

Cattle tick – NSW entry requirements

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Animal Biosecurity, NSW DPI

Background

Cattle tick (*Rhipicephalus [boophilus] microplus or australis*) are a significant animal health pest in Australia causing direct production losses as well as being the vector of tick fever, a major cause of death and illness in northern Australian cattle herds.

They are endemic in the higher rainfall areas of northern Australia as shown in the map. Queensland (QLD), Western Australia and the Northern Territory have both cattle tick infested and free areas while all of New South Wales (NSW) is a cattle tick free area.



What animals carry cattle ticks

Cattle, buffalo, bison and deer are called *primary cattle tick carriers* and cattle ticks routinely complete their life cycle on these animals. Horses, sheep, goats and camelids are called *secondary cattle tick carriers* and cattle ticks occasionally complete their life cycle on these species. Secondary cattle tick hosts usually have very few ticks present compared to primary cattle tick hosts.

Preventing cattle tick entering NSW

Cattle tick is notifiable in NSW under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and animals that carry cattle tick can only enter NSW if they meet certain inspection and/or treatment requirements before entering NSW. Animals moving to abattoirs or feedlots have less stringent requirements than animals moving to other properties. Primary cattle tick carriers are a bigger risk than secondary cattle tick carriers and have more stringent movement requirements.

Cattle tick requirements for entering NSW

There are legal controls on the entry of cattle tick carriers to NSW. These entry requirements are called 'risk minimisation requirements' and the requirements are prescribed in the *Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2019* (BOPA), available at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

What is Self-Certification

Some movements of secondary cattle tick carriers into NSW may not require a biosecurity or veterinary certificate and the movement can be undertaken by self-certification using the Record of Movement (ROM) forms available [here](#) on the NSW DPI cattle tick website. This still means they have mandatory requirements to ensure that cattle tick are not introduced into NSW as shown in the table below, but these can be performed by anyone as long as they follow the published procedures Primefact [Cattle tick - manual inspection of cattle tick carriers](#) and Primefact [Cattle Tick - use of chemical treatments on cattle tick carriers](#). Records of any inspections and treatments required for the movement must be kept for 2 years and these must be produced if requested by an Authorised Officer. Regular compliance audits will be undertaken on all self-certification movements.

The ROM for self-certification can only be accessed if applicants have first completed the [Cattle Tick Education and Training module](#). Once successfully completed, a certificate is issued which allows access to the self-certification section of the ROM for the next 3 years.

Low risk land is land that has not or will not have cattle grazing on it for 12 months. Land devoid of pasture is low risk and the risk status only refers to the land where the animals have been or will be on. For example, a horse paddock on a cattle property can be low risk if it is cattle-free for at least 12 months.

If there is uncertainty about past or future grazing of the land by cattle then the land is not low risk. Animals may traverse high risk land without impacting the risk status for the land so long as they do so without stopping or grazing, while moving between low risk land.

Land that is currently high risk can be made low risk by introducing management changes such as excluding cattle or pasture.

Self-certification is only available to eligible low risk movements of secondary cattle tick carriers. It does not apply to movements of primary carriers.

Moving cattle tick carriers into NSW

There are a number of steps people should or must take before moving cattle tick carriers into NSW:

Step 1. Preliminary treatments

A cattle tick carrier must be free from cattle ticks before clearance and this may require one or more preliminary treatments.

To be effective, the most recent preliminary treatment should be completed 4-7 days (or 6-9 days if the preliminary treatment involves a macrocyclic lactone [ML]) before the animal undergoes clearance.

If any live ticks are found by an authorised officer or accredited certifier, the cattle tick carriers will not be allowed entry into NSW until the consignment is tick free on re-presentation for clearance, 4-7 days after the previous inspection. Stock moving direct to slaughter can be re-examined at 1 day intervals.

Step 2. Understand what risk minimisation requirements apply to the movement of your animal

Table 1 summarises the risk minimisation requirements for cattle tick carriers moving from QLD into NSW. A biosecurity certificate will need to be provided for most movements of cattle tick carriers into NSW. A biosecurity certificate may be given by an:

- accredited certifier (AC) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014 (QLD)*, if it occurs in QLD, or
- authorised officer (AO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*, if undertaken at a NSW facility.

The biosecurity certificate states that the cattle tick carrier has met inspection and/or treatment requirements set out in the BOPA.

Note that some similar movements of cattle tick carriers can be managed in more than one way. For example some owners may prefer to get a biosecurity certificate for a movement even though it could be eligible for self-certification.

Table 1: Treatment and inspection requirements for cattle tick carriers entering NSW

	Origin		Destination	Species	Risk minimisation requirements *	Documentation requirements
	Area	Property Type				
1	Infested area	Any property in the infested area	Any property in NSW	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer	Tick free manual inspection and supervised chemical treatment by AO or AC	Record of movement (General) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate
2	Infested area	Any property in the infested area	Any property in NSW	Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	Tick free manual inspection and chemical treatment by AO or AC or registered veterinarian	Record of movement (General) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate or

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						veterinary certificate
3	Infested area	Any property in the infested area	NSW abattoir or feedlot that meets specified conditions (Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan)	Cattle Sheep Goats	Tick free visual inspection by AO or AC and supervised chemical treatment or tick free manual inspection by AO or AC	Record of movement (Feedlot and abattoir) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate
4	Infested area	Feedlot that meets specified conditions (Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan)	NSW abattoir or feedlot	Cattle Sheep Goats	Feedlot managed to specified conditions (Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan) and Cattle tick carrier was held at the feedlot for 35 days immediately before importation and Tick free visual inspection by person responsible	Record of movement (Feedlot and abattoir)
5	Infested Area	Any property in the infested Area	An agricultural show in NSW	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer	Tick free manual inspection by AO or AC and Leaves NSW within 7 days of entry	Record of Movement (General) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate
6	Infested Area	Any property in the infested Area	An agricultural show in NSW	Equines Sheep Goats Deer	Tick free manual inspection by AO or AC or registered veterinarian and Leaves NSW within 7 days of entry	Record of Movement (General) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate or veterinary certificate

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7	Infested area	Stabled registered thoroughbred	Designated race meeting under control of a racing authority	Equine	<p>For 35 days immediately before importation, the equine was stabled</p> <p>and</p> <p>Tick free visual inspection by person responsible</p> <p>and</p> <p>Return to its State or Territory of origin within 7 days of the proposed movement date.</p>	Record of movement (General)
8	Infested area	Horse moving from NSW into the Qld infested area for veterinary treatment and returning to NSW	Veterinary clinic in an infested Area in Qld	Equine	<p>Travel direct to clinic for veterinary treatment</p> <p>and</p> <p>Horse confined to clinic during stay</p> <p>and</p> <p>Tick free visual inspection when leaving the clinic by person responsible</p>	Record of Movement (Veterinarian)
9	Infested area	Secondary cattle tick carrier moving from low risk land in Qld ¹	Low risk land in NSW ²	Horses Sheep Goats camelids	<p>if staying less than 7 days in NSW a Tick free manual examination by person responsible</p> <p>If more than 7 days a Tick free manual examination and chemical treatment by person responsible</p>	Record of Movement (self-certification)
10	Infested area	Secondary cattle tick carrier returning to NSW from	Low risk land in NSW ²		a Tick free manual examination and chemical treatment by person responsible	Record of Movement (self-certification)

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		low risk land in Qld ¹				
11	Free area ^	Unrestricted Property	Any destination direct from free Area	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	No examination or treatment requirements.	None for cattle tick
12	Free area ^	Unrestricted Property	Any destination via infested area	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	No unloading in the infested area. and No additional animals loaded from a restricted property in the free area or in the infested area	Record of Movement (General)
13	Free area ^	Restricted property	Any destination except abattoir or feedlot	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer	Tick free manual inspection and supervised chemical treatment by AO or AC	Record of Movement (General) and Carrier biosecurity Certificate
13	Free area ^	Restricted property	Any destination except abattoir or feedlot	Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	Tick free manual inspection and supervised chemical treatment by AO or AC or registered veterinarian	Record of Movement (General) and Carrier biosecurity Certificate or Veterinary certificate
14	Free area ^	Restricted property	NSW abattoir or feedlot that meets specified conditions	Cattle Sheep Goats	Tick free visual inspection and supervised chemical treatment by AO or AC. or tick free manual inspection by AO or AC	Record of Movement (General) and Carrier biosecurity Certificate
15	Free area ^	Restricted property	An agricultural show in NSW	Cattle Bison Buffalo Deer	Tick free manual inspection by AO or AC and	Record of Movement (NSW)

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					Leaves NSW within 7 days of entry	agricultural show) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate
15	Free area ^	Restricted property	An agricultural show in NSW	Equines Sheep Goats Camelids	Tick free manual inspection by AO or AC or registered veterinarian and Leaves NSW within 7 days of entry	Record of Movement (NSW agricultural show) and Carrier Biosecurity Certificate or veterinary certificate
16	Free area	Secondary cattle tick carrier moving from low risk land on a restricted property in Qld ¹	Low risk land in NSW ²	Horses Sheep Goats camelids	Tick free manual examination and chemical treatment by person responsible	Record of Movement (self-certification)

^ Stock must have been on an unrestricted property in the free area for 35 continuous days for this to be regarded as originating from the Free Area

*** If the vehicle on which the cattle tick carrier is transported transits through an infested area, the cattle tick carrier must not be off-loaded from the vehicle, and no additional cattle tick carriers are to be loaded into the vehicle unless the additional cattle tick carriers have complied with the conditions for importation of the cattle tick carrier set out the *BOPA*.**

¹ Low risk Qld land: land that is totally free of pasture or land that has not been grazed by cattle in the past 12 months.

² Low risk NSW land: land that is totally free of pasture or land that will not be grazed by cattle in the next 12 months.

Step 3. Getting a biosecurity or veterinary certificate (if required)

Biosecurity Certification in Queensland

A register of accredited certifiers in QLD can be found on the QLD Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at:

www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/animal-management/land-management-for-livestock-farms/welfare-movement-livestock/transporting-cattle-tick-areas/accredited-certifiers

Carrier biosecurity certification can be undertaken at various places, e.g. on farm, saleyards or at dedicated clearing facilities.

Veterinary Certificates

For secondary cattle tick carriers entering NSW a veterinary certificate may be issued by a registered veterinarian instead of a biosecurity certificate for movements that are not self-certifying. A template for the veterinary certificate can be found on the [cattle tick webpage](#).

Certification at By NSW DPI Authorised Officers.

Led and tractable stock can be certified by NSW DPI Authorised Officers at the Kirra Cattle Tick Clearance Facility in QLD. “*Led and tractable*” refers to stock that can be reasonably expected to be safely led and restrained for treatment and inspection to the satisfaction of an authorised officer.

Animals that do not meet the Led and tractable criteria may be:

- Plunge dipped with an approved acaricide,
- OR
- Re-presented at some future date when the led and tractable criteria can be met.

Step 4. Submit your Record of Movement (ROM) before entering NSW

At least 24 hours prior to moving a cattle tick carrier into NSW via the cattle tick infested area, livestock owners must provide a ROM by completing the digital Record of Movement form located on the [DPI website](#).

Filling out the form requires the same information as the paper forms. Once submitted, a copy of the form is sent to your email with a confirmation reference number for your records. Cattle tick carriers will need the copy and reference number ready to present to an authorised officer if requested.

If you are unable to access the digital ROM forms, paper-based forms are still accessible at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/managing-biosecurity/forms> but will be phased out by 30 June 2021, and must be either presented to an authorised officer at the Kirra Cattle Tick Operations Facility, 57 Miles St Kirra Qld 4225 or emailed to cattletick@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Step 5. Keeping the paperwork

A copy of any carrier biosecurity certificate and the Record of Movement) must accompany the consignment until it reaches the destination specified on the ROM. The carrier biosecurity certificates must be retained for 2 years either as a digital or hard copy.

A Transported Stock Statement (TSS) is required for travel within NSW but some movements are exempt. Information about sourcing and using TSSs, exempt movements and common questions can be found on the NSW DPI website at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/stock-movements/documentation/tss-questions-answers>

Time limits on moving a carrier

Carriers must be moved into NSW within 48 hours of completing the risk minimisation requirements included in the BOPA.

Feedlots and abattoirs - Cattle Tick Risk Management Plans

There are less restrictive movement requirements for cattle moving from a restricted property, a property or saleyards in an infested area, or a feedlot in an infested area to an abattoir or feedlot in NSW, *if the feedlots in NSW or QLD, or abattoirs in NSW have a Cattle Tick Risk Management Plan.* This Plan is a protocol prepared by the feedlot or abattoir, and auditable by the Department under which the following management steps are taken:

For feedlots

- (i) the feedlot, including yards and handling facilities, is surrounded by a buffer zone of at least 10 metres, and the buffer is kept free of cattle tick carriers at all times, and
- (ii) feedlot pens and associated handling facilities are kept free of vegetation at all times, and
- (iii) the feedlot operator must have documented procedures to prevent an infestation of cattle tick being introduced by cattle tick carriers from an infested area, and
- (iv) cattle tick carriers must not be removed from feedlot pens for husbandry, drafting or loading for any longer than is necessary, and
- (v) the feedlot owner must maintain records of movements of cattle tick carriers in and out of the feedlot.

For abattoirs

- (i) Any concessional cattle are moved directly after unloading to pasture free identified yards within the abattoir and remain there until slaughtered. Concessional cattle must not be removed from the abattoir to holding paddocks or to any other locations unless by permit from an Authorised Officer.
- (ii) A buffer free area of 2 metres is kept around the designated holding yards.
- (iii) Excluding grazing cattle from any pastured areas where drains or runoff exit from designated holding yards
- (iv) Records of any concessional slaughter cattle received are kept and available for audit.

Approved agricultural shows in Queensland, competitions and horse sales

Agricultural shows, and horse competition and horse sale organisers in QLD may apply for a biosecurity permit from NSW DPI, allowing for movement of horses into NSW without requiring a Biosecurity Certificate. Persons responsible for agricultural shows, competitions or horse sales need to demonstrate that cattle tick risk management arrangements are in place, for example:

- Require all secondary carriers attending the event to be tick free before entering the event site
- Engaging an accredited biosecurity certifier to conduct a manual inspection and treatment of all primary cattle tick carriers entering the site from the infested area or a restricted property in a free area, to make sure they are tick free.
- Retain records of:
 - the all previous events (location, date)
 - the name and address of the accredited certifier performing inspections of primary cattle tick carriers
 - the species and numbers of primary cattle tick carriers inspected before entering the event site.

Event organisers seeking a biosecurity permit should complete the biosecurity permit application form available on the [NSW DPI website](#).

Moving deer

The importation of deer from infested areas presents difficulties. Some deer can be examined and spray treated but usually require special low light handling facilities. Anyone wishing to clear deer to move to NSW from an infested area, should seek advice on the construction of suitable clearance facilities.

Moving exhibited and non-domestic animals

For enquiries on moving requirements of exhibited and non-domestic animals between different tick areas, contact NSW DPI's Cattle Tick Program at Wollongbar on cattletick@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Camel, bison and water buffalo are classified as restricted non-indigenous animals in NSW, and can only be held on licensed premises in NSW. They must be individually and permanently identified. See <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nia>.

Using non-chemical treatments to reduce the risk of cattle infestation

The *Biosecurity Act* 2015 allows more than one way to achieve the outcome of preventing cattle tick entering NSW. It's possible to use management techniques to reduce the risk of introducing cattle tick on animals entering NSW. Some standard protocols are outlined in the tables above, for example for carriers moving from feedlots or to certain events.

NOTE: non-chemical ways of managing risk are referred to in DAF QLD procedures as “dealt with in a stated way”.

To obtain authorisation for a movement following a customised cattle tick risk minimisation protocol, contact NSW DPI for approval before the movement is planned.

Definitions used in this document

Term	Definition
Acaracide	A chemical which kills or sterilizes ticks
Accredited certifier	A person trained and authorised by jurisdictional legislation to issue carrier biosecurity certificates and inspect and/or treat cattle tick carriers to verify a tick free status.
Authorised officer	A person working for NSW DPI or LLS who has been authorised under the Act to carry out various functions
<i>Biosecurity Order (Permitted Activities) 2017</i> BOPA	An Order under the Biosecurity Act specifying movement requirements for entry into NSW of biosecurity matter including cattle tick.
Carrier biosecurity certificate	A certificate issued by an authorised officer or accredited biosecurity certifier attesting that prescribed treatment and inspection requirements have been undertaken in order to manage a biosecurity risk.
Clearance	The process of completing risk minimisation requirements for cattle tick when moving cattle tick carriers
Concessional cattle	Cattle moving to feedlots or to abattoirs under reduced clearance requirements because of how they have been or will be managed.
Dipping	Immersion in a plunge dip containing an approved acaricide
Feedlot	A licenced facility where intensive animal feedlotting is periodically carried out
Free area	Any part of a state or territory declared as a cattle tick free Area under state or territory biosecurity legislation
Infested Area	The area in Queensland, Northern Territory or Western Australia, that is not the cattle tick free zone
Live tick	A cattle tick showing movement or from which body fluids can be expressed
Low risk land (Qld)	Any land in an infected zone in Qld which is either pasture free or has not had any cattle graze it for the previous 12 months. If the past grazing use of the land is unknown or uncertain the land is considered high risk. Land that is completely free of pasture is not high risk even if cattle may have been placed on the land over the previous 12 months.
Low risk land (NSW)	any unrestricted land in NSW which is either pasture free or will not have cattle graze it for the next 12 months. If the future grazing use of the land is unknown or uncertain the land is considered high risk. Land that is completely free of pasture is not high risk even if cattle may be placed on the land some time in the next 12 months.
Macrocytic lactone (ML)	An acaricide based on the macrocyclic lactone chemical group e.g. moxidectin. These may be pour-on or injectable.
Manual examination	A physical examination of the exterior of a restrained animal to detect the presence of cattle tick as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – manual inspection of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.
Primary cattle tick carriers	Species on which cattle tick routinely complete their life cycle (i.e. cattle, buffalo, bison, deer)
Record of movement (ROM)	A document available on the NSW DPI website containing a declaration that the cattle tick carrier satisfies or will satisfy the conditions for importation of a cattle tick carrier.
Restricted property	A property in cattle tick free zone that is subject to a biosecurity undertaking, biosecurity direction or regulatory instrument in another State or Territory that controls or restricts the movement of animals on a property on account of cattle tick
Secondary cattle tick carriers	Species on which cattle tick occasionally complete their life cycle (e.g. horses, sheep, goats, camelids)
Spraying	Applying an acaricide by power spray in an approved manner
Supervised chemical treatment	A chemical treatment of a cattle tick carrier with an APVMA approved chemical for the control of cattle tick in accordance with all APVMA directions and label conditions, as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – chemical treatment of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.
Visual examination	A visual examination of the exterior of an animal from a maximum of 2 metres to detect the presence of cattle tick as specified in the NSW Primefact 'Cattle tick – visual inspection of cattle tick carriers' published on the Department's website.

More information

- NSW DPI tick page at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/health-and-disease/parasitic-and-protozoal-diseases/ticks>
- QLD Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Biosecurity manual and procedures at https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/379138/qld-biosecurity-manual.pdf
- For general biosecurity enquiries, phone 1800 680 244 or email animal.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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