



Guidance Document for the **Animal Status Declaration**

New Zealand Food Safety has created this guidance document to assist animal owners understand the Animal Status Declaration (ASD). It explains what the ASD is, why it is required, and provides instructions on when and how to use it.

What is an Animal Status Declaration?

The Animal Status Declaration (ASD) is a supplier declaration. It is a legal tool to transfer key information about an animal, or group of animals, to the next person in charge (**PICA**), whether that is a farmer, a saleyard or a meat processor.

Practices on the farm impact on the suitability of animals for processing and on animal products' eligibility for trade.

For the meat processors, the information on the ASD is vital for guiding ante-mortem and post-mortem examination.

The information is also used to determine export eligibility and certification.

To make it easier for farmers, the ASD also includes the Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Declaration required by the Biosecurity (National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Plan) Order 1998. Without this inclusion, the animal owner would need to complete a separate TB declaration for cattle and deer.



When is the Animal Status Declaration needed?



An ASD must be completed for cattle, buffalo, deer, sheep, lambs, goats, alpacas, llamas, ostriches and emus:

- for all consignments sent for processing
- for all movements from one property or saleyard to another property or saleyard, where there is a different PICA.



An ASD must be completed for calves for all movements where there is a different PICA.

The exception to this is bobby calves going direct to slaughter if they are covered by a periodic declaration.



An **ASD for Pigs** must be completed:

- for all consignments sent for processing
- for all movements from one property or saleyard to another property or saleyard, where there is a different PICA.

The ASD for Pigs is available online ([mpi.govt.nz – ASD for Pigs](https://mpi.govt.nz/asd-for-pigs)).



An ASD must be completed for horses sent for processing.

Who fills out and sign the Animal Status Declaration

The ASD must be completed by the PICA. The PICA:



is in control of
the animals,



has the knowledge to
answer all
the applicable questions,



has the authority to do
so.

The ASD could be completed by the owner, farm manager or saleyard operator.

Transport operators are not considered a PICA if their only role is to transport the animals. However, transport operators are required to transfer the ASD with the animals being moved (this excludes the transfer of an electronic ASD).

Saleyard

Saleyard operators must complete a new ASD for animals leaving the saleyards.

The saleyard operator can use a clear photocopy of the ASD received with the animals, if the status of the animals has not changed. If photocopies are used, the saleyard must change the tallies to match the departing animals, and the ASD MUST be countersigned.

Alternatively, it is acceptable for the sales docket which accurately states the number of animals purchased to be attached to a copy of the incoming ASD. However, where there is a change to the status of animals at the saleyard, a new ASD must be completed.

Use of the ASD

A signed ASD must accompany the animals sent from the property. In the case of an electronic transfer – the ASD must be present at the receiving property when the animals arrive.

In the case of an electronic ASD, the electronic ASD must be accessible at all times during transport by the Transport Operator.

If animals arrive at a property without an accompanying ASD or the receipt of an electronic ASD, then the animals must be separated from all other stock and held until a completed and signed ASD is received OR the animals must be returned to the supplier.

Scanned (and emailed), or faxed copies of any changes to the ASD are acceptable.

Animal Welfare

You must not transfer animals that are sick or injured unless covered by a veterinary certificate.



MPI have developed an app to help operators meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act

You can download [The Fit for transport app](#) from any app store where you usually get your apps.

Completing the Animal Status Declaration form

There are two ways to complete an ASD. You can use:

- MyOSPSRI for electronic ASDs for animals sent to slaughter and to another farm, or
- a paper form for all animal movements including sale yards.

You can download and print the ASD form from the Ministry for Primary Industries' website: [mpi.govt.nz - Animal Status Declaration](https://mpi.govt.nz/Animal-Status-Declaration), or you can order a book of ASD forms from OSPRI: [www.ospri.co.nz - order a book of Animal Status Declaration \(ASD\) forms | OSPRI](https://www.ospri.co.nz/order-a-book-of-Animal-Status-Declaration-ASD-forms)

Identification

TBfree herd no. or LIC MINDA code

The TBfree New Zealand status of the herd from which cattle or deer are being moved. This is required under the TB rules to ensure the risk of TB can be accurately predicted. This information is only required for cattle and deer.

NAIT number

The unique number for a registered NAIT (National Animal Identification and Tracing) location. It is compulsory for all PICA of NAIT animals to have a NAIT number.

NAIT animals are cattle (including buffalo) and deer.

Address animals moved from

The physical address of the property from which the animals are being moved. It must include the road name and, if applicable the Rural Address Property Identification System (RAPID) number.

Destination

To be completed to the best of your knowledge. This could mean the physical address of the destination farm, the processor's name and plant location, or the saleyard name and location.

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Animal Status Declaration

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|--------|-----|---|------|-------|------|--|
| Declaration: I am the person in charge of these animals and I declare that I have read and understand the requirements for this ASD and that the information that follows is true and accurate. | | | | | | | | TBfree herd no or LIC MINDA code (cattle and deer only) |
| Signature (person in charge) | | | | Address animals moved from (Rapid number, road and town/district) | | | | NAIT number |
| Name (person in charge) | | | | | | | | Phone |
| Owner/Trade name (if different from person in charge) | | | | Owner's postal address (if different from above) | | | | Fax |
| | | | | | | | | Email |
| | | | | | | | | Date / / |
| Stock type | Steer | Heifer | Cow | Bull | Lamb | Sheep | Deer | Other |
| Tallies | | | | | | | | |
| Description (e.g. breed, age (e.g. R1, R2, R3), ID, etc) | | | | | | | | |
| Destination (e.g. name and location of processor, saleyard or farm destination) | | | | | | | | |

Withholding periods

Withholding period

Treating animals with veterinary medicines is sometimes necessary to maintain their health and wellbeing. However, some treatments can leave residues in the animals and their products. It's important to manage these to ensure food safety.

You only need to detail any treatments which remain within the withholding period.

Animals that are within a withholding period are:

- NOT eligible for slaughter for human consumption.
- eligible for slaughter for animal consumption but MUST be categorised as medium risk material.

The withholding period will be advised by your veterinarian, or it will be on the label of the medication.

If you do not know the withholding period, the following defaults apply:

- 91 days for cattle, deer, sheep, goats, alpacas, and llamas; and
- 63 days for horses, ostriches and emus.

Calves for rearing

If a calf is:

- born to dams that are within a meat withholding period for a veterinary medicine, the meat withholding period of the dam applies.
- fed milk from any mammal that is within a withholding period for a veterinary medicine, the default meat withholding period (91 days) applies.

MPI controls

MPI Controls

Question 2.3 must be ticked "yes" when animals are under any controls imposed by the Ministry of Primary Industries. These controls can be for various purposes, such as residues monitoring or biosecurity measures.

Ticking "yes" does not necessarily mean the animals are unsuitable for slaughter, but it indicates that your buyer or processor may need additional information.

If a movement permit has been issued, you should also provide this permit.

Animal feeding

Ruminant protein

Under the Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations 1999 it is an offence to feed ruminant protein in any form, composition or admixture to ruminants. Ruminant protein includes meat, meat meal, bone meal, and blood meal, but excludes dairy products. Ruminant refers to cattle (including buffalo), calves, deer, sheep, lambs, goats, alpacas and llamas.

Pasture/grass fed

Pasture/Grass fed means that the animals have been raised under normal New Zealand farming conditions with year-round access to grass (e.g., hay, silage, lucerne, feed crops or other grazed or conserved forages) and other supplementary feeds (including manufactured feeds, provided that you have a statement from the manufacturer that the feed does not contain animal protein or animal fat, other than dairy).

You must keep the manufacturers' declaration. Where animals have been fed on a feed pad or feedlot other than for short term periods (e.g., only as supplementary feed immediately prior to slaughter) then they would not be 'pasture/grass fed' because of not having year-round access to grass.

If you do not know if an animal has been only 'pasture/grass fed', you must tick the 'Yes' box of Question 3.2.

Using sheep for leaf plucking in vineyards could affect their meat

If sheep have been used for leaf-plucking in a vineyard in the year immediately prior, residues of agricultural chemicals used on the grapevines may be present in the sheep and resulting products.

You must keep sheep on clean feed for the time-period stated on the product label for leaf plucking, after removal from the vineyard, and before animals are slaughtered. This is usually either 2 or 6 months.

'Clean feed' is feed that has no residues present, usually because it has not been treated with or exposed to agricultural chemicals, or because it complies with the approved withholding period for that feed crop on the labels of any agricultural chemicals used.

You can read more about leaf plucking on MPI's website: [Using sheep for leaf plucking in vineyards could affect their meat](#)

Animal treatments

Johne's disease vaccination

Question 4.1 must be ticked "yes" when any of the animals have been vaccinated with Johne's Disease vaccination either by you or a previous owner (as evidenced by the ASD from the previous owner).

Antimicrobial agent

An antimicrobial agent means a veterinary medicinal product administered to an animal for treatment or prevention of infections or other animal disease conditions. Antimicrobial agents include coccidiostats (e.g. monensin, lasalocid, and decoquinate) used in the treatment or prevention of coccidiosis, bloat, and ketosis. Note: HGPs, vaccines, parasiticides, trace elements (e.g. Selenium) and zinc formulations used to prevent facial eczema are not antimicrobial agent(s).

You must tick the "Yes" box of Question 5.1 if the animals covered by the ASD have had an antimicrobial agent administered in their lifetime for the sole purpose of promoting animal growth or to increase yield.

Products administered to calves for therapeutic reasons are not considered growth promotants.

Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP)

HGPs may only be used under veterinary supervision. If you do not know whether the cattle have been treated with HGPs you must tick the 'Yes' box of Question 6.1.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Declaration

The TB status to be declared is the TB status currently assigned to the herd by TBfree New Zealand Ltd, the agency responsible for implementing the TBfree New Zealand Programme.

Special movement conditions apply to herds with an Infected (I) status and to some herds with a Suspended (S) status. If you have received a legal notice restricting the movement of your herd, refer to the conditions contained within that notice prior to moving your stock.

If you move stock without a completed ASD or without the correct pre- movement test, you may be prosecuted, and the stock may be redirected back to your property.

If you are uncertain how to complete this declaration or you do not know your herd's TB status or whether the herd is located within a Movement Control Area (risk area) contact 0800 482 463 before moving stock.

Other requirements that may impact animals' status

Animal welfare

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 imposes legal obligations to alleviate pain or distress of ill or injured animals.

The NZVA Fitness for Transport Veterinary Certification is required for any ill or injured animals to ensure they are fit for transport. This certification confirms that the animals can be transported without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress

Further information and Animal Welfare Regulations and Codes are available on the MPI website by searching "Animal Welfare".

Additional information

This box enables other important information to be given by the person completing the ASD. For example, identifying that the animals are experimental animals, or under a farm/animal assurance programme or sheep measles programme.

The box can also be used where the description of the animals doesn't fit in the space provided.

This is also where you would put The New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP) number. This is a unique number that every farmer receives at their first NZFAP audit and subsequent audits.

If necessary, an additional piece of paper that is signed by the PICA and attached to the ASD can also be used.

Sheep Measles

Sheep measles is caused by a parasite that is spread to sheep through dogs. Sheep measles causes blemishes in sheep meat but does not infect humans. The meat industry operates a voluntary program to reduce the risk of losses to farmers or market issues arising from sheep measles. You can read more on the sheep measles website www.sheepmeasles.co.nz.

| |
|---|
| 3.2 Have any of these animals been fed ANYTHING OTHER than 'Pasture/grass fed'? |
| 4.0 Johne's Disease vaccination – where applicable (see note 4 of the requirements) |
| 4.1 Have any of these animals been vaccinated against Johne's Disease? |
| 5.0 Antimicrobial agent(s) (see note 5 of the requirements) |
| 5.1 Have any of the animals been treated with antimicrobials to control growth or to increase yield? |
| 6.0 HGP treatment – cattle (see note 6 of the requirements) |
| 6.1 Have any of these cattle been treated with a hormonal growth promoter? |
| 7.0 TB Declaration – cattle, deer (see note 7 of the requirements) |
| 7.1 What is the TB status of these animals? Enter status as follows: (see note 7 of the requirements) |
| 7.2 Have any of these animals been tested while under your control? |
| 7.3 What is the date of the last TB test for these animals? (see note 7 of the requirements) |
| 7.4 What is the date of the last TB test for the whole herd/flock? |
| 7.5 Is the herd under TB movement control? (If Yes, a permit must be obtained from the DVE) (see note 7 of the requirements) |
| 7.6 Are these animals being moved from a property within the last 60 days? |
| 7.7 If Yes, have these animals been tested within 60 days of movement? (The 60 day test is not required if the animals are going direct to slaughter) (see note 7 of the requirements) |
| I understand the obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and the Animal Welfare Regulations and Codes and agree that the animals' behavioural needs are met in accordance with the requirements of the Act and Regulations and Codes. |
| 8.0 Additional information (see note 8 of the requirements) |

Records

| Who | ASD interaction | How long to keep ASD form |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| PICA | Completed and signed the ASD | 1 year |
| PICA receiving animals including saleyards | Received ASD form with animals | For period animals are kept + 1 additional year |
| Processing companies | Received ASD form with animals | 4 years |

- Operators of farm assurances may require a longer record retention period than those specified above

Warning

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

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to

- move cattle or deer aged 30 days or more unless accompanied by a completed TB declaration;
- move cattle or deer aged 90 days or more from a risk area to a place outside that risk area or within any risk area from its herd of origin or the place of establishment at which the animal is being kept to a place other than the place occupied by the owner or PICA of the cattle beast or deer, unless it has undergone within 60 days prior to the date of movement, a negative test for bovine tuberculosis; and
- make a declaration that is false or misleading.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations 1999 to allow ruminants to be fed ruminant protein.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity (Animal Identification Systems) Regulations 1999 to move cattle and deer over 30 days of age from the herd of origin or place where the animals are kept unless identified in accordance with these regulations.