

Biosecurity Act 2014

Procedure for manual inspection of low risk cattle tick carriers (MI-LRC)

Purpose

This procedure forms part of the risk minimisation requirements applying to the movement of low risk cattle tick carriers under chapter 5, part 8, division 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016* (the Regulation).

A cattle tick carrier only meets the risk minimisation requirement of “tick free” if a manual inspection is conducted in accordance with this procedure and the outcome of the manual inspection is that the carrier is free of all stages of the life cycle of cattle tick.

Scope

This procedure may be used by the following persons to comply with the risk minimisation requirements:

- an accredited certifier for the purpose of issuing a biosecurity certificate under chapter 15 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act); or
- a person moving a cattle tick carrier between specified locations under chapter 5, part 8, division 3 of the Regulation.

Sampling protocol

For **horses, camels, alpacas, llamas, vicunas and guanacos** – all stock in the consignment must be inspected including any young progeny or offspring.

Sheep and goats will be inspected as follows:

- For consignments of led, manageable animals – all animals will be manually inspected.
- For consignments of unled animals – all stock in the consignment must be visually inspected and 5% of the stock must be caught and manually inspected.

Restraining animals for inspection

The animal must be restrained as far as is reasonably practical in a manner that enables a person to complete the inspection procedure.

For **unled animals**, the animal should be loaded in a race suitable for the species being restrained.

For **led animals**, the animal should be restrained by a person physically holding the animal using lead ropes/halters/bridles etc. The animal may be tied to an immovable object such as a yard rail if appropriate.

Examination procedure

If the accredited certifier or person conducting the inspection normally wears glasses for reading, the accredited certifier or person should wear glasses whilst performing the inspection.

Cattle ticks prefer to attach to protected areas of an animal's body. When conducting an inspection for ticks, particular attention should be paid to these areas (e.g. feeling for any lumps, bumps or scabs). However, this does not mean that ticks will not attach to other parts of an animal. Visual observation of the stock is a vital part of the inspection.

Any ticks, scabs or shells removed by the nails during the examination should be placed in the palm of the hand for closer inspection (at the conclusion of the examination and at a safe distance from the stock).

The manual inspection of the stock should follow the procedures below.

Examination procedure for horses

For safety reasons it is inadvisable to inspect, other than visually, any further back than the girth.

Horse rugs – it is important to keep horse rugs off the ground. Throw them over a rail or store above ground when not actually on the horse, especially if the rug does not go back onto the horse after treatment. Alternatively, if the horse is being treated, the rug may be sprayed at the same time.

Visually inspect the horse looking for obvious signs of tick infestation and manually inspect:



(a) the base of the mane from wither to poll; and



(b) down the neck and onto the chest, continue down to inspect around the front legs and behind the shoulder/elbow; and



(c) under the jaw and around the head, including under the forelock and the ears; and



(d) inside the ears, particularly around the edge.

Examination procedure for goats

Long-haired areas on some goats are not high-risk areas for ticks to attach.

For goats, it is often easier to catch the goat and tip it over to conduct the examination.

Visually inspect the goat looking for obvious signs of tick infestation, in particular on the bare areas, and manually inspect by feeling and looking:



(a) inside ears, particularly around the edge; and

(b) continue down the forehead and face to the muzzle; and



(c) behind the shoulder/elbow; and



(d) inside the edge of the flank, rolling it between fingers; and



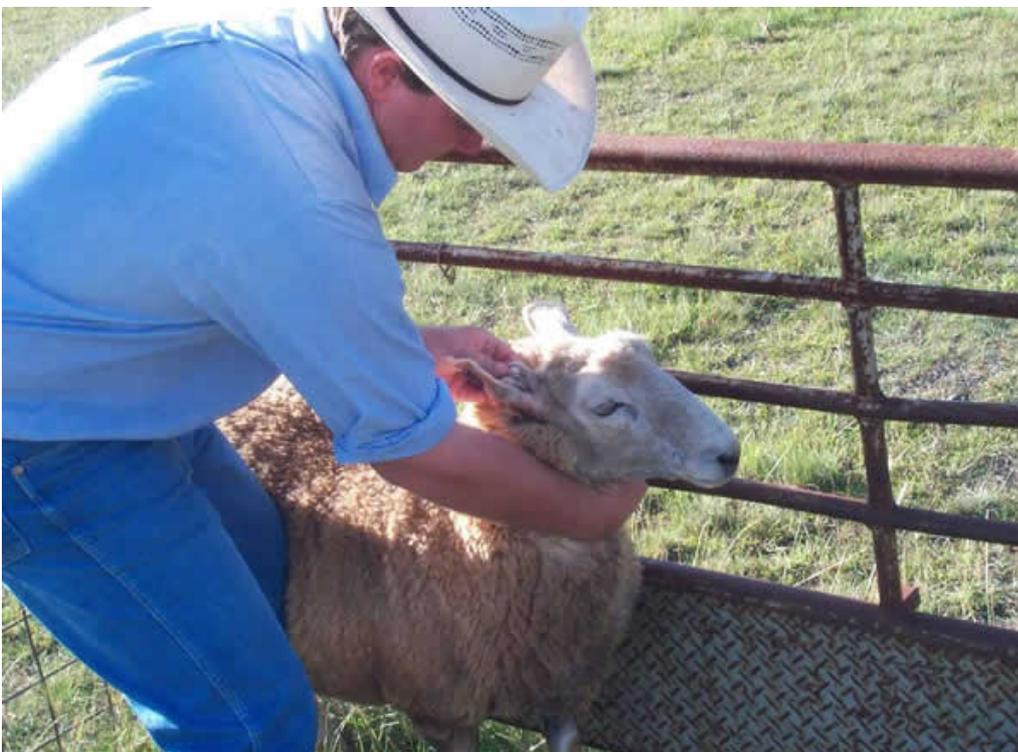
(e) run hand down the escutcheon and bare skin around the udder or scrotum.

Examination procedure for sheep and camelids

Woolly areas on sheep and long-haired areas on camelids are not high-risk areas for ticks to attach.

For sheep, it is often easier to catch the sheep and tip it over to conduct the examination.

Visually inspect the animal looking for obvious signs of tick infestation, in particular on the bare areas, and manually inspect by feeling and looking:





(a) inside ears, particularly around the edge; and



(b) continue down the forehead and face to the muzzle; and



(c) bare areas of the legs and behind the shoulder/elbow; and



(d) around the base of the tail and down the escutcheon; and



- (e) for sheep – around the udder or scrotum, especially between the udder or scrotum and the inside of the back legs.

Additional steps if risk minimisation requirement is not met

If the risk minimisation requirement is not met, and ticks are found on the carriers, the person conducting the inspection must:

- remove a tick from the carrier and undertake a visual identification of the tick as a cattle tick;
- determine whether the tick is a live tick (A live tick is one that shows obvious signs of movement or from which body fluids can be expressed);
- where the person conducting the inspection is not the owner or a person in charge of the carrier, show the owner or the person in charge of the carrier the tick; and
- place the cattle tick in a specimen jar and retain for positive laboratory identification, if required.

If the carriers fail to meet the risk minimisation requirement, the “Procedure for the use of chemical treatment on cattle tick carriers” describes a procedure for retreatment and re-inspection that may be undertaken prior to moving cattle tick carriers.

Ongoing monitoring of low risk carriers after movement

The risk minimisation requirements describe the actions that an owner of a low risk carrier must take prior to moving the carrier from the infested zone or infested land. An owner has a general biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise the spread of cattle tick into the free zone. This may include the owner continuing to monitor the low risk carrier after the carrier has been moved from the infested zone or infested land.

Ongoing monitoring may include the owner taking additional steps such as isolating and or spraying carriers after arriving in the tick free zone.

