

Biosecurity Act 2014

Procedure for manual inspection of low risk tick carriers

This procedure must be followed when manually inspecting low risk tick carriers for cattle tick. Low risk tick carriers are animals in the Equidae family (e.g. horses, ponies, donkeys and mules), goat, sheep and camelidae (e.g. alpacas, Arabian camels, llamas).

Low risk tick carriers must be manually inspected and found tick free to meet the 'tick free manual inspection' risk minimisation requirement.

Inspection percentage

The table below provides the number of low risk carriers that must be inspected in each consignment.

Species	Percentage of consignment to be inspected
Equine species and camelids	100%
Led sheep and goats	100%
Unled sheep and goats	100% visual and 5% manual inspection

Restraining for inspection

The low risk tick carrier must be restrained to complete the inspection. All techniques should be suitable for the species being inspected.

- **Unled low risk tick carriers:** crush, race or manually restrained
- **Led and manageable low risk tick carriers:** use a lead rope, halter or bridle. The carrier may be tied to an immovable object such as a yard rail if appropriate.

Inspection procedure

1. If the accredited certifier or person conducting the inspection normally wears glasses for reading, they should wear glasses whilst performing the inspection.
2. Restrain the low risk tick carrier/s.
3. Visually inspect for any obvious signs of cattle tick as you approach the carrier. Take note of any lumps, swellings, bumps or scabs on the skin that may need closer inspection.
4. Manually inspect sites using fingertips to feel for ticks including any lumps, swellings, bumps and scabs on the skin, following the steps for the relevant species.

Manual Inspection for horses

Take the appropriate safety precautions when manually inspecting horses. It is recommended that horses are manually inspected to the girth and only visually inspected any further back than the girth.

Manually inspect all of the following sites:



(a) The base of the mane from wither to poll



(b) Down the neck and the chest.



(c) Continue down to inspect around the front legs and behind the shoulder/elbow.



(d) Under the jaw and around the head, including the forelock and ears.



(e) Inside the ears, particularly around the edge.

Manual Inspection 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 inspection.

Manually inspect all of the following sites:



(a) Inside ears, particularly around the edge and continue down the forehead and face to the muzzle.



(b) Behind the shoulder/elbow.



(c) Inside the edge of the flank, rolling it between fingers.



(d) Run hand down the escutcheon and bare skin around the udder or scrotum.

Manual inspection 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 inspection.

Manually inspect all of the following sites:



(a) Inside ears, particularly around the edge.



(b) Continue down the forehead and face to the muzzle.



(c) Bare areas of the legs and behind the shoulder/elbow.



(d) Around the base of the tail and down the escutcheon.



(e) Sheep – around the udder or scrotum, especially between the udder or scrotum inside the back legs

5. Remove any ticks, scabs or shells using fingernails, place in the palm of the hand for closer inspection.
6. Undertake a visual assessment to identify if it is a cattle tick using the *procedure for identifying the life cycle stage of a cattle tick*.
7. If a cattle tick is identified, determine whether the tick is alive. A live tick is one that shows obvious signs of movement or from which body fluids can be expressed.
8. 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.
9. Place the cattle tick in a specimen jar and retain for positive laboratory identification, if required.

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.

The "Procedure for the use of chemical treatment on cattle tick carriers" describes the treatment and re-inspection procedure that may be undertaken to remove ticks from the low risk tick carrier before presentation for further inspection.

Re-inspection interval

For low risk tick carriers that have failed a manual inspection, they must not be reinspected for a minimum of 4 days.

Time limits on moving a carrier to the free zone

Low risk carriers must be moved into the free zone within 24 hours of meeting all risk minimisation requirements for that movement.

Ongoing monitoring

The risk minimisation requirements describe the actions that an owner must take prior to moving carriers into the tick free zone.

An owner has a general biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise the spread of cattle tick. This may include the owner continuing to monitor the low risk carrier for cattle tick after it has been moved.

Ongoing monitoring may include the owner taking additional steps such as isolating, treating or spraying carriers after arriving at a place in the tick free zone.