



National Wool Declaration
Business Rules for Mulesing Status
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Release Note - Introduction

This document applies to the National Wool Declaration (NWD) Version 8.0 (see Appendix 1 and AWEX website www.awex.com.au). This version was released on 27th March 2020 and is effective from 1st July 2020.

The National Wool Declaration is an industry recognised form that allows a wool grower to declare their on-farm animal husbandry practices on mobs of sheep, and in this instance, specifically in relation to mulesing. The Declaration values on this form are in turn translated into Mulesing Status values on Sale Lots of wool. This document details the technical business rules for both on farm and post farm use.



SECTION A: ON FARM

1. Definition of Mulesing

Mulesing[^]: The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears.

Source: Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep.

2. Declaration Criteria

- The Mulesing Status of a mob may be declared on all Sheep Breeds (Merino, Crossbred, Downs etc.) and Ages on a recognised NWD document.
- A recognised NWD is one that complies with the industry agreed definitions and audit requirements and is associated with an accompanying Wool Classer's Specification (see Section 5 (a)).

3. Third Party Quality/Registration Schemes

There are a number of third-party Quality/Registration Schemes that include husbandry practices (such as mulesing), which may be recorded on the Wool Classer's Specification. These Scheme Names can be published using the Quality/Registration Scheme fields in the printed and electronic catalogues.

The Sale Lot Mulesing Status can only be generated from a recognised NWD. Mulesing Status is not to be derived from a third-party scheme.

4. NWD Property and Mob Mulesing Status Codes and Definitions

Mulesing Status declared using the NWD is based on two levels of definitions; viz. Property (Brand/PIC) level and Mob level, with these defined in the table below.

Property Mulesing Status	Name	Definition/Meaning (If Eligible)
CM	Ceased Mulesing	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed [^] . No mulesed [^] (or mulesed with AA) ewes/wethers have been purchased.
Mob Mulesing Status	Name	Definition/Meaning (if Code used)
NM	Non Mulesed	No sheep in this mob has been mulesed [^] .
AA	Mulesed with Analgesic/ Anaesthetic	All sheep in this mob were mulesed [^] and treated with a pre- &/or post-Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep.
M	Mulesed	Some/all sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] .

[^] See definition of Mulesing in Item 1, above.

Note: CM is not a valid Mob Mulesing Status. Only NM, AA or M should be declared for the Mob Mulesing Status.



5. *The National Wool Declaration*

- (a) The National Wool Declaration (NWD) is the responsibility of the **Owner/Manager** of a property. When signing the NWD, the Owner/Manager warrants 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 the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX), if requested, for the purpose of the Integrity Program and (c) I understand that random desk audits and on farm inspections are undertaken, the results of which may be made available to the buyers of the declared wool and the selling agent. Details of the AWEX NWD - Integrity Program and Privacy Policy are available on the AWEX website: www.awex.com.au.
- (b) The NWD must not be completed by the Wool Classer, Wool Selling Agent or other persons unless under explicit instruction by the Owner/Manager. The Owner/Manager's signature is still necessary for a valid declaration.
- (c) The NWD is voluntary and may be recorded/collected in varying ways depending on Seller preference. Some Sellers may use a combined Wool Classers Specification and NWD form (see pages 9 & 10 for Landscape and 11 & 12 for Portrait), while others may use a separate NWD form (see page 13) their Classer's Specification. The NWD forms are available on the AWEX website: www.awex.com.au.
- (d) Regardless of the cosmetic presentation of the NWD, to be recognised as a valid Mulesing Status Code, the Definitions and Conditions (as specified above) must be used by all Sellers (i.e. a Seller cannot modify the industry agreed Definitions or Conditions). Mulesing Status should be declared, as applicable, at both the Property (PIC/Brand) level (CM) and the Mob level (NM, AA, M).
- (e) It is incumbent on the wool selling agent to provide the contacts details of the Owner/Manager of the property (Brand) to AWEX to facilitate any potential verification of the use of AA at mulesing or on farm inspection for NM/CM (see Section 15, National Wool, Declaration – Integrity Program.) The contact details include Owner/Manager name, postal &/or physical address, phone numbers and email address.

6. *Property Level Declaration: Ceased Mulesing*

It is necessary to re-submit the Property (PIC/Brand) level declaration of CM for every shearing. It is possible that a property that previously declared CM has recommenced the practice of mulesing (or vice versa).

7. *Mob Level Declaration: Business Rules*

The Mulesing Status of individual mobs should be declared according to the following rules:

- (a) If a mob comprises:
- only NM sheep, it should be declared as NM.
 - only sheep mulesed with AA, it should be declared as AA.
 - any mulesed sheep, it should be declared as M.
- (b) For mobs of mixed Mulesing Status (e.g. the mob is not drafted prior to shearing) where:
- NM sheep are mixed with mulesed sheep, the mob should be declared as M.
 - NM sheep are mixed with AA sheep, the mob should be declared as AA.
 - AA sheep are mixed with mulesed sheep, the mob should be declared as M.



SECTION B: POST FARM

8. Definition of Sale Lot Mulesing Status Codes

Sale Lot Mulesing Status Codes published in Catalogues, Certificates or Invoices are determined according to the Property and Mob level definitions in Section 4, which are applied according to the Rules in Section 7. These Sale Lot Mulesing Status Codes are described in the table below.

Sale Lot Mulesing Status Code*	Name	Definition/Meaning
[NM]	Non Mulesed	This Sale Lot contains only wool sourced from sheep/mobs declared as Non Mulesed. The two Property level Ceased Mulesing questions may be answered (Yes or No), or if one or both is not completed, [NM] applies.
[CM]	Ceased Mulesing	This Sale Lot contains wool sourced from sheep/mobs declared as Mulesed with AA or Mulesed. Where both Property level Ceased Mulesing questions are answered No, and Mob level questions are answered AA or M, [CM] applies.
[AA]	Mulesed with Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic	This Sale Lot contains wool sourced from sheep/mobs declared as Mulesed with AA. Where one, or both, of the Property level Ceased Mulesing questions is answered Yes, or if one or both is not completed, [AA] applies.
[]	Mulesed	This Sale Lot contains wool sourced from sheep/mobs that are declared as Mulesed. Where one, or both, of the Property level Ceased Mulesing questions is answered Yes, or if one or both is not completed, [] applies.
[ND]	Not Declared	This Sale Lot contains wool sourced from sheep/mobs where no Mob level declaration has been made. Where one, or both, of the Property level Ceased Mulesing questions is answered Yes, or if one or both is not completed, and the Mob level questions are not answered, [ND] applies. Where both Property level Ceased Mulesing questions are answered No, and the Mob level questions are not completed, [ND] applies.

*Square brackets [] are used in this document to refer to a Sale Lot Mulesing Status code (for ease of reading). The [] are not published in catalogues or certificates.

9. Publication of Sale Lot Mulesing Status Codes

- (a) The Sale Lot Mulesing Status shall be calculated and published in both printed and electronic Private/Public Catalogues and Lot Invoices.
- (b) The Sale Lot Mulesing Status shall be published on the IWTO Test Certificate as “declared information”.
- (c) The Sale Lot Mulesing Status may be published against all Wool Categories (Fleece, Pieces, Bellies, Lambs, Locks, Crutchings etc.).

10. Determination of a Valid Declaration

The minimum requirements for a valid declaration are:

- (a) It must have a Brand.
- (b) It must have a Trading Name.



- (c) It must be signed by the Owner/Manager.
- (d) A Mob Mulesing Status of NM, AA or M must be declared.
- (e) The Owner/Manager's contact details must be provided (see 5 (e) above).

11. Business Rule where Bale/Sale Lot contains Components of Mixed Mulesing Status

Where a bale contains mobs of mixed Mulesing Status or a Sale Lot contains bales of mixed Mulesing Status, the lowest Mulesing Status value shall apply.

The values from highest to lowest are: **NM > CM > AA > M > ND**.

12. Calculation Logic: Sale Lot Mulesing Status (Farm Lots) – See also Section 16

- (a) Determine if the NWD is a valid Declaration (see minimum requirement in Section 10 (a)). If the minimum requirements are not met, all associated Sale Lots are deemed Not Declared [ND].
- (b) Determine the Mob Mulesing Status (MMS). Where a bale or Sale Lot contains multiple mobs of differing Mulesing Status, the MMS shall be assigned the lowest value (see Section 11), otherwise if only one mob exists (in the bale or Sale Lot), the Mulesing Status of the mob shall be the MMS.
- (c) With reference to Items 12 (d), (e), (f) and (g) below, the two Property (Brand/PIC) level questions are as follows:
 - Have any lambs born on this property been mulesed in the last 12 months?, **and**
 - Have any mulesed ewes or wethers been purchased?
- (d) Where the Owner/Manager answers “No” to both Property level questions, the property **is eligible** for Ceased Mulesing status, and the following applies:
 - i. If the MMS is NM, the result shall be [NM].
 - ii. If the MMS is AA or M, the result shall be [CM].
 - iii. If the MMS is not completed, the result shall be [ND].
- (e) Where the Owner/Manager answers “No” to one and leaves the other blank Property level questions, the property is **not eligible** for Ceased Mulesing status, and the following applies:
 - i. If the MMS is NM, the result shall be [NM].
 - ii. If the MMS is AA or M, the result shall be [AA] or [], respectively.
 - iii. If the MMS is not completed, the result shall be [ND].
- (f) Where the Owner/Manager answers “Yes” to one or both Property level questions, the property is **not eligible** for Ceased Mulesing status, and the following applies:
 - i. If the MMS is NM, the result shall be [NM].
 - ii. If the MMS is AA or M, the result shall be [AA] or [], respectively.
 - iii. If the MMS is not completed, the result shall be [ND].
- (g) Where the Owner/Manager has not completed any Property level questions, the property is **not eligible** for Ceased Mulesing status and, the following applies:
 - i. If the MMS is NM, the result shall be [NM].
 - ii. If the MMS is AA or M, the result shall be [AA] or [], respectively.
 - iii. If the MMS is not completed, the result shall be [ND].



13. Calculation Logic: Sale Lot Mulesing Status (Interlots)

Where each component of an Interlot has a Mulesing Status (see calculation logic in Section 12), the following rules define the Interlot Mulesing Status for a P or D (Wool Preparation Category) Certificate:

- (a) If the Mulesing Status is the same for each component of a Family Interlot (i.e. same Brand) or Mixed Source Interlot, the Seller may apply that Mulesing Status to the Interlot.
- (b) If the Mulesing Status is different for each component of a Family Interlot (i.e. same Brand), the Seller may apply the lower Mulesing Status to that Interlot,
- (c) If the Mulesing Status is different for a Mixed Source Interlot, the Seller will apply [ND] to that Interlot.
- (d) Where no specific Mulesing Status (NM, AA or M) is provided, for a Family Interlot (i.e. same Brand) or Mixed Source Interlot, the Seller will apply [ND] to that Interlot.

14. Calculation Logic: Sale Lot Mulesing Status (Bulk Class)

The Mulesing Status, Not Declared [ND], will apply to all Bulk Class Sale Lots certified with a B or Q (Wool Preparation Category) Certificate.

15. National Wool Declaration - Integrity Program

The National Wool Declaration - Integrity Program (NWD-IP) is an extensive program of Desktop Audits/Verifications and On Farm Inspections conducted by the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX), which was designed to build wool pipeline and consumer confidence in Australian wool. It aims to (i) establish the accuracy of the NWD with respect to Mulesing Status declarations, (ii) provide an independent monitoring and reporting service to industry, and (iii) in the event of Non Compliance, apply corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

The NWD-IP comprises the following components as they relate to Mulesing Status:

Desktop Audit

Validate that the correct Mulesing Status is published: ~1,000 Declarations p.a. randomly selected.

On Farm Inspection

Inspect Non Mulesed mob(s) and Ceased Mulesing properties: ~225 Inspections p.a.

Desktop Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic Verification

Validate mob(s) declared as mulesed with Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic ~350 Verifications p/a.

The Rules of the NWD-IP can be found in the Brochure “Declaring what the World’s Demanding”, which is available on the AWEX website: www.awex.com.au.



16. Quick Reference Mapping Table (Farm Lots)

Is the Property Eligible for Ceased Mulesing (CM) Status?	NWD Version 8.0	
	Mob Mulesing Status	Sale Lot Mulesing Status
Yes	NM	[NM]
Yes	AA	[CM]
Yes	M	[CM]
Yes	Not completed	[ND]
No	NM	[NM]
No	AA	[AA]
No	M	[]
No	Not completed	[ND]

For further information contact:

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Mr Mark Grave, AWEX Chief Executive Officer, e. mgrave@awex.com.au or p. 03 9428 6110

National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions

Non Mulesed (NM)	No sheep in this mob has been mulesed [^] .
Ceased Mulesing (CM)	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed [^] . No mulesed [^] (or mulesed with AA) ewes or wethers have been purchased.
Analgesic/Anaesthetic (AA)	All sheep in this mob were mulesed [^] and treated with a pre- and/or post-Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep.
Mulesed (M)	Some/all sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] .
[^]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.
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 together with shedding breed sheep or their crosses, since the previous shearing (includes lambs from shedding breed sheep or their crosses).

Completing the NWD

- The Owner/Manager is responsible for ensuring the NWD is completed correctly.
- To complete the NWD:
 - Record the PIC.
 - Answer the two Property questions.
 - Complete the Mob details (Mob No., Mob Mulesing Status, Age/Shearing Code, Breed Code, Sex Code, Contact with Shedding Breeds and Shearing/Crutching History).
 - The Owner/Manager must Sign and Date the Declaration.
- The Wool Classer will complete the remainder of the Classer's Specification, including filling out the 1st Bale No. for each Mob and the Mob Numbers for ALL LINES of wool.

NWD Codes

Age/Shearing Code		Breed Code		Sex Code	
1 st Shearing	1	Merino	M	Ewes	E
2 nd Shearing to 2 years	2	Afrino	FO	Wether	W
3 years	3	SAMM	SM	Rams	R
4 years	4	Corriedale	CD	Mixed	M
5 years	5	Polwarth	PW		
6, 7, 8 years etc.	6, 7, 8..	Crossbred	XB		
Mixed, e.g. 3 to 6 years	3 - 6	Downs	DN		
NWD V8.0, MARCH 2020				Shedding Breeds	SB
				Carpet Wool	CW




National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions	
Non Mulesed (NM)	No sheep in this mob has been mulesed [^] .
Ceased Mulesing (CM)	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed [^] . No mulesed [^] (or mulesed with AA) ewes or wethers have been purchased.
Analgesic/Anaesthetic (AA)	All sheep in this mob were mulesed [^] and treated with a pre- and/or post-Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep.
Mulesed (M)	Some/all sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] .
[^]Mulesing	The removal of skin from the breech <u>and/or</u> tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. <i>Source: Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep.</i>
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 together with shedding breed sheep or their crosses, since the previous shearing (includes lambs from shedding breed sheep or their crosses).

How to Complete the NWD

- The Owner/Manager is responsible for ensuring the NWD is completed correctly.
- To complete the NWD:
 - Record the PIC.
 - Answer the two Property questions.
 - Complete the Mob details (Mob No., Mob Mulesing Status, Age/Shearing Code, Breed Code, Sex Code, Contact with Shedding Breeds and Shearing/Crutching History).
 - The Owner/Manager must Sign and Date the Declaration.
- The Wool Classer will complete the remainder of the Classer's Specification, including filling out the 1st Bale No. for each Mob and the Mob Numbers for ALL LINES of wool.

NWD Codes

Age/Shearing Code		Breed Code		Sex Code	
1 st Shearing	1	Merino	M	Ewes	E
2 nd Shearing to 2 years	2	Afrino	FO	Wethers	W
3 years	3	SAMM	SM	Rams	R
4 years	4	Corriedale	CD	Mixed (E/W/R)	M
5 years	5	Polwarth	PW		
6, 7, 8 years etc.	6, 7, 8....	Crossbred	XB		
Mixed, e.g. 3 to 6 years	3 - 6	Downs	DN		
NWD V8.0, March 2020		Shedding Breeds	SB		
		Carpet Wool	CW		

National Wool Declaration

Grower ID:

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 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):

Property Status. Please answer the following **two property questions** (circle answers)

1. Have any lambs born on this property been mulesed in the last 12 months? **Yes** or **No**
2. Have any mulesed (or AA) ewes or wethers been purchased? **Yes** or **No**

Mob No.	1 st Bale Number for Mob	Mob Mulesing Status (circle one per mob)	Age Code	Breed Code	Sex Code	Contact with Shedding Breeds (Y/N)	Mob Crutched (Y/N)	Crutched within 3 months prior to Shearing (Y/N)	Office Use Only
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							
		NM AA M							

Age/Shearing Code	Breed Code	Sex Code	How to Complete the NWD	
1 st Shearing	1 Merino	M Ewes	→ The Owner/Manager is responsible for ensuring the NWD is completed correctly. → To complete the NWD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record the PIC. Answer the two Property questions. Complete the Mob details (Mob No., Mob Mulesing Status, Age/Shearing Code, Breed Code, Sex Code, Contact with Shedding Breeds and Shearing/Crutching History). The Owner/Manager must Sign and Date the Declaration. 	
2 nd Shearing to 2 yrs	2 Afrino	FO Wethers		
3 years	3 SAMM	SM Rams		
4 years	4 Corriedale	CD Mixed		
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 V8.0, March 2020		Shedding Breeds		SB
		Carpet Wool		CW

National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions	
Non Mulesed (NM)	No sheep in this mob has been mulesed [^] .
Ceased Mulesing (CM)	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed [^] . No mulesed [^] (or mulesed with AA) ewes/wethers have been purchased.
Analgesic/ Anaesthetic (AA)	All sheep in this mob were mulesed [^] and treated with a pre-and/or post Analgesic/Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep.
Mulesed (M)	Some/all sheep in this mob have been mulesed.
[^]Mulesing	The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. Source: Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep.
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 together with since the previous shearing, shedding breed sheep or their crosses (includes lambs from shedding breed sheep or their crosses).

The Wool Classifier will complete the remainder of the Classifier's Specification, including filling out the 1st Bale No. for each Mob and the Mob Numbers for ALL LINES of wool.

By signing this National Wool 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 the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX), if requested, for the purpose of the Integrity Program and (c) I understand that random desk audits and on farm inspections are undertaken, the results of which may be made available to the buyers of the declared wool and the selling agent. Details of the AWEX NWD - Integrity Program and Privacy Policy are available on the AWEX website: www.awex.com.au

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