

Frequently Asked Questions about the Changes to the OJD Management Plan from 31 March 2008

1. How will the changes affect my ability to trade?

Trading will stay relatively the same. You will still need to calculate the ABC credits for each line of sheep based on area prevalence, whether they have been vaccinated or tested, and whether an approved vet has certified the sheep as low risk from an infected flock. The boundaries of some Prevalence Areas may have changed so trading will change between some areas.

2. What are the changes to the ABC Scheme?

Three (3) prevalence areas instead of four (4)

There are now only three Prevalence Areas: (Low, Medium and High) and there are now two Prevalence Areas in Victoria. The shires extending along the SA border and adjoining shires are now low prevalence including the Shires of Mildura, West Wimmera, Glenelg, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Gannawarra, Yarriamback, Buloke and Swan Hill. The rest of the state is in the Medium Prevalence Area.

CHANGES of points allocated to each prevalence area.

Although similar names are being used to describe prevalence areas, the boundaries and the ABC points allocated to each area have changed.

3. How do I know what my prevalence area and score is?

You should check on the map of Prevalence Areas and scores, available from the website www.ojd.com.au, agents and animal health staff.

4. From which regions can I buy stock?

You can buy stock from any region, subject to your state's movement controls, but remember if you want to protect your flock from this disease and minimise the loss of income associated with sheep deaths, you need to know your own flock's ABC score and buy sheep with the same or higher score. Carefully consider the consequences before buying sheep with a score lower than your own flock's score.

5. How can I protect my flock from OJD?

Make sure you ask for a fully completed Sheep Health Statement BEFORE you make a decision to buy and check that you are confident that the description of the sheep and the ABC score allocated to the line are correctly stated. Remember the higher the score, the lower the risk of introducing OJD into your flock.

6. What information should I give an agent who is sourcing sheep for me?

You should provide your own flock's score and let the agent know the minimum ABC score you are prepared to accept.

7. Are sheep offered for sale without a National Sheep Health Statement, safe to buy?

Sheep that are sold without a National Sheep Health Statement represent a risk to your flock because you don't know anything about them. Even sheep sold through saleyards in a Low Prevalence Area may have the disease so you shouldn't rely on the location of the saleyard as an indicator of risk.

8. What should I do if the description of the line doesn't match the details on the National Sheep Health Statement?

You should check with the owner and if necessary ask the agent to advise them if the form appears incorrectly completed. There are penalties for making a misleading declaration that doesn't accurately describe the animals offered for sale.

the higher the score: the lower the risk

