

National Wool Declaration (NWD) V10.0

Detailing business rules and definitions related to mulesing practice declarations for wool growers in Australia.

This guide is intended to simplify key information, but it does not replace the original NWD V10.0 Release Notes and Business Rules document, which should be consulted for full details.

Navigating the National Wool Declaration (NWD) 10.0

The National Wool Declaration (NWD) Version 10.0, released on October 3, 2023, became effective on July 1, 2024. The NWD allows the Owner/Manager to declare the animal husbandry practices related to mulesing and liquid nitrogen breech modification on their property. It applies to all sheep breeds and ages.

Key Definitions

^Mulesing: The surgical removal of skin from a sheep's breech &/ or tail using mulesing shears to prevent flystrike.

#Liquid Nitrogen: A method used to remove skin from a sheep's breech through ultra-low temperatures.

Analgesic/Anaesthetic (AA): Any product used for pain relief must be registered by the APVMA (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority).

Mob and Property Level Declaration Codes

The NWD includes specific codes for declaring mulesing status at both property and mob levels. These codes help in identifying the animal welfare practices followed on the property.

Mob Mulesing Status (MMS):

These codes are declared at the mob level and include:

- **NM:** Sheep in this mob have not been mulesed[^] or treated with Liquid Nitrogen[#].
- **LN:** Sheep in this mob have been treated with Liquid Nitrogen[#].
- **AA:** Sheep in this mob have been mulesed[^] & treated with an analgesic &/or anaesthetic product registered by APVMA.
- **M:** Sheep in this mob have been mulesed[^] without the use of a registered analgesic &/or anaesthetic product.
- **Mobs of Mixed Status:** For mobs of mixed status, use the lowest applicable status (moving left to right) according to this hierarchy: NM>LN>AA>M>ND.

Property Status (CM) Code:

This code, CM (Ceased Mulesing), is for the property level only and is assigned when the answer to both CM property questions is 'No'. CM is not a valid mob status; a mob can only be declared as NM, LN, AA, or M.

NWD Property Declaration – CM Questions

a. No lambs~born on this property+ in the last 12 months have been mulesed, &

b. No mulesed[^] (or AA) ewes or wethers have been purchased in the last 12 months.

~At the time of shearing, lambs must be marked but not mulesed. LN is not mulesing.

+An agistment property is treated as the home property.

Note: For a property to be eligible for CM status, the answer to both CM property questions must be 'No'.

Third-Party Quality and Registration Schemes

Various third-party schemes may record animal welfare practices, but the Sale Lot MS code must use a recognised NWD code. This ensures consistency and integrity in wool declarations.

- Third-party schemes can be included in Wool Classer's Specifications.
- Sale Lot MS codes must be derived from recognised NWD V10.0.
- The MMS code cannot come from third-party schemes.

Declaration Responsibilities and Procedures

Responsibilities and Valid Declarations

The declaration is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager of the property. To be valid, the NWD must be signed by the Owner/Manager, confirming the declarations are accurate and truthful.

A valid declaration must include:

- Brand and Trading Name
- A declared MMS of NM, LN, AA, or M
- Owner/Manager's signature
- Owner/Manager's contact details for verification.

The NWD can be submitted either separately or combined with the Wool Classer's Specifications. It can also be submitted electronically.

How to support your clients

Selling agents are to provide the contact details of the Owner/Manager to AWEX if selected for audit.

Providing contact details is essential to facilitate audits and verifications.

The required contact details include:

- the Owner/Manager's name
- correct full address (including number and street/road, suburb, postcode) phone numbers
- email address
- PIC.

Rules for Mixed Wool Lots

When a sale lot contains wool from multiple mobs with different mulesing statuses, the lowest applicable status according to this hierarchy must be applied to the entire lot.

The hierarchy for Mob Mulesing Status (MMS) is:

NM>LN>AA>M>ND

This rule ensures that wool is accurately represented according to its treatment history. For example, if a sale lot contains wool from an **NM** mob and an **M** mob, the entire lot must be declared as **M**.

The Sale Lot MS code is then published in catalogues and invoices.

Calculation Logic for Sellers Regarding Sale Lot MS

Sellers must follow a defined logic to determine the Sale Lot MS based on the validity of declarations and the mulesing status of the wool. This includes assessing eligibility for ceased mulesing (CM) status based on property-level questions.

- Valid declarations are assessed against minimum requirements.
- If only one mob exists, its MMS applies; otherwise, the lowest MMS is used.
- Eligibility for CM status is determined by two property-level questions.

AWTA Rules for MS Declarations Post-2024

New rules will be implemented for MS declarations based on NWD V8.0 or earlier, affecting how mulesing statuses are recorded and reported. These rules will ensure consistency and compliance in wool declarations.

- Effective July 2024, "PR" was renamed "AA," with "CM" unchanged."
- Bulk Class certificates sampled pre-25 July 2022 must be declared as [ND].

National Wool Declaration Integrity Program

The National Wool Declaration Integrity Program (NWD-IP) is delivered by AWEX to enhance customer confidence in Australian wool. This independent, industry service is delivered to support trust in the NWD, ensuring the accuracy of mulesing status declarations through audits.

