

Livestock Management Act Changes



Fact Sheet



REASONS FOR ACT CHANGES

The changes to the Act aim to

- reduce biosecurity risks and the spread of diseases on Victorian livestock farms
- deter people from trespassing on farms with the introduction of new offences
- better enable prosecutions of trespassers and allow for the issuing of on-the-spot fines.

CHANGES IN PRACTICE ON FARM

The new laws establish a voluntary framework which requires visitors to follow prescribed biosecurity measures.

Those who fail to follow these measures can be prosecuted.

For an offence to be enforceable the following must be followed:

- A biosecurity Management plan (BMP)
- Compliant signage in place
- Visitor consent procedures (including providing written notice of consent or withdrawal of consent) are followed

The BMP coversheet template contains the mandatory content required under the new laws for an offence to be enforced. It should be added as a coversheet to any existing biosecurity plans on your property and does not replace an on-farm biosecurity plan.



BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PLANS (BMPS)

Biosecurity management plans (BMPs) contain measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of biosecurity impacts at places where livestock management activities occur.

For an offence to apply under the new laws, a BMP coversheet must be in place that includes the following:

- A clear title: including the words 'BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN' and the address of the premises to which it applies.
- Contact information: the name and contact details of the nominated person(s).
- Area description: a description, map or plan of the whole or specified part of the premises to which the BMP applies, that accurately describes the boundaries of the premises.
- Preparation details: additional details including the day that the BMP comes into operation and the name of the person who prepared the BMP.

A BMP can apply to the whole property, span across multiple properties or only apply to a specific part of the property.

A property may have a single BMP which applies to the whole area/property, or have multiple BMPs each applying to different areas within the same property (eg. one for Sheep feedlot and one for grazing pastures).

As part of the BMP, you must specify where the BMP applies by either using a hand-drawn map, photograph or electronic image showing vehicular and pedestrian access points (example of a map is shown on the right).

BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

[INSERT PROPERTY ADDRESS HERE (MANDATORY)]

This Biosecurity Management Plan is developed in accordance with the *Livestock Management Act 2017* (the Act) and the *Livestock Management Regulations 2021*. Failure to comply with the prescribed biosecurity measures may be an offence under the Act.
A visitor must contact the nominated person before entering to discuss their obligations.

Property Name:	(insert name of property)
Property Identification Code (PIC):	(insert PIC)
Nominated person/s contact details: (mandatory)	(insert nominated person/s name, phone number &/or email)
Livestock manager/s contact details: (owner &/or manager &/or agent)	(insert livestock manager/s name, phone number &/or email &/or address)
If additional livestock managers associated with BMP, list contact details:	(insert name, phone number &/or email &/or address of additional livestock managers associated with BMP)
Date that BMP comes into operation: (mandatory)	(insert date [DD/MM/YYYY])
Review date: (recommended every 12 months)	(insert date [DD/MM/YYYY])
BMP completed by: (mandatory)	(insert name and signature of person who prepared BMP)
Local Animal Health Officer (Agriculture Victoria):	(insert name & phone number &/or email of local Animal Health Officer)
Veterinarian: (Signature required for certain quality assurance & accreditation programs)	(insert name & phone number &/or email +/; signature (if required) of veterinarian)
Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Hotline:	1800 675 888 000 [Emergency]
Victoria Police:	131 444 [Assistance]

BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT AREA/S

Instruction: Draw a diagram of the property (or insert a map, photo or plan) (mandatory). Clearly outline the boundaries of and identify all access points (main vehicle access points, or all pedestrian access points if not possible) to the biosecurity management area/s.

Boundaries of biosecurity management area/s identified by: (e.g. dotted line, coloured line)	(insert description of boundaries of biosecurity management area/s & related symbols [e.g. dotted line, coloured line])
Access points to biosecurity management area/s identified by: (e.g. cross, circle)	(insert description of access points to biosecurity management area/s & related symbols [e.g. cross, circle])

BIOSECURITY SIGNAGE

To ensure all potential visitors are aware of the law and their obligations, signs must be placed in clear view at all vehicle access points to the area outlined in the BMP. Where there are no vehicular access points, signs are to be placed at all pedestrian access points.

Under the new laws, biosecurity signs must contain the following:

- The word 'STOP' or 'VISITORS'
- A reference to the 'Livestock Management Regulations 2021'
- A statement that not following the prescribed biosecurity measures is an offence
- A summary of any prescribed biosecurity measures that apply to the premises (or the specified part of the premises)
- The method of contacting a nominated person (e.g. phone number, email, QR code) for a visitor to obtain consent for a prescribed biosecurity measure

STOP

DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT CONSENT

Vehicles, people and equipment may carry weed seeds, pests and diseases.

Biosecurity measures apply under the Livestock Management Regulations 2021

It is an offence to contravene a prescribed biosecurity measure.

Visitors must gain consent to enter or remain in, and interfere with or disturb any livestock or thing on, the premises.

To discuss your obligations, please contact the nominated person.

[INSERT NAME (optional)]

[INSERT PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL and/or QR CODE (mandatory)]

[INSERT CONTACT HOURS (optional)]

This sign must not be defaced, damaged or removed.

VISITORS

DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT CONSENT

Vehicles, people and equipment may carry weed seeds, pests and diseases.


Biosecurity measures apply under the Livestock Management Regulations 2021

It is an offence to contravene a prescribed biosecurity measure.

Visitors must gain consent to enter or remain in, and interfere with or disturb any livestock or thing on, the premises.

To discuss your obligations, please contact the nominated person.

Please scan the QR code to request consent


Insert QR Code Here

This sign must not be defaced, damaged or removed.

Biosecurity signs do not need to include the name of the nominated person. However, you must ensure that the contact details of the nominated person remain up-to-date (for example, if the nominated person leaves employment).

The AgVIC website lists 12 template designs available for download including those with QR codes which can be scanned to request consent from the property manager.

Alternatively, you can adapt your current biosecurity signs to include the required information via the application of a robust (e.g. vinyl) sticker.

All biosecurity signs must be at least 290mm × 385mm in size and constructed of sturdy, weather-resistant material, with words that are legible and contrast with any background colour (for example, black text on a white background).



CONSENT FORM

As part of the framework, a visitor must seek consent from a nominated person prior to entering and remaining on a livestock premises. Visitor consent procedures must be followed for the new offence laws and penalties to apply.

ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS

If Livestock managers are concerned that a person is breaching or has breached the biosecurity measures in place, the following reporting options are available depending on level of threat:

- Victoria Police on 000
- Victoria Police via the Police Assistance Line on 131 444
- Agriculture Victoria on 1300 502 656 (during business hours)
- Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 (after business hours)

PENALTIES FOR OFFENDERS

The penalties for non-compliance with prescribed biosecurity measures include:

On-the-spot fine (infringement offence):

- For an individual, equivalent to \$1,294 (in 2022–2023)
- For an organisation, equivalent to \$8,321 (in 2022–2023)

For more serious offending where prosecution is undertaken, and it proceeds to the Magistrates' Court for determination:

- For an individual, up to \$11,095 (in 2022–2023)
- For an organisation, up to \$55,476 (in 2022–2023)

Other offences include:

- Damaging or defacing a biosecurity sign
- Providing false or misleading information to a nominated person when requesting consent
- Not complying with an inspector's request to view a notice of consent

VISITOR CONSENT FORM

Prescribed biosecurity measures apply under the *Livestock Management Act 2010* to the area specified in the Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP).

This confirms that consent to:

- enter or remain on the premises (whole or specified part)
- interfere with or disturb livestock at the premises (whole or specified part)

Additional details (if applicable):

(Enter text here - e.g. details of purpose and/or conditions of consent)

has been given by:

(Name of nominated person)

to the following person:

(Name of visitor)

on the following dates and times:

(Enter date/s and time/s that the consent applies)

at the following areas (if applicable):

(A map of the area may also be provided)

(Enter description of area that consent applies +/- attach map of area)

Date of issue (DD/MM/YYYY): (Enter date here)

A record of this consent must be kept with you at all times and retained for a period of at least 28 days following approval. Consent may be withdrawn by the nominated person at any time.

THIS FORM IS TO BE KEPT WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN THE AREA TO WHICH A BMP APPLIES



FURTHER LINKS

AGVIC - Changes to the Livestock Management Act 2010

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/livestock-health-and-welfare/about-the-livestock-management-act/changes-to-the-livestock-management-act-2010#h2-3>

AGVIC - Livestock Management Act frequently asked questions

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/livestock-health-and-welfare/about-the-livestock-management-act/livestock-management-act-frequently-asked-questions>

AGVIC - Farm biosecurity planning and template

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/biosecurity-planning-and-templates>

Animal Health Australia - Better On-farm Security

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/better-on-farm-biosecurity/>

For further information, please contact the VFF Livestock Group on 1300 882 833 or by email stocksense@vff.org.au

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