

# What is AA (Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic) Verification?

**AA Verification is a transparent and simple process of verifying that sheep have received pain relief (Analgesic and/or Anaesthetic) when undergoing mulesing.**

**Mulesing is a one-time surgical practice aimed at providing sheep with lifetime protection against breech flystrike. Australia has become a world leader in developing and using pain relief products that improve animal welfare during mulesing and other animal husbandry practices.**

## Why does AA Verification matter?



AA Verification is an important part of the NWD Integrity Program (NWD-IP), which helps confirm that Mulesing Status (MS) Declarations are accurate.

This process supports your efforts to correctly report whether your sheep have received pain relief, which is valued by buyers, retailers, consumers and regulators.

By participating in this verification, you help maintain the trust and reputation of the Australian wool industry.

It's a way to show your commitment to transparency and animal welfare, contributing to the ongoing confidence in Australian wool.

## How Does the Verification Process Work?

### 1 Declaration



Wool producers submit their sheep's MS – such as whether they are mulesed and if pain relief was administered – through the National Wool Declaration (NWD). This is a voluntary process, designed to promote transparency.

### 2 Random Checks



The industry conducts random verifications of declarations, involving desktop reviews of records and documentation to confirm the use of AA (analgesic or anaesthetic). These checks are generally conducted when wool is sold at auction, with random notifications often sent prior to the sale, to verify declaration accuracy. These checks help strengthen buyer confidence, and support access to premium and brand-aligned markets.

### 3 Providing Evidence



To support their declarations, producers may be asked to supply:

- Tax invoices for purchased AA products.
- Invoices from Mulesing Contractors confirming AA use.
- Statutory declarations or relevant documentation demonstrating AA administration.

- ✓ Keep clear records
- ✓ Respond if selected for audit
- ✓ Support industry credibility

## What Happens During Verification?

### ✓ Compliant

If the declaration is verified as accurate (compliant) the wool's Mulesing Status of AA is confirmed, supporting the credibility of the declaration.

### ✗ Non-compliant

If discrepancies are found (non-compliant) the process is designed to identify and address issues, which may include:

- Clarifying misunderstandings or record-keeping errors (Level 1)
- Addressing more serious cases of misreporting or non-cooperation (Level 2)

Non-compliant audits will result in the wool's Mulesing Status being corrected and the market being notified. The program aims to promote trust in the NWD as a globally recognised declaration.

## Importance of AA Verification



### Industry Credibility

This program provides an independent, credible check that supports a transparent supply chain, which is essential for maintaining trust among buyers, brokers, and consumers.



### Ensuring Accurate Declarations

Reliable verification helps ensure that all parties can confidently rely on the information provided, facilitating smooth and transparent transactions.



### Confidentiality and Privacy

Verification results are kept confidential, shared only with relevant parties, and used solely to uphold declaration accuracy.



### Supporting Industry Standards

Participation in the verification process demonstrates a commitment to high standards and transparency, reinforcing the overall credibility of the Australian wool supply chain.

## Accurate Record Keeping



**Tip:** Store and maintain receipts and records to easily locate should you be selected for a desktop review.

### Proof of using AA (Anaesthetic or Analgesic)

#### Bought from Vet or Supply Store

Keep the invoice showing what you bought and how many lambs were treated.

#### Supplied by Mulesing Contractor

Keep the invoice from the contractor showing they used AA, how much they used, and how many lambs they treated.

#### Obtained from Someone Else (like a neighbour or relative)

Keep a declaration or invoice showing what type of AA was used, how much, and how many lambs it was used on.

#### Purchased Sheep (from a Vendor)

Keep the invoice or declaration from the seller showing AA use, how much was used, and how many lambs were treated.

#### Evidence from States with Mandatory AA

If you bought sheep from a state that requires Anaesthetic/Analgesic (AA) for mulesing, keep your NVD (National Vendor Declaration), purchase invoices, or any other farm records that prove the AA was applied.

### Proof of using LN (Liquid Nitrogen)

If selected for a review, you'll need to show evidence of LN treatment for the whole mob.

#### • From Treatment Provider

Keep the invoice showing the mob was treated with LN and how many lambs were treated.

#### • From Seller (if you bought sheep)

Keep an invoice or declaration showing the sheep you bought were treated with LN and how many lambs.