# Livestock Management Act Changes

stock sense

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)**

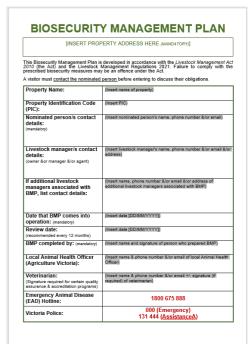
Biosecurity management plans (BMPs) contain measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of biosecurity impacts at places where livestock management activities occur.

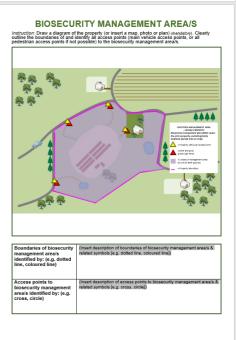
For an offence to apply under the new laws, a BMP coversheet must be in place that includes the following:

- 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 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.



# **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.



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).



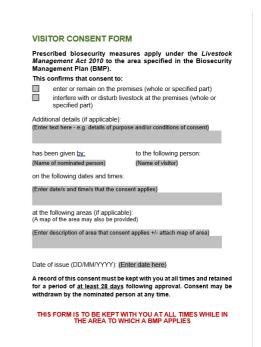
#### **CONSENT FORM**

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)



#### PENTALTIES 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



#### **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 <a href="mailto:stocksense@vff.org.au">stocksense@vff.org.au</a>

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