

HOW TO COMPLETE THE NWD CORRECTLY



WHAT IS THE NATIONAL WOOL DECLARATION?

The National Wool Declaration (NWD), see attached example of the current Version 8.0, is a voluntary Declaration that allows Owners/Managers to provide information to Buyers/Processors/Retailers on the Mulesing Status & Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk (DMFR) of their mobs of sheep & 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, Analgesic/Anaesthetic Verifications & 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 & on behalf of their clients.

If the buyer's client (the processor) requests that wool is sourced from sheep that are; for example, Non Mulesed (NM) or treated with Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic products(s) at mulesing (AA), the buyers expect the information in the NWD to be correct.

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

Instances of Non Compliance can seriously reduce the credibility of the Declarations, reflecting 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 & DMFR details if the grower gives clear advice on this. When the NWD is signed, the Classer should ensure the Owner/Manager is fully aware of the

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 & 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 &/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears”**. This definition is determined by Animal Health Australia & is consistent across the industry.

Industry has agreed that the removal of **any amount of skin** from the breech &/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 ewes or wethers (or lambs) that are mulesed or mulesed with AA have been purchased[^].

^{*}At the time of shearing, lambs must be marked but not mulesed.

[#]An agistment property is treated as the home property.

[^]If these M or AA sheep have been sold, answer No.

- If a Merino &/or Crossbred producer does not mules on their property (be they a trader, a prime lamb producer or a Merino sheep breeder who is restocking) but buys sheep that are mulesed or mulesed with AA, the property **is not eligible** for CM status.
- If a Merino &/or Crossbred producer did not mules lambs in the last 12 months, & does not buy sheep or only purchases sheep that are Non Mulesed, the property **is eligible** for CM status.

- Regardless of CM status, **each individual mob** should be declared in the Mulesing Status column of the NWD as:
 - Non Mulesed (**NM**),
 - mulesed & treated with an Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep (**AA**), 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, [CM] appears in the sale catalogue & test certificate for mobs/sale lots declared as M or AA.

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 & treated with an Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep is eligible to be declared as Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic (**AA**).
- **any** mulesed sheep (AA 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 Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic, the mob Declaration should be mulesed with Analgesic/Anaesthetic (**AA**).
- If sheep mulesed with Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic 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 questions for your property or the Mulesing Status question for your mobs/lines of wool. Not Declared [**ND**] will appear in the sale catalogue & test certificate against each line of wool.

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

The Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk Declaration Scheme (DMFR) is applicable to Merino fleece & pieces. The information in the DMFR Declaration for all sheep breeds is used by the wool broker when putting lines of wool together & by AWEX in conducting Desk Audits. 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 with Shedding Breeds **or their crosses** including lambs, i.e. mated to or run with (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).

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