesing: **“the removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears”**. This definition is determined by Animal Health Australia and is consistent across the industry.

Industry has agreed that the removal of **any amount** of skin from the breech **and/or** tail by shears is mulesing. This definition is absolute to prevent people who may try to take advantage of any flexibility in the definition.

WHEN SHOULD CEASED MULESING STATUS BE DECLARED?

Ceased Mulesing (CM) status can be declared if lambs **have not** been mulesed on the property in the last 12 months and **no purchased ewes or wethers are mulesed or mulesed with Pain Relief**.

- If a Merino and/or Crossbred producer does not mules on their property (be they a trader, or a sheep breeder who is restocking) but buys sheep that are mulesed or mulesed with Pain Relief, the property is **not eligible** for CM status (answer **No** to the question).
- If a Merino and/or Crossbred producer has ceased mulesing (did not mules lambs in the last 12 months) and either (a) does not buy sheep or (b) only purchases sheep that are Non Mulesed, the property **is eligible** for CM status (answer **Yes** to the question).



- Regardless of CM status, **each individual mob** should be declared in the Mulesing Status column of the NWD as Non Mulesed (**NM**), mulesed with Pain Relief (**PR**) or Mulesed (**M**). In the Classer's Speci, **all mobs** should be listed against each line of wool (including oddments) in the Mob Number column.

If the property is eligible for Ceased Mulesing status (answered **Yes to the question**), [CM] appears in the sale catalogue and test certificate when a mob/sale lot is declared as M or PR.

WHEN CAN I DECLARE A MOB AS NON MULESED?

To declare a mob as Non Mulesed, prior to shearing, any Mulesed sheep must be drafted from the Non Mulesed sheep. There is no "acceptable" number of Mulesed sheep in a Non Mulesed mob. Sheep of different Mulesing Status should be easily differentiated (e.g. by ear tags or ear marks).

HOW DO I DECLARE THE MOB MULESING STATUS?

If a mob comprises:

- **only** Non Mulesed sheep, it is eligible to be declared as Non Mulesed (**NM**).
- **only** sheep mulesed with Pain Relief, it is eligible to be declared as Pain Relief (**PR**).
- **any** mulesed sheep (PR was not used), it should be declared as Mulesed (**M**).

HOW DO I DECLARE MOBS OF MIXED MULESING STATUS?

Wool from mobs that have different Mulesing Status, regardless of the number of sheep in each category, should be declared as the lowest common denominator. For example:

- If Non Mulesed sheep are mixed with Mulesed sheep, the mob Declaration should be Mulesed (**M**).
- If Non Mulesed sheep are mixed with sheep mulesed with Pain Relief, the mob Declaration should be mulesed with Pain Relief (**PR**).
- If sheep mulesed with Pain Relief are mixed with Mulesed sheep, the mob Declaration should be Mulesed (**M**).

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO MAKE A MULESING STATUS DECLARATION?

Do not complete either the Ceased Mulesing question for your property or the Mulesing Status question for your mobs/lines of wool. Not Declared [**ND**] will appear in the sale catalogue and test certificate against each line of wool.

HOW DOES THE DARK AND MEDULLATED FIBRE RISK DECLARATION SCHEME WORK?

The Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk Declaration Scheme (DMFR) is applicable to Merino fleece and pieces only; however, the information in the Declaration is also used by the wool broker when putting lines of wool together for any breed. To allow a DMFR Rating to be calculated, the following information is required:

- Mob Number (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.).
- Age Code (in years, where 1 = 1st shearing to 1 year old, 2 = 2nd shearing to 2 years old, 3, 4, 5 etc. Mixed age mobs should be described as an age range, e.g. 3 – 6).
- Breed Code (M, FO, SM, CD, PW, XB, DN, SB or CW).
- Was there Contact (i.e. mated to or run with) with Shedding Breeds **or their crosses** (Yes or No).
- Was the Mob Crutched since the last Shearing (Yes or No).
- Was Crutching conducted **less than 3 months** before Shearing (Yes or No).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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National Wool Declaration

Grower ID:

For Office Use Only

(Mulesing Status and Merino Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk for Sheep Mobs)

Owner Trading Name:

Property Brand: Phone No: (.....)

Property Identification Code (PIC):

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Location (Town):

This **DECLARATION** is for wool from a shearing completed on:...../...../.....

Has mulesing Ceased on this property? YES or NO (circle answer, see Definition below)

Mob No. (Refer Speci)	Mob Breaks/ Bale Ranges e.g. 1 – 9, 14, 19, 20, 30	Mulesing Status (circle answer)	Age Code	Breed Code	Sex Code	Contact with Shedding Breeds (Y/N)	Mob Crutched (Y/N)	Crutched within 3 mths prior to Shearing (Y/N)	Office Use Only
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							
		NM PR M							

Age/Shearing Code	Breed Code	Sex Code
1 st Shearing	1 Merino	M Ewes
2 nd Shearing to 2 yrs	2 Afrino	FO Wethers
3 years	3 SAMM	SM Rams
4 years	4 Corriedale	CD Mixed (E/W/R)
5 years	5 Polwarth	PW
6, 7, 8 years etc.	6, 7, 8... Crossbred	XB
Mixed, e.g. 3 to 6 yrs	3 – 6 Downs	DN
NWD V7.0, 1 st July 2017	Shedding Breeds	SB
	Carpet Wool	CW



How to Complete the NWD

→ To declare the DMFR and/or Mulesing Status for each mob (and each line of wool) the **Owner/Manager**, in consultation with the **Wool Classer**, must:

- Record the trading details and the **PIC**.
- Answer the question “**Has Mulesing Ceased on this Property?**”
- Complete all the **NWD Mob questions** (Mob No., Mulesing Status, Age, Breed, Sex, Shedding Breeds and Crutching History).
- Sign and Date the Declaration.**

→ The **Wool Classer** will complete the remainder of the Classer’s Specification, **including filling out the Bales Ranges and Mob Numbers for all lines of wool (both fleece and oddments).**

National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions

Mulesing	The removal of skin from the breech <u>and/or</u> tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. <i>Source:</i> Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep.
Ceased Mulesing (CM)	Wool from sheep where mulesing has ceased on the property. No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed. No purchased sheep are mulesed.
Non Mulesed (NM)	<u>No sheep</u> in this mob has been mulesed.
Pain Relief (PR)	<u>All sheep</u> in this mob have been <u>mulesed using a registered Pain Relief product</u> . Note: PR must be declared separately for each mob (it is <u>not</u> a property declaration).
Mulesed (M)	<u>Some/all sheep</u> in this mob <u>have been</u> mulesed.
Shedding Breeds	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Australian White, Awassi, Damara, Black Headed and White Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
Contact with Shedding Breeds	Mated to, or run in the same paddock as shedding sheep/lambs or their crosses.

By signing this declaration, I warrant that (a) I am authorised to complete this declaration and confirm that all details contained in it are true and correct, (b) I authorise the selling agent to submit this document to AWEX (if requested) for the purpose of the Integrity Program and (c) I understand that I may be subject to random desk audits and on farm inspections, the results of which may be made available to the buyers of the declared wool and the selling agent. Details of the AWEX Integrity Program and Privacy Policy are available on the AWEX website: www.awex.com.au.

Owner/Manager Name.....
Signature.....**Date**...../...../.....