

Animal Status Declaration Form

March 2007

Animal Products Act 1999 Information Pamphlet

The Animal Status Declaration (ASD) form applies to the following species: cattle, deer, sheep, lambs, goats, ostriches, emus, horses, alpacas and llamas. A separate ASD is required for pigs.

1 Background

Practices on lifestyle blocks and farms impact on the safety and suitability of animals for processing and on the resulting animal products' eligibility for trade. Knowledge of these practices is essential for our export trade. The purpose of the ASD is to transfer key information about an animal, or group or animals, to the next person in charge of the animals, and ultimately to the processor.

For the processor, the information on the ASD is vital for guiding ante-mortem and post-mortem examination, and for determining export eligibility and certification. The ASD also incorporates information on the Tb questions required by the Animal Health Board under the Biosecurity (National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998.

The ASD form is a vital component of the market eligibility system that underpins the Government's ability to sign export certificates.

2 Summary of the requirements

- The industry requires a single standardised ASD form. This means that the one form will be accepted by all meat processors;
- An ASD must be sent for all animals sent for processing (except bobby calves as these are covered by a seasonal declaration);
- An ASD must be sent with all movements of cattle, deer, sheep, lambs, goats, ostriches and emus sent from one property or saleyard to another property or saleyard or property where there is a different person in charge;
- An ASD is required for all movements of calves and fawn, even when they are less than 30 days old;

- For cattle and deer the ASD must physically accompany the animals being moved;
- The ASD is to be completed by the person in charge of the animals;
- Transport operators are not to prepare ASDs themselves — they are required to transfer ASDs when provided by the person in charge with the animals being moved;
- An herd number or code (AHB or AgriTag herd number or MINDA code) are required for cattle and deer only—AHB and MINDA numbers are provided by the Animal Health Board (AHB) phone: 0800 482 4636;
- Copies of the signed ASD must be kept as follows:
 - Seller—one year
 - Buyer—the time the animals are kept and then one additional year
 - Processor—four years;
- Where a property is sold as a going concern (including the stock) the vendor must ensure that all stock have ASD records to be passed on to the new owner;
- Where animals are not born on the property and no ASD was received or has been lost, the new person in charge must default to the worst case regarding treatments, animal feeding, MAF movement or surveillance controls;
- There is a separate ASD for pigs.

3 Form Availability

The AHB provides ASD pads to cattle and deer farmers.

Most cattle and sheep meat processing companies print and distribute ASD pads.

Some stock and station agents print ASD pads.

The NZFSA does NOT print ASD pads, however the ASD can be downloaded directly from:

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/forms/statements-declarations/asd/index.htm>

4 Accuracy

There have been issues around incorrect tallies. The NZFSA strongly supports 100% attention to accuracy but realises that a pragmatic approach is necessary. In light of this, NZFSA intends to take a measured approach in relation to 'overs' and 'unders' for various species.

For cattle, horses, ostriches and emus, llamas or alpacas the tally should be accurate.

For goats, deer, sheep and lambs there can be a small variation of the number. This approach remains subject to review and should not be abused.

It is an offence under the Animal Products Act 1999 to falsify, alter or misrepresent any declaration required by the Act with the intent to deceive or for the purposes of obtaining any material benefit or avoiding any material detriment.

In addition, the issue of the ability to correct incomplete or incorrect forms has been raised. NZFSA confirms that faxes may be used to correct or complete ASDs and that there is no need for a follow up original.

The practice of pre-signing of ASDs is not acceptable.

5 When No Form is Provided

People in charge of stock must supply an ASD form when the stock leaves their property. The new person in charge must receive an ASD before or when they receive stock. If no ASD form is received the animals must be held separately till an ASD is supplied or the animals must be returned to the supplier.

The exception is when calves (bobby calves) are sent directly for processing into bobby calf veal: the ASD is not required in this case, rather a voluntary seasonal form is used.

AHB, NZFSA, Federated Farmers of New Zealand (inc), stock and station agents and meat processing companies will provide clarification as required.

6 Contact:

AHB ph: 0800 482 4636

NZFSA ph: (04) 894 2500

This publication is not a legal interpretation of the Animal Products Act or the Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act and is intended only as a guide.