

Biosecurity Act 2014

Procedure for tick free manual inspection of high-risk tick carriers

This procedure will be used for the risk minimisation requirement (RMR) for a *Tick free manual inspection* for a high-risk tick carrier as required in the Queensland Biosecurity Manual.

High-risk tick carriers must be manually inspected and found tick free to meet the 'tick free manual inspection' RMR.

The RMR of a tick free manual inspection to access a prescribed facility (clearing facility) in the free zone does not require a biosecurity certificate and can be completed by the owner or person in charge of the livestock

The ['Guideline for Manual Inspection of high-risk tick carriers'](#) supports this procedure and describes techniques for the appropriate manual inspection techniques.

Definitions

Tick free means – no life cycle stages of cattle tick have been found on the carrier.

Live tick means a tick showing obvious signs of movement or from which body fluids can be expressed.

High risk tick carriers are cattle, deer, bison and buffalo.

Inspection percentage

The table below is a minimum number of high-risk carriers that must be inspected in each consignment.

Number of high-risk tick carriers in consignment	Percentage of consignment to be inspected
Up to 300	100%
301-1000	First 100 and 66% of remaining
More than 1001	First 100 and 33% of remaining

Risk minimisation declaration

The accredited certifier must keep records to demonstrate what the owner or person responsible for the high-risk carriers have done to meet the RMR.

Restraining for inspection

The high-risk tick carrier must be restrained in a crush or race to complete the inspection. Led and manageable animals may be tied individually to a yard rail with a halter and lead rope only if the inspection can be completed safely and fully.

Inspection sites

At least three sites must be manually inspected. Two primary sites and one secondary site on each carrier.

- **Primary inspection sites:** tail butt, ear, flank and escutcheon
- **Secondary inspection sites:** dewlap, behind point of elbow and upper neck

Time of Inspection

All inspections must occur during daylight hours.

If a cattle tick is found

If a live cattle tick is found on a carrier, all carriers in that consignment fail the inspection and must not be moved to the tick free zone. This includes any stage of the life cycle of the cattle tick.

Tick identification

The accredited certifier must take steps to demonstrate to the owner/person in charge that the tick is a cattle tick and is a live tick. The ['Guideline for identifying cattle tick'](#) will support this procedure.

Records of all tick infested carriers must be kept including:

- the date the consignment was found infested
- the property of origin and owner of the stock
- the life cycle stage of the tick and an indication of the numbers of ticks on the animals.

Ticks found on consignments from properties in the cattle tick free zone must be submitted for positive laboratory identification. See ['Guideline for Manual Inspection of high-risk tick carriers'](#).

Re-inspection interval

High-risk tick carriers that have failed a manual inspection, must not be re-inspected for a minimum of 4 days after the failed inspection by any accredited certifier.

Time limits on moving a carrier to the free zone

High risk carriers must be moved into the free zone within 24 hours of meeting all RMRs for that movement.

An extension up to 48 hours to this timeframe may occur after discussion with a biosecurity inspector and endorsed on the biosecurity certificate.

Time limits on moving a carrier to a prescribed facility

If the movement is to a prescribed facility (clearing facility) in the cattle tick free zone, the high-risk carriers must be moved to the clearing facility within 24 hours of the manual inspection.