



# 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 and 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 Verifications 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 Declarations, which reflects badly on the Australian wool industry.

## WHO SHOULD COMPLETE THE NWD?

The NWD is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager. The wool classer should only fill out the Mulesing Status and DMFR details if the grower gives clear advice on this. When the Declaration is being signed, the wool classer should ensure that the Owner/Manager is fully aware of Mulesing status declared for each mob. 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 shears is mulesing. This definition is absolute to prevent people who may try to take advantage of any flexibility in the definition.

## 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 and **no purchased ewes or wethers are mulesed**.

- If a Merino and/or Crossbred producer does not mules on their property but buys sheep that are mulesed or mulesed with Pain Relief, the property is **not eligible** for CM status (answer **No** to the question).
- If a Merino and/or Crossbred producer has ceased mulesing and either (a) does not buy sheep or (b) only purchases sheep that are Non Mulesed, the property **is eligible** for CM status (answer **Yes** to the question).
- Regardless of CM status, **each individual mob** should be declared in the Mulesing Status column of the NWD as Non Mulesed (**NM**), Mulesed (**M**) or mulesed with Pain Relief (**PR**). In the Classer's Speci, **all mobs** should be listed against each line of wool (including oddments) in the Mob Number column.

Ceased Mulesing [CM] appears in the sale catalogue and test certificate when CM has been declared for the property and the mob/sale lot is declared as M or PR.



## 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 (PR was not used), it should be declared as Mulesed (M).

## HOW DO I DECLARE MOBS OF MIXED MULESING STATUS?

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

- If Non Mulesed sheep are mixed with Mulesed sheep, the mob Declaration should be Mulesed (M).
- If Non Mulesed sheep are mixed with sheep mulesed with Pain Relief, the mob Declaration should be mulesed with PR (PR).
- If sheep mulesed with Pain Relief are mixed with Mulesed sheep, the mob Declaration should be Mulesed (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 for any breed. 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 = 1<sup>st</sup> shearing to 1 year old, 2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, SM, CD, XB, DN, SB or CW).
- Was there Contact (i.e. mated to or run with) 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).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr Kerry Hansford, p.03 9318 0277  
e. [khansford@awex.com.au](mailto:khansford@awex.com.au)

Mr Mark Grave, p. 02 9428 6100  
e. [mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au)

Or go to: [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)