

# HOW TO COMPLETE THE NWD CORRECTLY



## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL WOOL DECLARATION?

The National Wool Declaration (NWD), see attached example of the current Version 8.0, 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, Analgesic/Anaesthetic 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 treated with Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic products(s) (AA) at mulesing, 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, reflecting 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:

- (a) lambs have not been mulesed on the property in the last 12 months, **and**
  - (b) no ewes or wethers that are mulesed or mulesed with AA have been purchased.
- If a Merino &/or Crossbred producer does not mules on their property (be they a trader, a prime lamb producer or a sheep breeder who is restocking) but buys sheep that are mulesed or mulesed with AA, the property **is not eligible** for CM status.
  - If a Merino &/or Crossbred producer has ceased mulesing (i.e. did not mules lambs in the last 12 months) and either (a) does not buy sheep or (b) only purchases sheep that are Non Mulesed, the property **is eligible** for CM status.

- Regardless of CM status, **each individual mob** should be declared in the Mulesing Status column of the NWD as Non Mulesed (**NM**), mulesed and treated with an Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep (**AA**) or Mulesed (**M**). In the Classer's Speci, **all mobs** should be listed against each line of wool (including oddments) in the Mob Number column.

If the property is eligible for Ceased Mulesing status (answered **No to both questions**), [CM] appears in the sale catalogue and test certificate for mobs/sale lots declared as M or AA.

### 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 and treated with an Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep is eligible to be declared as Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic (**AA**).
- **any** mulesed sheep (AA 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 Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic, the mob Declaration should be mulesed with Analgesic/Anaesthetic (**AA**).
- If sheep mulesed with Analgesic &/or Anaesthetic 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 questions for your property or the Mulesing Status question for your mobs/lines of wool. 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 Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk Declaration Scheme (DMFR) is applicable to Merino fleece and pieces only; however, the information in the DMFR Declaration is also used by the wool broker when putting lines of wool together for any breed4 and by AWEX in conducting Desk Audits. 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, PW, XB, DN, SB or CW).
- Was there Contact (i.e. mated to or run with) with Shedding Breeds **or their crosses**, including lambs (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:

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

# National Wool Declaration

Grower ID: For Office Use Only


(Mulesing Status and Merino Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk for Sheep Mobs)

Owner Trading Name: .....

Property Brand: ..... Phone No: (.....) .....

Property Identification Code (PIC):  Location (Town): .....

Property Status. Please answer the following <b>two property questions</b> (circle answers)											
1. Have any lambs born on this property been mulesed in the last 12 months? Yes or No											
2. Have any mulesed (or mulesed with AA) ewes or wethers been purchased? Yes or No											
Mob No.	1 <sup>st</sup> Bale Number for Mob	Mob Mulesing Status (circle one per mob)			Age Code	Breed Code	Sex Code	Contact with Shedding Breeds (Y/N)	Mob Crutched (Y/N)	Crutched within 3 months prior to Shearing (Y/N)	Office Use Only
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							
		NM	AA	M							

Age/Shearing Code		Breed Code		Sex Code		How to Complete the NWD	
1 <sup>st</sup> Shearing	<b>1</b>	Merino	<b>M</b>	Ewes	<b>E</b>		→ The Owner/Manager is responsible for ensuring the NWD is completed correctly. → To complete the NWD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record the PIC.</li> <li>Answer the two Property questions.</li> <li>Complete the Mob details (Mob No., Mob Mulesing Status, Age/Shearing Code, Breed Code, Sex Code, Contact with Shedding Breeds and Shearing/Crutching History).</li> <li>The Owner/Manager must Sign and Date the Declaration.</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Shearing to 2 yrs	<b>2</b>	Afrino	<b>FO</b>	Wethers	<b>W</b>		
3 years	<b>3</b>	SAMM	<b>SM</b>	Rams	<b>R</b>		
4 years	<b>4</b>	Corriedale	<b>CD</b>	Mixed	<b>M</b>		
5 years	<b>5</b>	Polwarth	<b>PW</b>				
6, 7, 8 years etc.	<b>6, 7, 8...</b>	Crossbred	<b>XB</b>				
Mixed, e.g. 3 to 6 yrs	<b>3 - 6</b>	Downs	<b>DN</b>				
<b>NWD V8.0, March 2020</b>		Shedding Breeds	<b>SB</b>				
		Carpet Wool	<b>CW</b>				

National Wool Declaration (NWD) Definitions	
<b>Non Mulesed (NM)</b>	No sheep in this mob has been mulesed <sup>^</sup> .
<b>Ceased Mulesing (CM)</b>	No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed <sup>^</sup> . No mulesed <sup>^</sup> (or mulesed with AA) ewes/wethers have been purchased.
<b>Analgesic &amp;/or Anaesthetic (AA)</b>	All sheep in this mob were mulesed <sup>^</sup> and treated with a pre- and/or post- Analgesic/Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep. <b>Note:</b> AA must be declared separately for each mob (it is not a property declaration).
<b>Mulesed (M)</b>	Some/all sheep in this mob have been mulesed.
<b><sup>^</sup>Mulesing</b>	The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. <b>Source:</b> Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep.
<b>Shedding Breeds</b>	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Australian White, Awassi, Damara, Black Headed and White Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
<b>Contact with Shedding Breeds</b>	Mated to, or run together with since the previous shearing, shedding breed sheep or their crosses (includes lambs from shedding breed sheep or their crosses).

The Wool Classer will complete the remainder of the Classer's Specification, including filling out the 1<sup>st</sup> Bale No. for each Mob and the Mob Numbers for ALL LINES of wool.

By signing this National Wool Declaration, I warrant that (a) I am authorised to complete this declaration and confirm that all details contained in it are true and correct, (b) I authorise the selling agent to submit this document to the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX), if requested, for the purpose of the Integrity Program and (c) I understand that random desk audits and on farm inspections are undertaken, the results of which may be made available to the buyers of the declared wool and the selling agent. Details of the AWEX NWD - Integrity Program and Privacy Policy are available on the AWEX website: [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)

**Owner/Manager**  
 Name.....  
 Signature.....  
 Date...../...../.....