

how to complete the national wool declaration correctly



What is the National Wool Declaration?

The National Wool Declaration (NWD) is a voluntary declaration that allows Owners/Managers to provide information to Buyers/Processors/Retailers on the Mulesing Status and Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk (DMFR) of their mobs of sheep/lines of wool.

What is the NWD – Integrity Program (NWD-IP)?

The NWD-IP is an industry program conducted by AWEX. Through randomly selected Desk Audits, Pain Relief Authentications and On Farm Inspections, AWEX determines whether the Mulesing Status declarations are correct (Compliant), or not (Non Compliant).

How is the NWD information used?

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

If the buyer's client (the processor) requests that wool be sourced from sheep that are; for example, Non Mulesed (NM) or Mulesed with Pain Relief (PR), the buyers expect the information in the NWD to be correct.

If a declaration (regardless of type) is found to be Non Compliant, the buyers (and the broker) of the incorrectly declared wool are informed and they will consider their position.

In addition, instances of Non Compliance can seriously reduce the credibility of the program, which reflects badly on the Australian wool industry.

Who should complete the NWD?

The NWD is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager. Woolclassers may assist in its completion; however, it is strongly recommended that the Mulesing and DMFR details are only completed when the Owner/Manager is available to answer the questions. The NWD **must be signed** by the Owner/Manager to be valid.

Which sheep breeds are eligible for a Mulesing Status declaration?

All sheep breeds and their crosses, of any age, are eligible for a Mulesing Status declaration.

What is the definition of Mulesing?

Mulesing: “**the removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears**”.

This definition is determined by Animal Health Australia and is consistent across the industry.

Industry has agreed that the removal of **any amount** of skin from the breech **and/or** tail by mulesing shears is mulesing. This definition is absolute to prevent people who may try to take advantage of any flexibility in the definition.

When can I declare a mob as Non Mulesed?

To declare a mob as Non Mulesed, prior to shearing, any Mulesed sheep must be drafted from the Non Mulesed sheep. There is no “acceptable” number of Mulesed sheep in a Non Mulesed mob. Sheep of different Mulesing Status should be easily differentiated (e.g. by ear tags or ear marks).

How do I declare the mob Mulesing Status?

If a mob comprises:

- **only** Non Mulesed sheep, it is eligible to be declared as Non Mulesed (NM).
- **only** sheep mulesed with Pain Relief, it is eligible to be declared as Pain Relief (PR).
- **any** mulesed sheep (without Pain Relief), it should be declared as Mulesed (M).

How do I declare mobs of sheep with mixed Mulesing Status?

Wool from mobs that have different Mulesing Status, regardless of the number of sheep, should be declared as the lowest common denominator. For example:

- If Non Mulesed (NM) sheep are mixed with Mulesed (M) sheep, the mob declaration should be Mulesed (M).
- If Non Mulesed (NM) sheep are mixed with sheep mulesed with Pain Relief (PR), the mob declaration should be mulesed with Pain Relief (PR).
- If sheep mulesed with Pain Relief (PR) are mixed with Mulesed (M) sheep, the mob declaration should be Mulesed (M).

When should Ceased Mulesing Status be declared?

Ceased Mulesing (CM) status can be declared if lambs **have not** been mulesed on the property in the last 12 months (answer 'Yes' to the question). Each individual mob should then be declared in the Mulesing Status column of the NWD. In the Classer's Speci, **all mobs** should be listed against each line of wool (including oddments) in the Mob Number column.

If Ceased Mulesing has been declared for the property, for a mob that contains older mulesed sheep or a mob of mulesed sheep that was purchased, the declaration must be Mulesed (M). [CM] status would then appear in the sale catalogue and test certificate for these mobs.

What if Mulesing has Not Ceased on the property?

If mulesing **is conducted** on the property, answer 'No' to the Ceased Mulesing question. The Mulesing Status for each individual mob should still be listed, with any mob containing mulesed sheep declared Mulesed (M), mobs that comprise only Non Mulesed sheep as NM, or mobs that comprise only sheep mulesed with Pain Relief as PR.

What if I previously declared Ceased Mulesing, but then find I need to mules again?

Ceased Mulesing status is based on whether lambs have been mulesed in the last 12 months. If you need to return to mulesing to counter breech or tail fly-strike,

at the next shearing do not declare Ceased Mulesing (answer 'No' to the question: Has Mulesing Ceased on this Property?). Then for each mob, declare its specific Mulesing Status, viz. NM, PR or M.

What if I do not want to make a Mulesing Status declaration?

Do not complete either the Ceased Mulesing question or the Mulesing Status question for your property/ mobs. Not Declared [ND] will appear in the sale catalogue and test certificate against each line of wool.

How does the Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk Declaration Scheme work?

The DMFR Scheme is applicable to Merino fleece and pieces only; however, the information in the declaration is also used by the wool broker when putting lines of wool together. To allow a DMFR Rating to be calculated, the following information is required:

- Mob Number (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.).
- Age Code (in years, where 1 = 1st shearing to 1 year old, 2 = 2nd shearing to 2 years old, 3, 4, 5 etc. Mixed age mobs should be described as an age range, e.g. 3 – 6).
- Breed Code (M, FO, MS, CD, XB, DN, SB or CW).
- Was there Contact (run with or mated to) with Shedding Breeds **or their crosses** (Yes or No).
- Was the Mob Crutched since the last Shearing (Yes or No).
- Was Crutching conducted less than 3 Months before Shearing (Yes or No).

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