



Procedure

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Biosecurity

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JOHNE'S DISEASE MARKET ASSURANCE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES VERSION 4

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VERSION 4

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REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	AMENDMENTS	
		SECTION	DETAILS
1	01/02/2006	Various	Various
2	09/02/2007	Various	Various
3	02/01/2009	Various	External Audits; IN and SU herds/flocks
4		Various	External audit defects; lapsed status due to late notification. Key changes shown below
		1.3, 1.4.3	Inclusion of responsibilities of auditors and Manager Biosecurity Traceability Systems (BTS)
		2.3	New section on administrative requirements for MAP entry
		2.6	Revised procedures for lapsing and regaining status following late notification
		3	Clarification of procedures for audit reporting and resolving defects
		4.7.1	Clarification of responsibilities for interpreting laboratory reports

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

August 2011

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to describe the procedures for administering the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Programs (JD MAPs) for cattle, sheep, goats and alpaca in NSW, consistent with the rules and guidelines published by Animal Health Australia (AHA).

This Procedure replaces version 3 of *PRO 2006/02 Johne's disease market assurance program administration procedures*.

Scope

This procedure applies to staff of Industry & Investment NSW.

This Procedure is relevant to all of Industry and Investment NSW (I&I NSW) staff involved in the management, administration and support of the JD MAPs or who are advising producers, veterinarians or auditors about the MAPs. It is also relevant to the Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs) District Veterinarians (DV) who may provide advice on MAPs.

Warnings

Users are reminded of the need to follow safe work practice when applying any techniques described in this procedure. This includes identifying, assessing and managing any occupational health and safety risks.

Safe Work Method Statements that refer to activities included in this procedure must be used in assessing and managing risks.

PROCEDURE

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1. RESPONSIBILITIES

Market assurance programs (MAPs) were developed during the 1990s to provide an objective assessment that a participating herd or flock has a low risk of being infected with Johne's disease (JD). MAPs are currently in place for cattle, sheep, goats and alpaca. The MAPs were strongly promoted in NSW, resulting in a high level of uptake in this State, though this has tapered off in recent years. The MAPs are managed nationally by Animal Health Australia (AHA) and administered within NSW by the NSW Department of Industry and Investment (I&I NSW).

Herds and flocks enrolled in a MAP are under the supervision of an approved private veterinary practitioner. Approved veterinarians are accredited through the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV), which is also managed by AHA, and approved by the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to undertake MAP work.

MAP herds and flocks are subject to independent external audit every three years.

The lines of accountability are:



The approved veterinarian is the key link between the herd/flock manager (their client) and the CVO and has significant responsibilities to both parties. I&I NSW respects the veterinarian/client relationship and generally will only communicate with and through an approved veterinarian, and will only receive information relevant to the MAP status of a herd/flock from an approved veterinarian. It is therefore very important that the approved veterinarian communicates in a timely and open manner with both their client and I&I NSW. I&I NSW is not responsible for communications between approved veterinarians and their clients and, if contacted by a producer, will refer issues back to their approved veterinarian to resolve.

The approved veterinarian is primarily responsible for on-farm risk assessment and correct sampling for testing in a timely manner, as these are key factors in assessing the Johne's disease risk associated with a herd or flock.

I&I NSW has a supporting role in quality assessment and may decline a veterinarian's status recommendation or impose a lapsed or expired status if the annual veterinary review or testing is not notified correctly or in time, or if the information provided is incomplete or indicates a breach of the MAP rules. I&I NSW may also impose a lower or non-assessed status if an external audit indicates a major or critical breach of the MAP rules.

1.1 Livestock producers

- Ensure that they abide by the MAP rules, especially relating to herd/flock and property management, record keeping and testing, and advise their approved veterinarian promptly of any issue that could affect their MAP status.
- Retain the services of an approved veterinarian (although they may change approved veterinarians at their discretion).
- Keep track of status expiry dates and contact their approved veterinarian to arrange testing and annual veterinary review in time.
- Arrange an independent external audit when advised that one is due, and implement any corrective action that is requested by the auditor in a timely manner.

Further details are contained in MAP rules and guidelines published by AHA.

1.2 Approved veterinarians

- Retain current APAV accreditation and abide by the MAP rules, especially relating to testing and annual review schedules and procedures, certificate expiry dates, and record keeping.

- Keep track of testing schedule and status expiry dates and contact their clients to arrange testing and annual veterinary review in time.
- Notify the MAP Administrator of the outcomes of annual veterinary reviews and tests before the current status certificate expiry date.
- Notify the MAP Administrator promptly of any events or test results that adversely affect the MAP status.
- Confirm the implementation of appropriate corrective action following an external audit.

Further details are contained in MAP rules and guidelines published by AHA.

1.3 Auditors

- Provide copies of external audit reports, including corrective action requests (CARs), in a timely manner to the producer, approved veterinarian and MAP Administrator.
- Close out any CARs by the due date and advise the producer, approved veterinarian and MAP Administrator whether or not corrective action has been completed by that date.

1.4 Department of Industry and Investment (I&I NSW)

The MAPs are managed in NSW by I&I NSW. Policy and procedures are approved by the CVO and in accordance with current Biosecurity document approval procedures. Administration of MAPs is managed by the Biosecurity Enhancement and Information Management Unit of the Biosecurity Branch. The Animal Biosecurity Branch administers APAV in NSW and provides technical support for the MAPs.

1.4.1 MAP Administrator

- Carry out the day to day administration of the MAPs, including assessment and processing of status notifications and audit reports, recording change of status, and generating reminder notices, correspondence, status certificates and reports.
- Determine changes of status according to the MAP rules and in consultation with the approved veterinarian, referring more technical and complex issues to the JD Technical Coordinator or Manager Biosecurity Traceability Systems (BTS) for advice or determination.
- Assess and recommend to the CVO or delegate any requests for extension or variation of anniversary date outside their delegation.

1.4.2 JD Technical Coordinator

- Provide technical support to the operation of the MAPs.
- Follow up any reactors and determine, in consultation with the District Veterinarian (DV) and approved veterinarian, whether status is maintained or changed to infected (IN) or non-assessed (NA).
- Advise the MAP Administrator promptly of any change of status to suspect (SU) or infected (IN).
- Administer any test subsidies that are available.

1.4.3 Manager Biosecurity Traceability Systems

- Manage the overall administration of the JD MAPs.
- Determine, in consultation with the MAP Administrator and JD Technical Coordinator, any change of herd/flock status or disciplinary action against an approved veterinarian resulting from an uncorrected major or critical defect detected at external audit or otherwise.
- Represent the CVO at the MAP Reference Group.

1.4.4 Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)

- Negotiate national policy for MAPs through Animal Health Committee of the Primary Industries Standing Committee.
- Approve APAV applications and certification, veterinarians who may perform MAP work, laboratories, extensions of time to complete testing, and property disease eradication programs in accordance with the MAP rules and guidelines. The CVO may delegate any of these functions to another person and may revoke an approval.
- Determine any change in status that falls outside the rules detailed in the MAP rules or this Procedure.

2. RULES

Rules for obtaining and maintaining MAP status are detailed in the rules and guidelines (MAP manual) for each MAP which are available from the AHA website. The following section is designed to clarify the interpretation of the MAP rules and guidelines and provide for their consistent application in NSW in order to ensure that the current status of all MAP herds and flocks is correctly recorded on State and national databases.

2.1 Approved veterinarians

Each herd and flock enrolled in a MAP must be supervised by a registered veterinary practitioner who is currently accredited under APAV and is approved by the CVO to undertake MAP work (an 'approved veterinarian'). A status notification or certificate is not valid unless it is signed by an approved veterinarian. Notifications from non-approved veterinarians cannot be accepted or recorded and consequently the status of the herd or flock may lapse or expire.

An approved veterinarian may not supervise or certify the MAP status for a herd or flock which is wholly or partly owned or managed by them. To avoid any perception of a conflict of interest, they must engage the services of another approved veterinarian for MAP accreditation. They may collect samples under the supervision of the other approved veterinarian, but the other approved veterinarian must perform annual veterinary reviews and other risk assessments, and sign status notifications and certificates.

2.2 Anniversary/expiry date

The expiry date is the anniversary of the date the herd or flock first joined the MAP. The approved veterinarian is responsible for keeping track of expiry dates and for ensuring that tests and annual reviews are carried out in time.

The anniversary of the date on which a herd or flock was first assigned a MAP status is that herd/flock's certificate expiry date for the duration of its enrolment in the MAP. The expiry date remains fixed, irrespective of any buffer period, approved extension, late notification or lapsed status. The expiry date does not change unless specifically requested by the approved veterinarian and approved by I&I NSW (see 2.2.2 below).

Example

A flock entered the MAP on 1 July 1998. The current certificate expiry date is 1 July 2006. A new certificate is issued on 18 September 2006, expiring 1 July 2007.

If the expiry date has slipped, the date is reset to coincide with the last test date.

A MAP certificate is only valid from the date of issue to the next annual expiry date. If a certificate is issued after the expiry date, then it is valid for less than 12 months.

2.2.1 Buffer period

To provide some flexibility and accommodate variations in management practices, workloads and seasonal conditions, the MAP rules allow annual reviews and tests to be undertaken within 2 months of the expiry date, ie at 10 to 14 months, 22 to 26 months or 34 to 38 months depending on the status. This is referred to in this document as the 'buffer period'. The anniversary/expiry date remains unchanged.

Example

A status certificate expired on 1 July 2006. The herd is tested in August and the notification is received on 28 August 2006. The expiry date on the new certificate is 1 July 2007.

A status certificate expires on 1 July 2006 and the notification is received on 5 May 2006. The expiry date on the new certificate is 1 July 2007.

2.2.2 Extensions

The approved veterinarian may apply to I&I NSW for an extension for maintenance or sample tests. An application will be considered in the following circumstances:

- the herd or flock has been tested by the expiry date and the veterinarian is still waiting on the test results, or
- there are unforeseen extenuating circumstances, such as a flood, fire or accident, which preclude mustering or testing the stock in time.

An application for extension must:

- be received before the expiry date + 2 months (applications for extension received after this time will not be considered or granted), and
- be in writing (email, fax or mail – the notification form sent with renewal notices has provision for requesting an extension), and
- provide the reason for requesting an extension, and
- state the length of time that an extension is required.

An application for a further extension may be made and considered in the following circumstances:

- there has been a provisional reactor and further laboratory testing is underway to clarify the test result, or
- an additional unforeseen extenuating circumstance has arisen.

Extension of up to 3 months beyond the anniversary date may be granted routinely, and in exceptional circumstances up to 12 months, being maximum time that the MAP rules allow the CVO to extend a status. See 4.2 for further information.

If an extension is not approved, the herd/flock status lapses in accordance with these procedures (see 2.5 below).

Extensions will not be granted for annual veterinary reviews. Notification that an annual review has been completed must be received by I&I NSW within 2 months of the expiry date. This allows sufficient buffer to accommodate any reasonable delay in the annual review.

Example

An MN2 2004 status expires on 1 July 2006. The herd/flock is sample tested just before 1 September and at the same time the approved veterinarian applies for an extension of 2 months to allow time for the lab results to be received. This is approved, and the veterinarian issues a new certificate for MN2 2004-EXT expiring on 1 November 2006. Negative test results are received, the veterinarian notifies I&I NSW by 1 November and is sent and issues a new certificate for MN3 2006 status expiring 1 July 2007. Note that the expiry date is not extended – the next annual review is required within 2 months of 1 July 2007.

2.2.3 Variation of anniversary/expiry date

A one-off application may be made by the approved veterinarian to I&I NSW for a variation of the expiry date to allow ongoing testing to better coincide with herd/flock management practices or other veterinary procedures. A variation of up to 3 months may be approved by the MAP Administrator and up to 6 months by the CVO. The expiry date may either be brought forward or put back by the approved period of time. Once a new date is approved, all future certificates will expire on the anniversary of that date.

Example

The current expiry date is 1 April. This clashes with calving, and testing would be more convenient if it coincided with joining around July each year. An application is made and approved to move the anniversary/expiry date to 1 July each year.

2.3 Entry to MAP

A herd or flock may enter the MAP provided all conditions specified in the relevant MAP manual have been met.

The following documentation must be provided to the MAP Administrator:

- Completed notification form
- Copy of the *Agreement between herd owner and approved veterinarian* ('owner agreement')
- Copy of the *Property and herd risk assessment*
- Copy of the sample test laboratory report

Provided all documentation is complete and indicates that the herd/flock is eligible to enter the MAP, and the veterinarian is both APAV accredited and MAP approved, the MAP Administrator records the details in the state database, generates a status certificate for the approved veterinarian's signature, and uploads the details to the national database.

A herd or flock is not deemed to be in the MAP until its status is recorded on the state and national databases.

2.4 Notification of status

The approved veterinarian is responsible for notifying I&I NSW of the outcome of the annual veterinary review and the results of maintenance or sample testing (if required) within 2 months of the expiry date of the current status certificate. If this is not done, the status may lapse in accordance with the MAP rules and guidelines and these procedures.

An annual veterinary review must be undertaken every year by the approved veterinarian. A maintenance test or a sample test for progressing status must be undertaken at the intervals determined by the MAP rules, usually every 2 or 3 years.

Ideally, testing will be completed and the results available before the expiry date so that a new status certificate can be issued by the expiry date for a full 12 months. The two month buffer allows some latitude, accommodating minor delays in testing, annual review or in receiving laboratory results. The status of a herd/flock will not be adversely affected provided a notification of status is received by I&I NSW from the approved veterinarian no later than 2 months after the expiry date.

Notification of status must be provided by the approved veterinarian to I&I NSW in the format specified by AHA or I&I NW and must be provided in writing by mail, fax or email attachment. The notification is sent to the MAP Administrator who carefully checks the information provided (see 4.2).

The current status of a herd or flock is determined by the approved veterinarian. Provided the approved veterinarian has clearly stated the basis for the herd/flock status (eg annual review, maintenance test, sample test), the MAP Administrator accepts the veterinarian's recommendation

and assumes that all of the required elements have been met and are underpinned by auditable records. Copies of lab reports, owner agreements and other documentation do not have to be provided unless requested.

If the notification is valid, I&I NSW's database is updated and a new certificate is generated and sent to the approved veterinarian (see 2.8).

If insufficient or unclear information is provided, or there are gaps or discrepancies with the information currently recorded in the I&I NSW database, the MAP Administrator may ask for further information from the veterinarian. If this is not forthcoming in a timely manner, the MAP Administrator may record a different status to that advised by the approved veterinarian and issue a certificate accordingly.

Status is recorded on certificates in the format MNn yyyy, where n is the status level (1, 2 or 3) and yyyy is the year in which that status was attained. The word 'Extended' or abbreviation 'EXT' is appended if an extension of status has been formally approved.

Example

A herd attained MN1 status in 2004 and its status is recorded as MN1 2004. It then progresses to MN2 status in 2006 and its status is recorded as MN2 2006. Two years later, an extension is requested and approved and the status is recorded as MN2-EXT 2006. A maintenance test is then performed and its status is recorded as MN2 2006. A sample test is performed 2 years later and its status is recorded as MN3 2010. See also examples below and Table 1.

2.5 Progression of status

The status of a herd or flock progresses to a higher level (eg from MN1 to MN2) in accordance with the MAP rules and guidelines and on the recommendation of the approved veterinarian.

Normally progression occurs at the next anniversary date. However, a herd/flock may progress at any time provided it has been on its current status for at least 2 years. As testing is being done early rather than late, the status expiry date is adjusted to coincide with the date of sample testing for progression.

Example

A herd has maintained MN2 for several years through maintenance testing and annual review. The next expiry date is 1 October 2007. The owner now wishes to progress to MN3 and the approved veterinarian undertakes a sample test on 13 February 2007. A new status certificate is issued for MN3 status expiring 13 February 2008.

Example

A flock has been on MN2 for 12 months. The owner now wishes to immediately progress to MN3. This is not possible as insufficient time has elapsed since the previous test.

2.6 Sheep flocks moving from maintaining status by vaccination to maintaining status by testing

A flock/herd that has ceased to maintain status by annual vaccination must undertake maintenance testing within 2 years of ceasing vaccination to maintain their status.

2.7 Lapsed status

The status of a herd or flock lapses one level (ie MN3 to MN2, MN2 to MN1, MN1 to NA) if testing and/or annual review is not completed and notified to I&I NSW in time (expiry date $\pm$ two months).

- If testing is overdue, the herd/flock can only regain its previous status by sample testing as there has been no test for over two or three years and the herd/flock has to 'progress' back to its original status.
 - o If the approved veterinarian has just completed a (late) maintenance test, then only sufficient *additional* animals need be tested to make up the number for a sample test provided this is done within 2 months of the previous test.
- If an annual review (only) is overdue, the herd/flock may regain its previous status if the approved veterinarian provides a notification confirming a satisfactory review covering the entire period since the previous notification.
- The year status attained and anniversary date remain unchanged.

If the next annual review and testing (if required) is not completed before the next expiry date plus two months, the herd/flock status lapses to NA as the herd/flock presents an unknown JD risk given that there has been no demonstrated review or test for more than two years.

- To re-enter the MAP, the herd/flock must be sample tested to attain MN1 status, and then progress in the same manner and timeframe as a new herd/flock.

Example

An MN2 status expires on 1 July 2005 when an annual review is due. The approved veterinarian fails to do the review in time (expiry date plus 2 months), and the status lapses to MN1 on 1 September 2005, expiring on 1 July 2006. A review is carried out and notified before the expiry date and the previous status of MN2 is reinstated, expiring on 1 July 2006.

Example

An MN3 status expires on 1 July 2007 when an annual review and maintenance test is due. Neither is notified in time (expiry date plus 2 months) and the status lapses to MN2 on 1 September 2007, expiring on 1 July 2008. A review and **sample test** are completed and notified in December. The previous status of MN3 is reinstated, expiring on 1 July 2008.

Example

The status of an MN2 herd/flock, last tested and reviewed in mid 2004, expires on 1 July 2005. It lapses to MN1 in September 2005, expiring 1 July 2006. It then lapses to NA in September 2006. A **sample test** is required for the herd/flock to re-enter the MAP at MN1.

Example

The status of an MN2V herd/flock, last vaccinated and reviewed in mid 2004, expires on 1 July 2006. It lapses to MN1V in September 2006, expiring 1 July 2007. It then lapses to NA in September 2007. A **sample test** is required for the herd/flock to re-enter the MAP at MN1.

2.8 Suspect or infected status

The status of a MAP herd or flock is changed to suspect (SU) or infected (IN) in accordance with the standard definitions and rules and the MAP manual for that species.

The approved veterinarian is obliged to notify the District Veterinarian or Ranger in writing within 48 hours of suspecting or becoming aware that any stock are infected with Johne's disease (*Stock Diseases Act 1923* section 9(2)). The owner of the stock is also obliged to notify in the same way within 48 hours of becoming aware that their stock are infected (section 9(1)) but this obligation is considered to have been met if the owner confirms that their veterinarian has done so on their behalf.

The approved veterinarian must also promptly advise the MAP Administrator (as the CVO's delegate) that the status of the herd/flock is now SU or IN.

2.9 Certification

Status certificates for individual herds/flocks are generated by the MAP Administrator based on valid notifications from approved veterinarians. The certificate is sent to the approved veterinarian to check, complete, sign and issue to their client. If any details are incorrect, the veterinarian advises the MAP Administrator who sends a revised certificate.

Only certificates generated by I&I NSW are considered to be valid status certificates. Veterinarians must not modify a certificate, use blank forms of certificate that used to be available, or make up their own certificates.

Certificates for shows are completed by the approved veterinarian in accordance with the relevant MAP manual and without reference to I&I NSW. These details are not provided to or recorded by I&I NSW.

2.10 Change of ownership

If a property is sold with a MAP herd or flock, the MAP status may be retained provided the new owner enters into a new *Agreement between herd/flock owner and approved veterinarian* with an approved veterinarian, the veterinarian conducts a risk assessment and review, and the veterinarian provides a status notification to I&I NSW within two months advising the change of ownership and their determination of the herd/flock's current status.

If a MAP herd/flock is moved to a different property (whether in the same or different ownership), the MAP status will drop at least one level and may revert to NA unless the grazing history of the land is known and is determined to be of equivalent status through risk assessment by an approved veterinarian. The owner and veterinarian should enter into a new *Agreement* and I&I NSW notified of the change of ownership and/or property details and the veterinarian's determination of the herd/flock's current status within two months.

2.11 Offence

A herd or flock cannot be promoted or traded at a status higher than that recorded on the state and national MAP databases

It is an offence, in connection with the sale or disposition or the proposed sale or disposition of stock, to make a statement or provide information in relation to the presence or absence of infection in stock, or any matter relevant to the assessment of the likelihood of the exposure of stock to infection, that is false or misleading in a material particular (*Stock Diseases Act 1923* section 20J). The penalty notice fine is \$550 and the maximum penalty for an offence prosecuted in court is \$22,000. An example of a statement that might be false or misleading in a material particular could be a stock owner advertising that their herd has MN3 status when in fact it has lapsed to NA.

3. EXTERNAL AUDITS

The MAP program requires producers to have an independent external audit every three years. The audit must be performed by an auditor approved by AHA on the basis that they are Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) Level 2 accredited and have attended a MAP information session.

AHA selects a third of MAP producers each year and advises them in writing that an external audit is due and must be completed within 6 months. Each producer must contact an approved auditor to arrange the external audit. The cost of the audit is met by the producer; however some rebates may be available from industry peak bodies.

AHA sends a reminder notice to the relevant producers towards the end of the 6 months. I&I NSW sends a final notice after 6 months, advising the producer that their status will lapse to NA if an audit is not completed and reported within 6 weeks.

AHA publishes guidelines for auditors, a list of approved auditors, and rebate claim forms on their web site.

3.1 Audit reports

The auditor completes:

- a cover sheet of their own design, summarising the subject of the audit and their overall assessment;
- a corrective action request (CAR) provided by AHA for each non-conformity detected;
- the audit checklist from the relevant MAP manual.

The auditor provides a copy of this documentation to the audited producer, approved veterinarian and MAP Administrator within 28 days of the completion of the audit.

After receiving an external audit report, the MAP Administrator checks the details, assesses non-conformities, contacts the auditor if required to clarify the information provided, and enters the details into StockMAP. The MAP Administrator keeps track of outstanding CARs.

Payment for the audit is a commercial matter between the auditor and producer. An auditor may choose to withhold the audit report until payment is received but should advise their client of this. I&I NSW cannot take any action against a herd or flock which has had an otherwise satisfactory audit because an auditor has not received payment. However, if an audit report is not received, further reminder notices will be sent to the producer and the herd/flock may ultimately be lapsed to NA.

3.2 Audit outcomes

The MAP Administrator assesses the audit outcomes in accordance with the criteria listed below and taking into consideration the following factors in consultation with the auditor, JD Technical Coordinator and Manager BTS if required:

- national guidelines and criteria for rating defects;
- the impact of the defect on the JD risk of the herd/flock;
- whether the defect has been caused by a deliberate act or omission of either the herd/flock owner/manager and/or the approved veterinarian;
- precedents.

Non-conformities or defects are graded as minor, major or critical.

3.2.1 Minor defects

- Deficiencies in paperwork or procedures that do not jeopardise the MAP status.

Follow-up action:

- The producer completes the corrective action before the next annual veterinary review, when the approved veterinarian confirms that it has been corrected.

3.2.2 Major defects

- Deficient records of annual veterinary reviews, tests, introductions, agistment, vaccination, owner agreements.
- Actions that increase the possibility of JD being introduced and/or not detected.

Follow-up action:

- The auditor confirms with the producer that the corrective action has been completed within the agreed timeframe (maximum 3 months), and advises the producer, approved veterinarian and MAP Administrator that the CAR has been closed.
- If corrective action has not been completed in time, the auditor advises the producer, approved veterinarian and MAP Administrator of this fact.
- The outstanding CAR is then treated as a critical defect (see below).

3.2.3 Critical defects

- Lack of evidence that stock have been introduced in accordance with the MAP rules, or evidence that livestock have been introduced outside the MAP rules.
- Lack of evidence that maintenance or sample tests have been completed with negative results.
- Lack of evidence that annual veterinary reviews (including testing or certification of thin sheep) have been completed with satisfactory results.
- Lack of evidence that sheep with an MN-V status have been vaccinated.
- Absence of supervision by an approved veterinarian.
- Uncorrected major defects.
- Refusing or failing to be audited.
- Other breaches of the MAP rules or actions that may result in the introduction of JD into, or non-detection of JD in, the herd/flock.

Follow-up action:

- The MAP Administrator contacts the approved veterinarian and asks for written confirmation that the defect has been corrected within 28 days.
- If this is not forthcoming, the MAP Administrator advises the Manager BTS, who reviews the information. Depending on the circumstances:
 - o The Manager writes to the herd/flock owner/manager and/or approved veterinarian, requesting confirmation within 28 days that corrective action has been completed otherwise the status of the herd/flock will lapse one level or to NA.
 - If no response is received in time or the response is unsatisfactory, the herd/flock status is demoted to NA, or to an MN level determined by the Manager in accordance with the MAP rules. In the latter case, a new status certificate is sent by the MAP Administrator to the approved veterinarian.
 - o In some circumstances, it may be appropriate to demote or lapse the herd/flock status and then write to the herd/flock owner/manager and/or approved veterinarian advising them of this fact.
- If corrective action is subsequently completed, the herd/flock may re-enter the MAP at its previous or a lower level provided all testing and annual veterinary reviews that fall due in the meantime have been completed with satisfactory outcomes.
- If the critical defect is due to an act or omission of the approved veterinarian, the CVO may review the veterinarian's approval as a MAP veterinarian and their APAV accreditation.

3.2.4 Failure to complete an audit

Refusing or failing to complete an external audit is a critical defect which results in the herd/flock status being lapsed to NA.

If an audit is subsequently completed with no major or critical defects, the herd/flock may re-enter the MAP at its previous or a lower level provided all testing and annual veterinary reviews that fall due in the meantime have been completed with satisfactory outcomes.

3.3 Audit extensions

A producer or their approved veterinarian may apply to the MAP Administrator for an extension to the time available for an external audit to be completed. The MAP Administrator may grant extensions in the following circumstances:

- In any reasonable circumstance, up to 3 months.
- For herds/flocks subject to another external audit process such as LPA 2 (CattleCare/FlockCare) or a food safety program, up to 12 months to coincide with the next scheduled audit.
- For herds/flocks that have only joined or rejoined the MAP within the **last year, until the end of the second year** of their membership.

In all other circumstances, applications for an extension for an external audit are referred to the **Manager BTS for approval** and will only be granted in extenuating circumstances.

3.4 Audit subsidies

An audit rebate may be available from AHA. The producer completes the 'Producer rebate for external audit' claim form (see Related Documents) and sends it to the MAP Administrator. The MAP Administrator checks the person's eligibility for a rebate, specifically that:

- The herd/flock has a current MN status (the expiry date may have recently passed but the status has not yet been lapsed to NA).
- The herd/flock is either in the:
 - o CattleMAP with an enterprise type of 'Commercial Beef' or 'Stud Beef',
 - o AlpacaMAP,
 - o **GoatMAP, or**
 - o as otherwise advised by AHA
- A copy of the auditor's report has been received.
- A copy of the auditor's tax invoice and receipt is attached to the claim.
- The auditor is an approved auditor (is on the AHA list).
- The form is fully completed, signed and dated.

The MAP Administrator may contact the applicant to clarify or obtain any missing information, or return the form to the applicant with this request.

If everything is in order, the MAP Administrator endorses the form, records this in StockMAP, retains a copy of the form and related documents for filing, and sends the original form to AHA for payment to the producer.

If the claim is not eligible, the MAP Administrator returns the form to the producer with a comment explaining why they are not eligible.

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Approved veterinarians

An approved veterinarian must be registered, APAV accredited and MAP approved, **and maintain their APAV accreditation through timely payment of the annual renewal fee determined by AHA.** Veterinarians who have completed their APAV accreditation in another State, have CVO approval in that State and are registered to practice in NSW are approved veterinarians in NSW. A list of approved veterinarians is publicly available on the AHA website.

4.2 Extensions

Requests for extensions should be sent to the MAP Administrator. All requests should be processed as soon as practicable and within 5 working days for an extension by a delegate of up to 3 months, and within 4 weeks for a longer extension that requires CVO approval. The approved veterinarian is advised of the outcome of their application for extension as soon as possible.

An extension of up to 3 months may be granted by the MAP Administrator for any reasonable reason. Together with the 2 month buffer, this means that notification may be deferred for up to 5 months from the expiry date. An extension of between 3 and 6 months may be approved on technical grounds (such as to resolve reactors or introductions that might affect status) by the JD Technical Coordinator. An extension of up to 12 months, or an extension to an existing extension,

is reviewed by one of those officers and a recommendation sent to the CVO for approval, but extensions of this duration are unlikely to be granted except in the most exceptional circumstances.

The status of the herd/flock remains unchanged until a decision is made and the veterinarian informed. The application and outcome are recorded as a comment or extension of status (if approved) in StockMAP by the MAP Administrator. A new status certificate with the status MNn-EXT and an expiry date equivalent to the period of extension is sent by the MAP Administrator if requested by the veterinarian.

4.3 Notifications

The approved veterinarian must send a written notification, in the form specified by I&I NSW with the renewal notice or by AHA in the current MAP manual for that species, confirming that the required annual veterinary review and testing has been carried out for each herd and flock under their supervision. The notification is sent to the MAP Administrator, who checks the information and clarifies any discrepancies with the approved veterinarian. Checks include:

- All information requested on the notification form is provided.
- The form is signed by an approved veterinarian.
- The herd/flock, owner and veterinarian details are correct (these are updated on the I&I NSW database as necessary based on the information provided in the notification).
- The herd/flock status advised by the veterinarian is a logical progression or regression from the status currently recorded on the database, ie there are no gaps or unexplained jumps in status.
- The veterinarian is an approved veterinarian. If the veterinarian is not currently accredited under APAV and MAP approved, the notification will be returned with a request that supervision of the herd/flock be handed over to an approved veterinarian who must sign the certificate and notification, or that the stock producer be advised to find another approved veterinarian. The information provided in the notification is not recorded in StockMAP and the status of the herd/flock is unchanged and might lapse.

The approved veterinarian need not provide a copy or details of test results, owner agreements or other documentation that forms part of the owner's and veterinarian's auditable records. However, if test results are received or obtained by I&I NSW and do not support the notification (eg non-approved type of test, tests performed by non-approved laboratory, insufficient or incorrect animals tested, test results not negative) the notification will be deemed invalid.

Once all information has been checked and confirmed, the details are entered into the I&I NSW database (see 4.7.1 below). This process should be completed within five working days of receipt of the notification by the MAP Administrator.

A new status certificate is sent to the veterinarian to sign and issue to their client.

4.4 Suspect or infected status

A JD Technical Coordinator or Regional Veterinary Officer (RVO) must promptly inform the MAP Administrator as soon as they become aware that Johne's disease infection is suspected or confirmed (in accordance with the SD&Rs/Guidelines and MAP manuals) in a MAP herd or flock.

On receiving written advice from an approved veterinarian, District Veterinarian (DV), JD Technical Coordinator or RVO that a MAP herd/flock is now IN, the MAP Administrator promptly:

- Changes the herd/flock status to IN on the StockMAP database.
- Changes the supervising veterinarian from the MAP veterinarian to the relevant DV and records the previous MAP veterinarian in the comments field.
- Copies the advice from an approved veterinarian or DV to the JD Technical Coordinator to ensure they are aware of the incident.
- Sends a standard letter to the producer, advising them that their MN status has been revoked.

- Ensures that the relevant laboratory reports, comments and correspondence have been or are recorded on the database (the JD Technical Coordinator may enter these records on the database or ask the MAP Administrator to do so).
- Uploads the current herd/flock status report to the AHA database to ensure that the herd/flock is removed from the national database and public website.

4.5 Certificates

Status certificates are generated by the MAP Administrator based on the template provided by AHA. The certificate is printed with the herd/flock and veterinarian details, certificate number, current status and expiry date.

Each certificate is uniquely numbered with a eight character sequence comprising N for NSW; C, S, G or A for Cattle, Sheep, Goats or Alpaca respectively; the current two digit year number; and a four character serial number. For example, NC060123 is the 123rd CattleMAP certificate issued in 2006.

[Note: I&I NSW generates status certificates on the basis of the notification provided by the approved veterinarian, who has all the relevant information about the herd. Generating a status certificate for the veterinarian's signature does not infer that I&I NSW endorses the veterinarian's actions or recommendations regarding herd status.]

4.6 Correspondence

The following routine correspondence is sent. The wording of this correspondence is determined by the MAP Administrator and Manager B&TS.

Nature of correspondence	Sent by	Sent to
Routine reminder of expiry within the next 2 months	MAP Administrator	Approved veterinarian + herd/flock owner/manager
Acknowledgement of notification and new status certificate	MAP Administrator	Veterinarian to send to owner
Final reminder of expired status over 2 months ago (if no response within 28 days, status lapses)	MAP Administrator	Veterinarian + owner/manager
Lapsed status certificate	MAP Administrator	Veterinarian to send to owner
Advice of audit due next 6 months	AHA	Owner/manager
Second reminder of audit due	AHA	Owner/manager
Final notice of external audit not completed and NA status within 42 days	MAP Administrator	Owner/manager with copy to veterinarian
'Show cause' for critical defect at audit (if no response within 28 days, status lapses)	Manager BTS	Owner/manager, copy to veterinarian

By the time a herd/flock drops out of the MAP, the veterinarian and owner collectively should have received several reminders or advices over about 16 months.

4.7 Records

4.7.1 StockMAP

I&I NSW maintains a database called StockMAP with comprehensive details of all MAP herds, flocks and accredited veterinarians. The database also contains laboratory test results, records about IN and SU herds, and test subsidy claims. StockMAP operates in Microsoft Access 2003 and SQL and is accessible to approved I&I NSW staff State-wide through I&I NSW's Citrix network.

The data in StockMAP is largely dependent on data provided by approved veterinarians. Information will only be changed on request or advice from the approved veterinarian or otherwise

in accordance with these procedures, not on request from the herd/flock owner or manager. Comments and correspondence are recorded on all key events in relation to a herd or flock

Copies of laboratory reports for testing carried out at the I&I NSW laboratory are routinely provided to District Veterinarians (so they can maintain an overview of JD in their district for surveillance purposes), to the MAP Administrator (to maintain a history of testing in State database), and to the Veterinary Officer Goulburn (to assess eligibility for and process subsidy payments).

[Note: The approved veterinarian is responsible for interpreting test results and determining MAP status accordingly. The receipt of a laboratory report alone does not authorise the MAP Administrator or other I&I staff to determine MAP status or provide an extension, nor absolve the MAP veterinarian of their responsibility to notify the maintenance or change of status in a timely manner.]

4.7.2 AHA database

AHA maintains a national database of MAP herds and flocks that is accessible through a public website. Producers, veterinarians and show societies can confirm the current status of any MAP herd or flock in Australia from the AHA website. NSW data about MAP herds/flocks is uploaded weekly from StockMAP by the MAP Administrator. Herds/flocks which do not have an MN status (eg NA, SU, IN, CT) are not uploaded.

4.8 Procedural and technical advice

MAP manuals are available from AHA by downloading an electronic copy or an order form from their website.

Requests from livestock producers to I&I NSW for advice are referred to an approved veterinarian of their choosing.

Approved veterinarians may contact I&I NSW for advice about MAP administration, rules and guidelines, and resolution of status, and for reports on the current status, expiry date and other information held by I&I NSW for any or all herds and flocks under their supervision. The MAP Administrator should be the first point of contact for all inquiries. More complex and technical issues are referred to the JD Technical Coordinator.

Approved veterinarians may also seek advice on stock introductions and status from the DV. This is encouraged where the herd or flock previously had an IN or SU status, or where it is proposed to introduce stock from a lower status zone. The DV may consult with or refer the inquiry to the JD Technical Coordinator.

Changes to MAP rules and guidelines and manual updates are advised directly to approved veterinarians by AHA. Changes to NSW's interpretation of the rules and guidelines and administrative procedures are advised to approved veterinarians by I&I NSW.

4.9 Appeals

An approved veterinarian who is not satisfied with the determination or advice of the MAP Administrator or JD Technical Coordinator may write to Manager BTS detailing the situation and requesting a review or ruling. The final decision on the matter will be made jointly by the Manager BTS and the CVO.

The owner or manager of a herd or flock should discuss any concerns with their approved veterinarian in the first instance, who may request a review or ruling on their behalf.

4.10 Privacy

I&I NSW maintains a database of personal information and provides this information to AHA who in turn makes it publicly available. To comply with the requirements of section 10 of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*, the following privacy statement is included with each reminder letter and status certificate:

The NSW Department of Industry and Investment (I&I NSW) collects and holds personal information about livestock producers and approved veterinarians for the purposes of administration of the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Programs (MAPs) in NSW. The supply of information is voluntary, however without it I&I NSW may not be able to accept the participation of the producer or veterinarian in a MAP. I&I NSW provides the information to Animal Health Australia to facilitate national administration and promotion of the MAPs, and to Livestock Health and Pest Authorities to facilitate disease control. A producer or their approved veterinarian may access and correct their personal information by contacting the MAP Administrator.

Information as available through the AHA website may be provided to any person, such as those without internet access.

5. REPORTS

5.1 National Johne's Disease Coordinator

A quarterly report in the specified format is generated from StockMAP and sent to the National Johne's Diseases Coordinator by Veterinary Officer Goulburn. This report details changes and trends in MAP status.

5.2 I&I NSW and LHPA animal health staff

An updated report of MAP herds and flocks by region and district is posted on the LHPA/I&I NSW Extranet monthly. This may be used to look up the MAP status of herds/flocks and for surveillance reports.

Key issues concerning the administration of MAPs are provided by the Manager BTS in routine monthly reports and on request to the CVO.

5.3 Approved veterinarians and livestock owners/managers

Any person may look up the status and relevant contact details for any MAP herd or flock in Australia on the AHA website.

An approved veterinarian may at any time request and obtain from the MAP Administrator a report summarising the current status for all herds and flocks currently under their supervision, or detailing the information held and status history for a specified herd or flock.

The owner or manager of a herd or flock currently or previously enrolled in a MAP may request at any time from the MAP Administrator a copy of the information held in the database about their herd/flock.

5.4 Table 1 – Example of Status Lapse and Expiry

Date	Event	Status	Expiry date
Jul 2002	Owner agreement and sample test notified, enters MAP	MN1 2002	July 2003
Jul 2003	Review notified	MN1 2002	July 2004
Jul 2004	Review and sample test notified	MN2 2004	July 2005
Jul 2005	Review due but not notified	MN2 2004	July 2005
Sep 2005	Status lapses	MN1 2002	July 2006
Oct 2005	Review notified, status reinstated	MN2 2004	July 2006
Jul 2006	Review and test due but not notified	MN2 2004	July 2006
Sep 2006	Status lapses	MN1 2002	July 2007
Feb 2007	Maintenance test notified, lapsed status maintained	MN1 2002	July 2007
Mar 2007	Sample test completed and notified, previous status reinstated	MN2 2004	July 2007
Jul 2007	Review notified	MN2 2004	July 2008
Jul 2008	Review and maintenance test notified	MN2 2004	July 2009
Jul 2009	Review notified	MN2 2004	July 2010
Jul 2010	Review and test due – vet applies for 3 month extension which is granted	MN2-EXT 2004	Oct 2010
Oct 2010	Review and sample test notified	MN3 2010	July 2011
Jul 2011	Review notified	MN3 2010	July 2012
Jul 2012	Review notified	MN3 2010	July 2013
Jul 2013	Review and maintenance test due but not notified	MN3 2010	July 2013
Sep 2013	Status lapses	MN2 2004	July 2014
Jul 2014	Still no review or test, status expires	NA	-
Sep 2015	Review and sample test, re-enters MAP	MN1 2014	Sep 2015

Definitions and acronyms

<i>AHA</i>	Animal Health Australia
<i>APAV</i>	Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians
<i>Approved laboratory</i>	A laboratory that is accredited by a nationally recognised and independent body to perform diagnostic tests for Johne's disease
<i>Approved test</i>	A test approved by the Sub-Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards (SCAHLs) on behalf of Animal Health Committee
<i>Approved veterinarian</i>	A registered veterinary practitioner who is currently APAV accredited and has been approved by the NSW CVO to undertake MAP work
<i>BTS</i>	Biosecurity Traceability Systems
<i>CAR</i>	Corrective action request. Also called a corrective action and improvement request (CAIR)
<i>CVO</i>	The person appointed as the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer or a Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer
<i>LHPA</i>	Livestock Health and Pest Authority
<i>IN</i>	Infected status
<i>JAS-ANZ</i>	Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand
<i>MAP</i>	Market assurance program
<i>Maintenance test</i>	A test to maintain the current status of a herd or flock, using an approved test
<i>MN</i>	Monitored negative status
<i>MN-V</i>	Monitored negative vaccinated status
<i>NA</i>	Non-assessed status
<i>RVO</i>	Regional Veterinary Officer
<i>Sample test</i>	A test to allow a herd or flock to progress to the next higher status, using an approved test
<i>SU</i>	Suspect status

Delegations

- In accordance with the MAP rules and guidelines, the authority of the CVO to extend status by up to 3 months is delegated to the MAP Administrator, and by up to 6 months to the JD Technical Coordinator and Manager Biosecurity Traceability Systems.
- In accordance with the MAP rules and guidelines, the CVO approves as an approved laboratory any laboratory that is accredited to perform diagnostic tests for Johne's disease and is regularly audited by an independent organisation such as NATA.
- APAV accreditations are managed on the CVO's behalf by the JD Technical Coordinator (goats, alpaca).
- The CVO's authority may be exercised by a Deputy CVO.

Reference documents

- National MAP resources including
 - MAP manuals
 - Databases of MAP herds/flocks and approved veterinarians
 - Guidelines for veterinarians
 - Guidelines for auditors
 - Auditors list
 - Audit rebate form<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/aaahc/programs/jd/maps.cfm>
- Standard definitions and rules
[http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/aaahc/programs/jd/naojd\\$/national-guidelines.cfm](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/aaahc/programs/jd/naojd$/national-guidelines.cfm)
- Monthly JD MAP report http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rlpb/animal_resources/johnes-disease
- JAS-ANZ register <http://www.jas-anz.com.au/showpage.php>

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