

12 November 2021

National Wool Declaration

Update Version 9.1

The Board of the Australian Wool Exchange has today resolved an update to the AWEX National Wool Declaration (NWD). This update ([NWD Version 9.1](#), see attached) supersedes Version 9.0 announced in July 2021 and will be effective from **19 April 2022** (Easter Recess).

The key changes arising from this Update (NWD Version 9.1) are:

1. The definition of NM has been made clearer as follows: *“No sheep in the mob has been mulesed or treated with liquid nitrogen”*.
2. The new Liquid Nitrogen Codes (LN and LA) announced in Version 9.0 *will be one Code only (LN)*.
3. The two Property level questions used to determine Ceased Mulesing (CM) status *will be removed*. CM will be a valid status but only for wool declared and received prior to 19 April 2022.

In making this announcement, AWEX CEO Mark Grave, said:

“AWEX had received representation from industry raising concerns about the increasing complexity (definitions, logic combinations) and practical implications arising from the changes made in V9.0.

All parties supported the objective of keeping the NWD as simple as possible to encourage completion on farm and minimise errors, and to reduce combination complexity post farm.”

“Using one Code for Liquid Nitrogen treatments and removing property level (CM) questions meet this objective. CM was originally implemented in NWD Version 1.0 as an interim NWD Code, to assist growers transitioning to a NM flock. The AWEX Board believes the time is right to apply a sunset clause to CM status.

The Board noted that property level husbandry practices will continue to be an important feature of Integrity Schemes and that market participants seeking to source wool from properties with specific husbandry practices should examine the conditions of these Schemes.

The V9.1 changes will simplify the NWD, supporting greater uptake, and increase transparency and accuracy.”

Implementation:

The implementation and communication strategy for NWD Version 9.1 will be:

1. November/December 2021:
 - Release of NWD V9.1 to industry stakeholders,
 - Business Rules (translation and combination rules), templates, brochures and FAQ documentation to be updated and published on www.awex.com.au
2. January 2022
 - Communications & extension campaign to continue.
3. 19 April 2022:
 - NWD V9.1 becomes effective.
 - CM will remain a valid status but only for wool declared and received prior to 19 April 2022.

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National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions/Supporting Explanations

Please use the most accurate definition that applies to each mob. Mobs treated with Liquid Nitrogen must be declared as LN.

Definitions

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

Supporting Explanations

[^]Mulesing	The removal of skin from the breech <u>and/or</u> tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. <i>Source: Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep prepared by Animal Health Australia, V1.0 2016.</i>
#Liquid Nitrogen	The application of liquid nitrogen where ultra-low temperatures are used to degenerate tissue and result in the removal of skin from the breech <u>and/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 > LN > AA > M. For example, declare AA for a mob containing NM and AA sheep, or declare M for a mob containing LN and M sheep.

Shedding Breeds Definitions

Shedding Breeds	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Australian White, Awassi, Damara, Black Headed and 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 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 Bale Range for each Mob, and 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		

NWD V9.1, NOVEMBER 2021

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