Procedure

Approval of Veterinarians to Manage Johne's Disease Market Assurance Programs

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Purpose

The purpose of this Procedure is to provide guidelines for assessing and approving applications by private veterinary practitioners to manage Johne's disease market assurance programs, and for revoking the approval of a veterinarian.

This Procedure replaces version 2 of PRO 2011/10 Approval of Veterinarians to Manage Johne's Disease Market Assurance Programs.

Scope

This procedure applies to staff of Department of Primary Industries NSW.

This Procedure is relevant to all of Department of Primary Industries NSW (DPI 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 Local Land Services (LLS) District Veterinarians (DV) who may provide advice on MAPs.

Biosecurity legislation summary

The collection, use and disclosure of information in accordance with this procedure, including any internal or external discussion or distribution of information, must be in compliance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or be exempted by the operation of section 387 of the Act.

Section 387 (2) of the Act provides authority for the disclosure of information about a person, without the consent of the person: to a public sector agency, or to any other person, but only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function.

Work Health and Safety

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI) as a person conducting a business or undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe Work Method Statements that support activities included in this procedure must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

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.

Contents

1. OVERVIEW

Johne's disease market assurance programs (JD MAPs) are national programs administered by Animal Health Australia (AHA) and State animal health authorities to assist in the control of Johne's disease (JD), in sheep, alpaca and goats. The JD MAPs are voluntary quality assurance programs that enable producers to better manage the JD risk to their flocks and promote their flocks as having a low risk of JD infection. The rules for eligibility for MAP status are detailed in the *Rules and Guidelines of the Australian Johne's Disease Market Assurance Program* for each species (referred to as 'MAP manuals') as approved from time to time by Animal Health Committee.

The JD MAP for each flock is managed on an agreed arrangement between the flock manager and a supervising veterinary practitioner (the 'approved veterinarian'). An approved veterinarian is defined by the MAP Rules and Guidelines as "A veterinarian who is accredited under the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV) and who has successfully completed the National Market Assurance Program training program for veterinarians and has been authorised in writing by the CVO of the state/territory to participate in the program. Only Approved Veterinarians can enter into an agreement with the Flock owner".

To be eligible for approval, a veterinary practitioner must:

- be registered as a veterinary practitioner in accordance with the NSW Veterinary Practice Act 2003,

- be accredited under the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV), and

- have successfully completed MAP training.

Registered veterinarians are listed on the Veterinary Practitioners' Board of NSW website

www.vpb.nsw.gov.au/

APAV and MAP veterinarians are listed on the AHA website *www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au*

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) policy on veterinary accreditation for government work is available at

www.ava.com.au/policy/193-accreditation-private-practitioners-government-contracting

2. TRAINING

Veterinary practitioners must successfully complete additional training and assessment in order to gain approval to undertake MAP work for the first time. This training and participation also assists in the accrual of continuing education points for the maintenance of registration as a veterinary practitioner.

Veterinarians who were approved under previous arrangements for one or more species and who have been continuously supervising at least one MAP flock may retain their MAP approval without further training and assessment provided they maintain their registration as a veterinary practitioner and APAV accreditation. However, if they wish to start supervising the MAP for a different species, they should complete the on-line MAP training and familiarise themselves with the relevant MAP manual before taking on this additional responsibility.

2.1 Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians

To become APAV accredited, the veterinarian contacts AHA for an application form, which is sent to the NSW CVO, and completes the training and assessment program through AHA.

Further information is available in Appendix 1, from *www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/training/veterinary-training/accreditation-program-for-australian-veterinarians-apav/* or by contacting AHA (see Contacts below).

The veterinarian must pay an annual fee to maintain current accreditation. If this fee is not paid, their accreditation is suspended and the veterinarian is no longer eligible to participate in the JD MAPs.

2.2 Market Assurance Program

The veterinarian must complete the JD MAP on-line training and assessment program through AHA which is available at *www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/training/* . Please contact the MAP Administrator for access.

The steps (Appendix 2) are:

- Create an on-line account

- Log into the learning management system

- Enrol in the MAP course

- Complete all modules of the course by reading the material supplied and completing the self-assessment questions.

- On successful completion of the course, print out a certificate of completion, and send to the MAP Administrator.

This training covers JD MAPs for all species.

3. APPROVAL

3.1 Application

The veterinarian completes the application form (Appendix 3), attaches evidence of:

- current registration as a veterinary practitioner in NSW,

- current APAV accreditation, and

- certificate of completion of JD MAP training,

and sends the full application to the MAP Administrator, Department of Primary Industries.

No additional payment is required.

3.2 CVO Approval

Approval to undertake MAP work is granted provided the applicant meets the three essential requirements listed in section 3.1**Error! Reference source not found.**.

On receipt of the application, the MAP Administrator confirms whether all of the required information has been provided. If not, the application is returned with a request to provide the missing evidence, or rejected with an explanation that the applicant does not meet an essential criterion for approval. The veterinarian's details and the fact that they are now approved to undertake MAP work is entered in the *StockMAP* database.

3.2.1 Approval for multiple species and other states

CVO approval is valid for all JD MAP species and, subject to the registration requirements in other States, for all States.

Similarly, a veterinarian who is registered as a veterinary practitioner and APAV and MAP approved in another State may supervise MAP flocks in NSW.

3.2.2 Renewal of approval

There is no requirement for a veterinarian to renew their MAP approval provided their approval remains current and has not been automatically revoked (see 4.1).

3.3 Resources for Approved Veterinarians

A number of essential resources are available for reference by approved MAP veterinarians:

- JD MAP manuals for each species, guidelines for MAP veterinarians, show venue audit and health declaration forms
  Animal Health Australia Johne's Disease Market Assurance Programs (MAPs)

- NSW JD MAP administration procedures
  NSW DPI Resources for MAPs Approved Veterinarians

- National JD reports and newsletters
  Animal Health Australia Johne's Disease Market Assurance Programs Reports and Newsletters.

4. REVOCATION OF APPROVAL

4.1 Automatic Revocation

MAP approval is automatically revoked, and may be subsequently reinstated, in the following circumstances:

Grounds for automatic revocation	Reinstatement of MAP approval
Veterinarian is no longer registered as a veterinary practitioner in NSW	Registration as a veterinary practitioner is regained
APAV accreditation lapses through non-payment of the annual renewal fee	Outstanding fee is paid
APAV accreditation suspended or terminated	Reapply for APAV and successfully redo online training
Veterinarian has not supervised at least one MAP flock at any time during the preceding 3 years	Successfully redo online training and reapply for MAP approval

4.2 Revocation by CVO

The DPI Manager responsible for technical support to or administration of the MAPs or APAV may recommend to the CVO that the approval of a veterinarian be revoked, based on their assessment of information and advice provided by the MAP Administrator, other relevant technical or policy staff, the District Veterinarian or other sources where applicable.

4.2.1 Grounds for revocation

The CVO must revoke a veterinarian's MAP approval if the CVO is of the opinion that the actions of the approved veterinarian have compromised the integrity of the JD MAP based on:

- act or omission of the veterinarian which results in a flock being downgraded to NA, SU or IN status; or

- a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct or professional misconduct by the Veterinary Practitioners Board of NSW (or an equivalent body in another jurisdiction) due to the veterinarian's actions or omissions with respect to any market assurance program (including ovine brucellosis and caprine arthritis-encephalitis accreditation), APAV or any regulated livestock health or certification program.

If MAP approval is revoked, the CVO must also suspend the veterinarian's APAV approval in accordance with Appendix 5 of the *APAV Handbook (www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au > Training Centre > Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians)*.

4.2.2 Process

Before revoking a veterinarian's MAP approval, the CVO writes to the veterinarian detailing the reasons for the proposed revocation and giving them the opportunity to show cause as to why their MAP approval should not be revoked by submitting a written response within 28 days of the date of the letter.

- If the veterinarian provides a written response which satisfies the CVO that the actions or omissions of the veterinarian were reasonable in the circumstances or that the matter was beyond their control, no further action is taken other than advising the veterinarian of this outcome.

- If the veterinarian provides a written response that does not satisfy the CVO or does not respond in time (and has not requested and been granted a reasonable extension), the CVO:
  - o revokes the veterinarian's MAP approval, or

- revokes the veterinarian's MAP approval and refers the details of the matter to the Veterinary Practitioners Board as a complaint under section 38 of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* for any further action that the Board determines, or

- suspends the veterinarian's MAP approval, refers the matter to the Veterinary Practitioners Board and revokes the veterinarian's MAP approval if the Board makes a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct or professional misconduct.

4.2.3 Follow-up action

If approval is revoked, the CVO:

- notifies the veterinarian in writing that their MAP approval has been revoked and their APAV approval suspended;

- notifies AHA that the veterinarian's APAV accreditation has been suspended so that AHA may advise other relevant government agencies and consider terminating the veterinarian's APAV accreditation in accordance with Appendix 5 of the *APAV Handbook*;

- provides a copy of this correspondence to the MAP Administrator, who records the fact that MAP and APAV approval has been revoked and suspended respectively on both the national AHA and *StockMAP* databases; and

- arranges for all relevant correspondence and reports to be filed in RM8.

4.3 Reassessment of Flock Status

The status of all flocks under the supervision of the veterinarian whose approval has just been revoked (either automatically or by the CVO) is reassessed by the Manager responsible for technical support to that MAP.

If there are no grounds to doubt the validity of the current status of a flock, then that status is retained.

If there is evidence that the actions or omissions of the veterinarian have comprised the status of a flock, then the status of that flock shall be downgraded to a lower MN level or to NA, SU or IN as appropriate.

The CVO must write to the manager of each flock, advising them as appropriate:

- that their current veterinarian's approval to supervise their MAP flock has been revoked and they will need to obtain the services of another approved MAP veterinarian to supervise their flock;

- the revised status (if applicable) of their flock in the MAP;

- offering an extension of current status, if required, for up to 12 months (being the maximum allowable under MAP rules with CVO approval) to allow them to find a new veterinarian and undertake other corrective action if required.

The CVO copies the correspondence to the MAP Administrator who:

- enters the change of status or extension into the *StockMAP* database and issues a new status certificate accordingly;

- changes the supervising veterinarian on the database to another approved veterinarian (if known) or otherwise to the DPI veterinarian who provides technical support to that MAP

4.4 Application for Re-approval

A veterinarian may, no sooner than 3 years after their approval was revoked by the CVO, redo the MAP training (see 2.2) and reapply for APAV accreditation and MAP approval (see 3.1).

Definitions and Acronyms

AHA	Animal Health Australia
APAV	Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians
CVO	The person appointed as the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer or a Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer
JD	Johne's Disease
JD MAP	Johne's disease market assurance program

Legislation

▪ *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*

Delegations

The CVO has delegated their authority to approve veterinary practitioners to supervise flocks in the Johne's disease market assurance program to the:

- MAP Administrator

- Manager Biosecurity Systems, Intelligence &Traceability Unit

- Senior Veterinary Officer/Sheep Health Coordinator(INT12/46441)

The CVO may delegate other responsibilities, other than the decision to revoke a veterinarian's approval, to other DPI managers, technical specialists, policy officers or the MAP Administrator.

Related Policies and Procedures

- PRO 2006/02/4 Johne's disease market assurance program administration procedures v.4

- PRO 2008/12 Bovine Johne's disease – Infected and suspect herds

Contacts

MAP Administrator

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Revision History

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3.0	02/07/2019	Reviewed and updated	MAP Administrator	PRO2011/10 (INT11/63299)