

HOW TO COMPLETE THE NWD CORRECTLY



THE NATIONAL WOOL DECLARATION

The National Wool Declaration (NWD), Version 9.0, is a voluntary Declaration that allows Owners/Managers to provide credible information to buyers, processors, & retailers on issues that can influence purchasing decisions, viz. Mulesing Status (MS) & Dark & Medullated Fibre Risk (DMFR).

NWD – INTEGRITY PROGRAM (NWD-IP)

The NWD-IP, managed & conducted by AWEX, comprises randomly selected Desk Audits/Verifications & On Farm Inspections for MS Declarations of NM, LA, AA, LN or CM. AWEX determines whether the MS Declarations are correct (Compliant), or not (Non Compliant).

NWD DEFINITIONS/TERMINOLOGY

Mob Declarations for MS

Individual mobs may be declared as one of the following:

Non Mulesed (NM) – No sheep in this mob has been mulesed[^].

Liquid Nitrogen with Analgesia (LA) – Sheep in this mob have been treated with Liquid Nitrogen# with an analgesic product registered by AVPMA.

Liquid Nitrogen without Analgesia (LN) – Sheep in this mob have been treated with Liquid Nitrogen# without an analgesic product registered by AVPMA.

Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic (AA) – Sheep in this mob have been mulesed[^] & treated with an analgesic &/or anaesthetic product registered by AVPMA.

Mulesed (M) – Sheep in this mob have been mulesed[^] without the use of a registered analgesic &/or anaesthetic product.

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

Note: Industry has agreed that the removal of any amount of skin from the breech &/or tail is mulesing. This definition is absolute, to prevent any misinterpretation throughout the supply chain..

Source: Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Sheep prepared by Animal Health Australia, V1.0 2016.

#Liquid Nitrogen – The application of Liquid Nitrogen where ultra-low temperatures are used to degenerate tissue & result in the removal of skin from the breech &/or tail of a sheep.

Property Declaration for MS

A property is eligible for Ceased Mulesing (CM) status if:

- 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 in the last 12 months.

HOW IS THE NWD INFORMATION USED?

Buyers use the information in the NWD to make purchasing decisions on behalf of their clients.

If the buyer's client (the processor) requires that wool is sourced from sheep that are; for example, NM, the buyers expect the information in the NWD to be correct.

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

Instances of Non Compliance can seriously reduce the credibility of the Declarations made, reflecting badly on the Australian wool industry.

WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE NWD?

The NWD is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager & it must be signed by the Owner/Manager to be valid.

The Wool Classer should only fill out the MS (& DMFR) details if the grower gives clear advice on this. The Classer should ensure the Owner/Manager is fully aware of the MS declared for each mob.

I DO NOT WANT TO MAKE A MS DECLARATION

Do not complete the CM property questions or fill out the mob status. Not Declared (ND) will appear in the sale catalogue/test certificate against each line of wool.

I DO NOT KNOW THE MS OF A (PURCHASED) MOB

If the MS is not known or can't be verified, do not fill out the MS for that mob. ND will apply to the mob.

ELIGIBILITY OF BREEDS FOR A MS DECLARATION?

All sheep breeds & their crosses, of any age, are eligible for a MS Declaration.

HOW TO DECLARE MOB MS

It is essential that the MS is completed for each individual mob, circle one answer only.

Sheep of different MS should be easily differentiated (e.g. by ear-tags or ear-marks).


To declare a mob as NM, LA, LN or AA, prior to shearing, any sheep that is not of the same “specific” MS must be drafted from the NM, LA, LN or AA mob. The intention is that any declared mob is one “specific” MS only, viz:

- only NM sheep, declare as NM.
- only LA sheep, declared as LA.
- only LN sheep, declare as LN.
- only AA sheep, declare as AA.
- any mulesed sheep (AA not used), declare as M.
- only sheep where the MS is not known or can't be verified, do not declare, resulting in ND.

HOW TO DECLARE MOBS OF MIXED MS

Wool from mobs that have different MS, regardless of the number of sheep in each category, should be declared using the lowest in the hierarchy.

The hierarchy for MS is: **NM > LA > AA > LN > M > ND**, which is applied as follows:

For a mob of mixed MS, the lowest MS applies						
MS						
	NM	LA	AA	LN	M	ND

Example 1: If a mob contains AA & LN sheep, using the hierarchy, moving left to right along the horizontal MMS row, the lowest MS applies, i.e. LN.

Example 2: If a mob contains NM, AA & M sheep, using the hierarchy, moving left to right along the horizontal MS row, the lowest MS applies, i.e. M.

HOW TO DECLARE CM PROPERTY STATUS?

It is essential that both property* questions are answered. Ceased Mulesing (CM) status can be declared if:

- a. Have any lambs born on this property been mulesed~ in the last 12 months? **Yes** or **No**
- b. Have any mulesed (or AA) ewes/wethers been purchased in the last 12 months? **Yes** or **No**

*An agistment property is treated as the home property.

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

Note: a property is eligible for CM status if the answer to both questions is “No”.

EXAMPLES OF THE APPLICATION OF CM STATUS

- If in the last 12 months, a Merino &/or Crossbred producer did not mules lambs, or does not mules (answers *No*), & has not purchased M or AA sheep, or only purchases NM, LA or LN sheep (answers *No*), the property is eligible for CM status.
 - If a property is CM, any M or AA mobs will appear as “CM” in the sale catalogue & test certificate. *Note*, mobs that have not been declared will receive a status of ND.
- If in the last 12 months, a Merino &/or Crossbred producer did not mules lambs, or does not mules (answers *No*), but has purchased M or AA sheep (answers *Yes*), the property is not eligible for CM status.
 - If a property is not CM, any M or AA mobs will appear as M or AA in the sale catalogue & test certificate. *Note*, mobs that have not been declared will receive a status of ND.
- If in the last 12 months, a Merino &/or Crossbred producer has mulesed lambs (answers *Yes*), and

has not purchased M or AA sheep, or only purchases NM, LA or LN sheep (answers *No*), the property is not eligible for CM status.

- If a property is not CM, any M or AA mobs will appear as M or AA in the sale catalogue & test certificate. *Note*, mobs that have not been declared will receive a status of ND.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A VALID DECLARATION?

- At least one mob must be declared.
- A property (CM) declaration will not be accepted unless mob(s) are declared.
- The declaration must be signed.

COMPLETING THE NWD (MS & DMFR)

- a. **Property Identification Code (PIC):** Record the PIC.
- b. **Property Status (Ceased Mulesing):** Answer (Yes or No) to both questions.
- c. **Mob Number:** Identify each mob using numbers, i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc. **Note:** transfer them to the Mob Number column against all lines in the Classed Line section.
- d. **Bale Ranges or 1st Bale for Mob:** Record the bale ranges (mob breaks) or the 1st Bale for the Mob.
- e. **Mob (Mulesing) Status:** Record the most accurate definition that applies, i.e. NM, LA, LN, AA, or M. If the MS is not known/can't be verified, do not complete.
- f. **Age/Shearing Code:** Record the age/shearing code of each mob using the listed Codes, i.e. 1st Shearing = 1, 2nd Shearing = 2, 3 years = 3, 4 years = 4, 5 years = 5, Mixed 3 – 5 years = 3 – 5 or 3, 4, 5, etc.
- g. **Breed Code:** Record the breed of each mob using the listed Codes, i.e. Merino = M, Afrino = FO, SAMM = SM, Corriedale = CD, Polwarth = PW, Crossbred = XB, Downs = DN, Shedding Breeds = SB, Carpet Wool = CW.
- h. **Sex Code:** Record the sex of each mob using the listed codes, i.e. ewes = E, wethers = W, rams = R, mixed ewes, wethers &/or rams = M.
- i. **Contact with Shedding Breeds:** Record (Yes or No) for each mob any contact with Shedding Breeds during the wool growth period. Contact is defined as mated, reared or run in the same paddock as shedding sheep/lambs or their crosses.
- j. **Mob Crutched:** Record (Yes or No) whether each mob was crutched since the last shearing.
- k. **Crutched within 3 months prior to Shearing:** Record (Yes or No) whether each mob was crutched within 3 months of this current shearing.
- l. **Wool Length & Vegetable Matter:** Record for each mob the Staple Length (mm) & Vegetable Matter Content (Low, Med, High).
- m. **Comments, Matching Mob Information or Additional PICs:** Record information on wool production &/or characteristics, e.g. which mobs do or do not match, or other PICs for purchased mobs.
- n. **Valid Declaration:** The owner/manager must record their Name, the Date, & sign the Declaration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions/Supporting Explanations

Please use the most accurate definition that applies to each mob. That is, even if the mob is Non Mulesed, if it has been treated with Liquid Nitrogen, it must be declared as either LA or LN.

Definitions

Non Mulesed (NM)	No sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] .
Liquid Nitrogen with Analgesia (LA)	Sheep in this mob have been treated with liquid nitrogen [#] with an analgesic product registered by APVMA.
Liquid Nitrogen (LN)	Sheep in this mob have been treated with liquid nitrogen [#] , without use of an analgesic product registered by APVMA.
Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic (AA)	Sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] & treated with an analgesic &/or anaesthetic product registered by APVMA.
Mulesed (M)	Sheep in this mob have been mulesed [^] without the use of a APVMA registered analgesic &/or anaesthetic product.

Supporting Explanations

[^]Mulesing	The removal of skin from the breech <u>&/or</u> tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. <i>Source:</i> Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Sheep prepared by Animal Health Australia, V1.0 2016.
[#]Liquid Nitrogen	The application of liquid nitrogen where ultra-low temperatures are used to degenerate tissue & result in the removal of skin from the breech <u>&/or</u> tail of a sheep.
Mobs of Mixed Status	For <u>mobs of mixed status</u> , use the lowest applicable status according to this hierarchy, NM > LA > AA > LN > M. For example, declare AA for a mob containing NM & AA sheep, or declare M for a mob containing LN & M sheep.
Ceased Mulesing (CM)	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed [^] , <u>&</u> No mulesed [^] (or AA) ewes or wethers have been purchased in the last 12 months.


Shedding Breeds Definitions

Shedding Breeds	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Australian White, Awassi, Damara, Black Headed & White Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
Contact with Shedding Breeds	Mated to, or run together since the previous shearing, with shedding breed sheep or their crosses (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:
 - Answer the two Property questions.
 - Record the PIC.
 - Complete the Mob Details (Mob No., Mob Status, Age/Shearing Code, Breed Code, Sex Code, Contact with Shedding Breeds & Shearing/Crutching History).
 - The Owner/Manager must Sign & Date the Declaration.
- The Wool Classer will complete the remainder of the Classer's Specification, including filling out the Bale Range for each Mob, & 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 age, e.g. 4 to 6 years	4 – 6 or 4, 5, 6	Downs	DN		
		Shedding Breeds	SB		
		Carpet Wool	CW		

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In addition to completing this NWD, the Owner/Manager is also responsible for participation in the Integrity Program, which includes random desk audits & on farm inspections. The Owner/Manager acknowledges & agrees that they will participate in the on farm inspection in a way that is compliant with health & safety rules, & will advise AWEX if a scheduled inspection would be unsafe.