

Frequently Asked Questions about the Changes to the OJD Prevalence Areas

from 1 January 2011

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

Trading will continue to be based on the Assurance Based Credit (ABC) Scheme. The boundaries of some Prevalence Areas may have changed so trading will change between some areas.

You will need to calculate the Assurance Based Credits for each line of sheep based on area prevalence and whether they have been vaccinated or tested, and whether an approved vet has certified the sheep as low risk from an infected flock.

To obtain further information on how to calculate your points or the requirements for interstate trade contact your local animal health adviser.

2. Will the Prevalence Area changes affect me?

From 1 January 2011 amendments will be made to the following OJD Prevalence Areas:

- New South Wales: changes to the Medium Prevalence Area boundaries and Low Prevalence Area boundaries
- Victoria: the Medium Prevalence Area will become a High Prevalence Area, and the Low Prevalence Area will change to a Medium Prevalence Area
- Western Australia: the Low Prevalence Area will become a Medium Prevalence Area.

There will be no changes to Prevalence Areas in Queensland, South Australia or Tasmania.

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

You should check on the map of Prevalence Areas and scores available from the website www.ojd.com.au, talk to your agent, animal health advisers or local department of primary industry animal health officers.

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 a higher score. Carefully consider the consequences before buying sheep with a score lower than your 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 Assurance Based Credits score you are prepared to accept.

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

Sheep that are sold without a 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 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

