

27 March 2020

## National Wool Declaration v8.0 - Finalised

The review of the NWD is now complete.

The review, which began in May 2019, received considerable interest from all sectors of the industry. A critical element of this review was the consultation. We appreciate the input and engagement of so many contributors throughout the wool supply chain in assisting AWEX to complete this review. All comments and views were constructive and demonstrated the diversity of opinions that exist.

A highlight of the review of the NWD, the 7<sup>th</sup> since 2008, was the significant number of submissions from overseas and downstream stakeholders.

The focus of this review has been whether and/or how, alternative methods to mulesing should be recognised in the NWD. To further complicate the decision to proceed, both the AWEX Board and ISAC recognised the potential consequences of making a decision without the benefit of independent, clear and concise scientific analysis of the use of liquid nitrogen or any new innovation that may be introduced.

After a thorough and exhaustive process, the AWEX Board has unanimously accepted the recommendations as proposed by ISAC. Recognising the importance of the issues raised in the submissions throughout the review, AWEX has committed to conduct a further review of the NWD with respect to mulesing status, with particular focus on the identification of wool from sheep treated with liquid nitrogen.

This review will take place within 12 months OR when the results of the scheduled trials, providing clear animal welfare outcomes, are available, whichever comes first.

The accepted recommendations with respect to the NWD include:

1. The definition of mulesing to remain unchanged,
2. The definition of NM (Non-Mulesed) to remain unchanged,
3. To reformat Ceased Mulesing to include two questions to improve clarity and reduce errors. The definition of CM is unchanged,
4. To replace the NWD/Mulesing Status code 'PR' with 'AA' (Analgesic and/or Anaesthetic), where an APVMA registered AA product has been used, and
5. With respect to Liquid Nitrogen, AWEX is seeking further information from AVI on the Animal Welfare trials being undertaken, before an informed decision can be made.

The review of the NWD and the issues surrounding the declaration are challenging and complex. The review has also highlighted the value placed on the NWD throughout the supply chain.

AWEX will commence work, in consultation with industry, to develop appropriate identification methods to meet the needs of wool producers, wool brokers/handlers, exporters and their customers.

The AWEX Board has committed to reconvene to assess the independent scientific outcomes of the trials when they become available, to consider the appropriate way forward for the wool industry.

The NWD v8.0 0 - March 2020 is attached. Further copies are also available to be downloaded from the AWEX website: [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)

## Implementation:

The implementation and communication strategy is in three stages:

1. March 2020:
  - Release of NWD 8.0,
  - Shed stationary updates,
  - Business Rules (translation and combination rules), and
  - Advise IT system changes.
2. July 2020: New Code(s) accepted through data systems.
3. July 2021 forward: New Declarations made on NWD v.7 and prior to be invalid (excluding old or reoffer stock).

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## National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions

<b>Non Mulesed (NM)</b>	No sheep in this mob has been mulesed <sup>^</sup> .
<b>Ceased Mulesing (CM)</b>	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed <sup>^</sup> . No mulesed <sup>^</sup> (or mulesed with AA) ewes/wethers have been purchased.
<b>Analgesic/Anaesthetic (AA)</b>	All sheep in this mob were mulesed <sup>^</sup> and treated with a pre- and/or post- Analgesic/Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep.
<b>Mulesed (M)</b>	Some/all sheep in this mob have been mulesed <sup>^</sup> .
<b><sup>^</sup>Mulesing</b>	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.
<b>Shedding Breeds</b>	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Australian White, Awassi, Damara, Black Headed and White Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
<b>Contact with Shedding Breeds</b>	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 1<sup>st</sup> Bale No. for each Mob and the Mob Numbers for ALL LINES of wool.

### NWD Codes

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