

NATIONALLY AGREED STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (NASOP)

Title: Manage security of a saleyard - During a livestock standstill

Version: 1.0

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Approved by: Animal Health Committee

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	1.0	02/05/11	Approved by AHC

NASOPs support national consistency and provide guidance to response personnel undertaking operational tasks.

1. Purpose

- To provide guidance on how to secure saleyards during a livestock standstill.

2. Application/scope

- A livestock standstill applies in a jurisdiction from the time that the relevant legal declaration becomes functional in that jurisdiction.
- A livestock standstill is usually for 72 hours.
- Upon declaration of a livestock standstill saleyards need to be secured as they are a high risk area for disease spread.
- Defining the saleyard and locating all entrances to and securing those entrances is the first priority.
- Actions taken are intended to alert people that the standstill is in effect and to deter any movements of animals and things.
- Restricting movement of animals will result in a situation that may contribute to welfare issues which need to be managed (see NASOP 37: *Managing stock in a saleyard during a standstill*).

3. Resources/equipment

- authorised officer under relevant legislation
- legal instruments to restrict livestock movement
- communications equipment
- temporary fencing to secure perimeter
- security devices, for gates
- locks—preferably keyed alike (consider use of owner/managers locks) and key tags
- register to list what lock placed where and who has key(s)
- barrier/exclusion tape - sufficient for size of property and number of gates
- quarantine signs and wire and/or cable ties to fix signs
- Stakes/star pickets or similar to support signs
- waste bags/bins
- disinfection equipment as per NASOP 01: *Personal decontamination—Entry and exit procedures*
- road signs and barricades or similar
- personal protective equipment (PPE) including high visibility / reflective clothing, torch, light wand or equivalent for Gate Guard(s)
- witches hats and other traffic management devices to control traffic flow at entrance gate
- access to toilet for Gate Guard(s) and other staff

- protection from weather - shelter, hat and sun block, wet weather clothing

4. Warnings

- Vehicle parking—ensure that your vehicle is safely parked in regard to through traffic and entering/exiting traffic.
- Work area—ensure there is an adequate work area with regard to traffic etc. for the Gate Guard.
- Well being of owner(s)/manager(s) of livestock and saleyards—personnel must be alert to the emotional state of the owner(s)/manager(s), as they may be distressed, irrational or aggressive. Suitable support should be available to personnel.
- Operating on a roadway—depending on the volume of traffic, working on and around a road can be dangerous. The danger increases in adverse weather and at night.
- To minimise the danger of working with traffic:
 - use PPE including high visibility / reflective clothing
 - ensure personnel have undergone relevant training
 - erect appropriate signage.
- Threats from drivers—ensure training, or back up is available e.g. police
- Operating environment—provide adequate facilities and protection from the weather.
- Communications between each Gate Guard and operations centre must be in place.
- Working alone - the erection of signs, tape etc. may require personnel to work 'remotely'. Only personnel who are competent in working alone in the environment should be allowed to undertake the actions. They should have a means of communication with their supervisor (direct or indirect).

5. Description of activities

5.1 Securing the premises – Prior to departure

- Review information systems for any existing information on property.

NOTE: Consider discussing with the local Police the proposed actions. The Police may be able to advise potential 'trouble' spots.

- Contact the owner/manager/occupier of the property to arrange a meeting place and time. This should preferably be at the front gate—to avoid entry into the property.
- Issue quarantine (if necessary).
- Collect relevant information on premises as provided by owner/manager/occupier. (use appropriate BioSIRT form)

NOTE: Where the owner/manager/occupier cannot be located, either by phone or on site inspection, legal advice should be sought on action to be taken. No action should be taken unless supported by legal advice.

- Travel to agreed meeting point.
- Complete risk assessment based on current information.
- Collect resources based on owner/manager/occupier, BioSIRT information, and other information to ensure adequate resources are available.

5.2 On arrival

- Arrive on time.
- Meet with owner/manager/occupier and discuss the actions to be taken and why, and who will do what. Where possible the owner/manager/occupier should complete the actions themselves.
- Confirm with the owner the extremities of the property and all access point(s) to the property. Establish if there are any rights of way through the property or other uses of the access points.
- Where gates are to be locked, ensure keys are exchanged so the operations centre has keys to the locks and also owner/ manager/ occupier. The keys must be labelled—ideally with a name that is consistent with everyday use on the property e.g. main gate, side gate etc. The key details must be registered in a key register held by the operations centre.
- Review risk assessment in light of information. Determine what movement restrictions will be applied and re-issue quarantine notice if necessary.
- Erect signs, tape, lock gates etc. as needed, taking care not to adversely affect private property. When the signs, etc. are erected care should be taken to ensure they do not become a hazard.
 - Each corner of and the entrance to the premises needs to be marked with exclusion tape, and quarantine signs displayed at each entrance.
 - Entrances to be secured with chains and locks or other means of controlling access.
- Identify a single entrance that is most practical and convenient for ongoing access (by operations staff). A Gate Guard mans the entrance until other security arrangements are established.
- Document a register of all vehicles present that includes the name and contact details of the owners and/or drivers and provide information on movement restrictions
- All movements onto or off the property of animals, animal products, machinery and things to be restricted in accordance with the quarantine notice.
- Set up the personal disinfection kit and traffic control at the designated access gate.
- Set up vehicle decontamination points. (see NASOP 12: *Decontamination of large equipment*)

NOTE:

The Gate Guard should be briefed on the information they can provide to any person making inquiry, and/or those requesting entry to the property e.g. utilities service, livestock transporters. If movements are permitted, the Gate Guard must keep written record of movements in/out of the property, and those seeking access.

- Ensure the owner/manager can go about their movements in/out of the property. This may require a Movement Permit.
- Explain the disinfection requirements to owner/manager/occupier.

5.2 Managing the Livestock

- Obtain an inventory of all stock present and details of owners.
- Perform a risk assessment on welfare of the livestock. The risk assessment should allow the development of a plan that determines:
 - destruction and disposal requirements
 - fodder and water requirements
 - the need for protection from the environment.
- Where the risk assessment allows, animals can be moved direct to slaughter where there is prior agreement that the consignment will be accepted and slaughtered as soon as practicable (within 24 hours).
- Daily review of the risk assessment may allow further consignments to be released under permit, prior to the standstill being lifted.
- Develop an action plan in consultation with owner/manager/occupier to ensure the above requirements are met.
- Activate plan when approved.

6. References

- NASOP 01: *Personal decontamination—Entry and exit procedures*
- NASOP 12: *Decontamination of large equipment*
- NASOP 37: *Managing stock in a saleyard during a standstill*
- NASOP 19: *Management of livestock in transit at the time a national livestock standstill is declared*
- AUSVETPLAN disease strategy or response policy brief (including quarantine and movement controls) for disease under control
- AUSVETPLAN Enterprise Manual Saleyards and Transport
 - AUSVETPLAN manuals are available at: <http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au>
- NSW Procedure - Securing a property

7. Appendices

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