



Ovine Johne's Disease Exclusion Areas

NUMBER O-088

VERSION 1

AUTHORISED BY Principal Director, Biosecurity

AUTHORISED DATE 11/06/2010

ISSUED BY Principal Director, Biosecurity

EFFECTIVE DATE 11/06/2010

Purpose

To ensure consistency in the processes by which an Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) exclusion Area (EA) is established, maintained and/or revoked.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff of Industry & Investment NSW.

When signed as a Written Instrument it applies to staff of LHPAs in their role as Stock Inspectors enforcing the Stock Diseases Act 1923, Stock (Chemical Residues) Act 1975 and Animal Diseases (Emergency Outbreaks) Act 1991.

When signed as a Guideline it applies to LHPAs including their Board and staff.

Policy

1. *Criteria of establishment of an Exclusion Area*

An EA must:

- a. have a flock prevalence of infection of less than 0.8% (based on information from the previous two years' abattoir surveillance data and knowledge of flocks/properties that are infected or suspected to be infected),
- b. have no known clusters of infected flocks,
- c. have clearly defined geographic boundaries,
- d. demonstrate:
 - strong initial support from local producers by undertaking a poll of eligible sheep producers in accordance with electoral processes detailed in Schedule 2 of the Rural Lands Protection Act (General) Regulation 2001 as amended by the Rural Lands Protection (General) Amendment Regulation 2008, where at least 50% of producers have voted on the proposal and 50% of those who voted are in favour, and
 - the LHPA has undertaken consultation with and gained support from local sheep industry organisations,
- e. have a written operational plan in accordance with section 2, and
- f. provide evidence of adequate resources to implement the operational plan.

2. *Operational plans*

Each EA must develop and implement an EA operational plan. An operational plan will run for three years unless there are major changes to the national OJD management program. An operational plan must include:

- the objectives of the EA,
- the strategies that will be employed to meet the objectives,
- appropriate performance indicators.

Appendices to the plan should include:

- resourcing of EA activities,
- guidelines on the availability of financial assistance for local producers,
- a plan for the conduct of the triennial producer survey, and

- guidance to inspectors on assessing the OJD risk of introduced sheep.

The draft plan must be submitted to the NSW OJD Coordinator for endorsement.

A copy of the endorsed operational plan must be provided to the RVO and State Management Council.

3. *Application*

An application to establish an EA may be lodged for the whole or part of a LHPA region.

4. *Property Disease Management Plans (PDMPs)*

An agreed PDMP will be the primary tool utilised by the EA to minimise the risk of the spread of infection in the EA from flocks that are known or suspected to be infected with OJD. The PDMP will be:

- based on a Risk Management Plan developed in consultation between the owner/person in charge, the DV, and, if requested, the owner's private veterinarian, and
- consistent with the aims of the OJD operational plan for the EA, and
- managed by an approved Sheep MAP veterinarian or government veterinarian.

5. *Reserve powers*

Some regulatory powers are available under the Stock Diseases Act 1923 to minimise disease spread. In an EA these 'reserve' powers must not be used other than under conditions detailed in the Procedures document (Exclusion Area Procedure 2009/010). Powers to be held in reserve are the power to:

- order that sheep are mustered,
- order or cause sheep to be tested,
- order that sheep are vaccinated,
- order that sheep are detained,
- quarantine land,
- enter land.

Inspectors may not exercise any other general powers under the Stock Diseases Act 1923 in an EA with regard to Johne's disease in sheep.

6. *Annual report*

An annual report detailing the activities undertaken in an EA and effectiveness of the EA in meeting the objectives and targets of the operational plan during the calendar year must be provided to the NSW OJD coordinator by 28 February and copied to the RVO and State Management Council. A summary must also be published and a copy provided to all local producers by 30 March.

7. *EA management*

The Board of the LHPA and the General Manager of the LHPA are responsible for ensuring that the relevant procedures and the operational plan within their district are implemented.

8. *Resourcing*

An EA must have sufficient staff available to implement the operational plan.

The Board of the LHPA and the LHPA may elect to raise funds to resource risk management activities in the EA by levying a special purpose rate on all properties in an EA running 50 or more sheep. The funds may be used to support producers required to undertake OJD risk management programs.

9. *Survey to demonstrate ongoing support*

An EA must demonstrate support (at least 50% in favour) for continuation of the EA by randomly surveying a minimum of 33.3% of eligible producers every 3rd year.

10. *Revocation*

Where the Principal Director Biosecurity becomes aware that:

- a survey of producers does not support the continuation of the EA, or
- there is evidence that the EA no longer meets the prevalence and disease distribution criteria in Section 1, or
- the annual report has not been submitted within 3 months of the due date, or

- a new operational plan has not been endorsed as required within 3 months of the due date, or
- the EA has not undertaken sufficient activity to implement the operational plan for a period of greater than 12 months, the Principal Director may recommend to the Minister that the EA be revoked.

An area whose EA status has been revoked may reapply for EA status but must meet the criteria detailed in Section 1.

Procedures

- [PRO-2009/010 Ovine Johne's Disease Exclusion Areas](#)

Roles and responsibilities

What	Who
Developing and submitting an EA operational plan	<i>LHPA Board and General Manager</i>
Resourcing the operational plan with sufficient staff	<i>LHPA Board and General Manager</i>
Raising funds to resource the EA operational plan	<i>LHPA Board and General Manager</i>
Endorsing an operational plan	<i>OJD Coordinator</i>
Applying to establish an EA	<i>LHPA General Manager</i>
Developing a PDMP	<i>DV or VO</i>
Implementing a PDMP	<i>Producer with IN/SU flock</i>
Managing a PDMP	<i>Sheep MAP or government vet</i>
Exercising 'reserve powers' under the Stock Diseases Act 1923	<i>Inspectors under SDA</i>
Compiling, providing and publishing an annual report	<i>LHPA General Manager</i>
Surveying 1/3 of eligible producer every third year	<i>LHPA General Manager</i>
Approving/rejecting an application to establish an EA	<i>Principal Director Biosecurity</i>
Making a Proclamation to establish an EA	<i>Minister for Primary Industries</i>
Recommending that an EA be revoked	<i>Principal Director Biosecurity</i>
Revoking a Proclamation to establish an EA	<i>Minister for Primary Industries</i>

Delegations

None

Legislation

- [Stock Disease Regulation 2004](#)
- Stock Diseases [Notification No. 1819](#)
- Stock Diseases [Proclamation 568](#)
- [Section 14\(4\) Order for course of action: NSW OJD exclusion area](#)

Related policies

- [ABMS Policy for the OJD Management Area](#)
- [O-055 Supply and use of Gudair vaccine for Johne's disease \(JD\)](#)
- [O-054 OJD Abattoir Monitoring – Reporting and Follow up of Positive Traces](#)

Other related documents

- www.ojdinfo.nsw.gov.au
- www.ojd.com.au

Definitions

- *Cluster of infected flocks:* Three or more flocks infected with OJD where the properties share common boundaries or are in close geographical proximity

- *Principal Director Biosecurity*: The Principal Director Biosecurity of I&I NSW, formerly known as the Director, Animal and Plant Biosecurity.
- *DV*: District Veterinarian, or Regional Veterinary Officer/Veterinary Officer in Western Division.
- *Eligible sheep producer*: a producer whose property is partly or fully located within the defined geographic boundaries of the Exclusion Area and has run a flock of 50 or more sheep on that property in the last 12 months.
- *EA*: Exclusion Area. This is a protected area for OJD that is proclaimed by the Minister for Primary Industries at the request of a Livestock Health and Pest Authority. [See map](#)
- *Exempt sheep*: Exempt sheep are sheep exempt from the requirement to provide a Sheep Health Statement when they are moved. These sheep are:
 - sheep being moved to slaughter, directly or via a slaughter-only sale, or
 - lambs accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration on which section 7 has been filled in with the words 'PRIME LAMBS FOR SLAUGHTER ONLY' or
 - sheep being sent or delivered to an NSHS exempt sale.
- *I&I NSW*: Industry and Investment NSW
- *Infected*: A flock/property is considered to be infected where:
 - infection by the sheep strain of *M. paratuberculosis* has been identified, and there is evidence of, or likely potential for, transmission of infection within the flock; or
 - infection by the cattle strain of *M. paratuberculosis* has been identified, and there is evidence of, or likely potential for, transmission of infection within the flock;
 - and the flock has not met the requirements for the resolution of infection.
- *Infected Flock*: A flock is regarded as infected with Johne's disease when:
 - one or more infected animals have been found, and
 - there is evidence of, or likely potential for, transmission of infection to other sheep.
- *LHPA*: Livestock Health and Pest Authority
- *Management area*: The area of the state that lies outside the proclaimed EAs for OJD. [See map](#)
- *NSHS*: National Sheep Health Statement:
 - a document sourced from a booklet titled 'National Sheep Health Statement Version 1 March 2008' or from a subsequent edition approved by the Director Animal Biosecurity, and duly completed by the owner and/or person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep, or
 - a document sourced electronically titled 'National Sheep Health Statement Version 1 March 2008' or from a subsequent edition approved by the Director, Animal Biosecurity, and duly completed by the owner and/or person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep, or
 - a document approved from time to time by the Director, Animal Biosecurity, and duly completed by the owner and/or person responsible for the husbandry of the sheep.
- *OJD*: Ovine Johne's disease is the disease which is caused by infection with ovine strains of the organism *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*.
- *PDMP*: Property Disease Management Plan
- *RVO*: Regional Veterinary Officer, formally known as Senior Regional Animal Health Manager or Regional Animal Health Leader.
- *SDV*: Senior District Veterinarian
- *SMC*: State Management Council
- *Suspected*: An owner or manager should suspect a flock is infected with OJD if the owner or manager has reasonable grounds to believe that it has been exposed to OJD infection or that OJD may exist in the flock. These grounds include:
 - detection of infection by abattoir surveillance; or
 - trace back or trace forward contact with an infected flock; or
 - contact with OJD contaminated land or facilities;
 - reactors in the flock to a Johne's Disease test;

- the flock is neighbour to an infected flock;
- the flock has introduced sheep with an ABC Score of 0;
- clinical signs of OJD;
- advice from the Chief Veterinary Officer based on a risk assessment that considers the above factors; and
- the flock has not met the requirements for the resolution of suspicion.

Superseded documents

This policy replaces:

- AI 2004/059

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	11/06/2010	▪ Position titles updated ▪ New criteria to establish an EA ▪ New application process ▪ Revised criteria for the EA operational plan ▪ New requirements for annual reporting ▪ New requirements for resourcing ▪ New requirements for triennial survey of eligible producers ▪ New process to revoke an EA	Policy Officer, Animal Biosecurity

Review date

01/02/2013

Contact

Biosecurity Branch, (02) 6391 3351



Industry &
Investment

GUIDELINE

BIOSECURITY DOCUMENT Ref: POL O-088
TRIM Ref: INT09/49544

SC Ref: -/-/WI
DV Ref: -/-

OVINE JOHNE'S DISEASE EXCLUSION AREAS

The attached document is a **GUIDELINE** issued with the concurrence of the Director-General of NSW Department of Industry & Investment under Clause 6.2 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Director-General of NSW Department of Industry & Investment and the State Council of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities.

[APPROVED]

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B M CHRISTIE for R F SHELDRAKE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY &
INVESTMENT

Date: 18 May 2010

S ORR
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
STATE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND PEST AUTHORITIES

Date: 11 June 2010