

Ovine Johne's disease (OJD) Regional Biosecurity Plans

Audit Checklist

Objective:

To provide a framework for Regional Biosecurity Areas (RBA) to assess and demonstrate conformance with mutually-agreed standards of OJD risk management.

Regional Biosecurity Plans have documented the agreed actions of the farmers/producers/growers in a geographic region to achieve and maintain protection against spread of OJD into and within their RBA. They outline measures like conditions on sheep movements into the area and response to disease detection.

Standard 1	There are established and documented arrangements between key RBA stakeholders (such as formal regional industry-government partnership) to provide the framework necessary for industry to successfully manage the regional biosecurity plan.
Guidelines	<p>A formal regional biosecurity group (ideally with input from industry and government) is established. Regional biosecurity groups will be an aggregation of producers from a defined geographical region who are committed to working together to prevent introduction and spread of OJD (and potentially other conditions).</p> <p>A group name and a coordinator or chairperson should be nominated. A set of clear business/operating rules for the group which aims to reduce the risk of personal conflict within the group (review these at least annually) should be developed.</p> <p>An RBP is written and agreed, and which specifies responsibilities for each member of the group and identifies the activities required to implement and maintain an RBP.</p>

	<p>The RBP should outline clear strategies for preventing the entry of OJD into the RBA and for responding to suspected or confirmed OJD infection, including processes for identifying, notifying and managing potential spread for high risk neighbours and traces.</p> <p>A copy of the RBP (and business rules) should be distributed to all flock-owners within the group.</p>
<p>RBP provision(s)</p>	<p>The South Australian Ovine Johne’s Disease Regional Biosecurity Group was established in 2012 and has continued to operate under the guidance of the SA OJD Control Program. The SA OJD Control Program is a fully industry funded program that operates under the combined resources of Biosecurity SA and the South Australian Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG). The South Australian Ovine Johne’s Disease Regional Biosecurity Group consists of an aggregation of all sheep producers in the State of South Australia. These producers are committed to working together to prevent the introduction of OJD into the SA Regional Biosecurity Plan Area and its subsequent spread.</p>
<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>The OJD Regional Biosecurity Plan Business Rules for South Australia were developed and formally recognised at a meeting of SASAG on Friday December 7th 2012.</p> <p>Appendix A contains a copy of the OJD Regional Biosecurity Plan Business Rules for South Australia. Appendix B contains a copy of the South Australian RBP.</p> <p>A copy of the OJD Regional Biosecurity Plan Business Rules for South Australia and the South Australian RBP is available for all producers to access on the PIRSA website.</p>

Standard 2	Commitment from producers and other industry stakeholders (eg, agents, saleyards) within the RBA to protect the disease status of the region is demonstrated.
Guidelines	<p>There should be evidence of ongoing support from producers within RBA that they are committed to protecting and maintaining the OJD status of the region.</p> <p>All producers in the RBA should have received a copy of the RBP, and understand their contributions to the plan, including conformance with the provisions of the plan.</p> <p>Results of polling of producers or other forms of feedback, and audits of conformance with conditions in the plan may provide evidence of support.</p>
RBP provision(s)	<p>The South Australian Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG) has provided its support for the whole of South Australia to progress to an OJD Regional Biosecurity Plan Area. It is envisaged that the existing SA OJD Control Program will continue with its management of OJD in SA.</p> <p>SASAG is a 10 member consultative forum created to interface between the sheep industry and government. It consists of ten members who are appointed by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Six members are selected from the following regions of South Australia: the pastoral zone, the commercial wool-growing sector, high rainfall zone, cereal zone and prime lamb production. One member is nominated by the primary producer's body, Livestock SA. One member is nominated by Merino SA. A further member is nominated by the Sheep-meat breed organization. The remaining member represents the Minister.</p>

	<p>In addition, SASAG is briefed upon matters pertinent to OJD by its technical subcommittee known as the SA OJD Committee. The Committee consists of 10 members, with sheep representatives from Eyre Peninsula, the Mid North, Kangaroo Island and the South East. In addition, there are representatives from the Rural Veterinary Practitioners Branch of the Australian Veterinary Association, the Southern Branch of the Australian Livestock Property Agents Association (ALPA), Livestock SA, the SA Sheep Advisory Group and 2 members from Biosecurity SA – Animal Health. This committee is also assisted by a Livestock Advisory Group’s Executive Officer.</p> <p>Regional committees have been created in the South East, Kangaroo Island and Mid North in order to deal with any anxiety and stigma that may arise from the detection of OJD. These committees have consisted of a mix of sheep producers and Biosecurity SA – Animal Health staff and have been chaired by a sheep producer.</p> <p>Any resources necessary for the running of ‘South Australian Ovine Johne’s Disease Group’ will be incorporated into the annual budget of the SA OJD Control program.</p>
Actions and outcomes to comply with standard	<p>In South Australia a three tiered structure exists that is tasked with ensuring that the disease status of the region is adequately controlled. As outlined above the tiers consist of the governing body SASAG, its technical subcommittee the SA OJD Committee and the respective regional committees. These tiers all work in a harmonious way with Biosecurity SA – Animal Health staff.</p>

Standard 3	Members of the RBP have a property biosecurity plan in place.
Guidelines	<p>Property biosecurity plans are implemented by all members of the regional biosecurity group to under-pin the RBPs.</p> <p>The <i>National Farm Biosecurity Reference Manual for Grazing Livestock Production</i> is available at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au . It is the reference document for use in developing a property livestock biosecurity plan.</p> <p>Each production system has a different range of biosecurity threats, challenges and operating environments, which must be addressed with relevant approaches based on the principles identified in the manual.</p> <p>Example of responsibilities for each producer may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and implement a property biosecurity plan ▪ Comply with the RBP specifications, especially for introduction of livestock ▪ Maintain records (NLIS, NVD and Sheep Health Statements) of any stock movements ▪ Meet the annual audit requirements ▪ Regularly monitor their sheep for signs of disease, investigate ill-health and report notifiable diseases <p>In the case of suspected or confirmed OJD, develop a Property Disease Management Plan with animal health staff and carry out management practices under the Plan, covering costs as necessary.</p>
RBP provision(s)	In SA there is a jurisdictional Regional Biosecurity Plan and this covers all sheep producers in SA. The SA OJD Control Program is actively involved in state-wide surveillance and monitoring for the early detection of OJD incursions in flocks.

<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>Producers are encouraged to develop and implement a property disease biosecurity plan.</p> <p>All producers are required to comply with the SA's RBP specifications and adhere to the minimum entry requirements for sheep entering SA's RBP.</p> <p>Individual SA sheep producers are expected to retain records of NLIS, NVDs and Sheep Health Statements for all stock movements for seven years.</p> <p>It is mandatory in SA that producers regularly monitor their sheep for signs of disease, investigate ill-health and report notifiable diseases.</p> <p>In the case of a sheep flock suspected or confirmed Infected with OJD, Biosecurity SA – Animal Health staff and producer develops a Property Disease Management Plan. The PDMP is issued as an attachment to a quarantine Order. Completing a PDMP ensures the producer carries out management practices under the Plan. Some of these properties may decide to depopulate their properties, in which they enter a Property Disease Eradication Plan (PDEP). Refer to section 4 of the Business Plan for examples of a PDMP and a PDEP.</p>
<p>Standard 4</p>	<p>Surveillance is undertaken to provide confidence in disease prevalence and for early disease detection.</p>
<p>Guidelines</p>	<p>Surveillance is undertaken by all members of the group to maintain the regional status and to ensure early detection.</p> <p>The group, in consultation with their technical adviser(s), determines appropriate surveillance and monitoring strategies,</p>

	<p>including methods, frequency and reporting/documentation requirements.</p> <p>Surveillance and monitoring may be by on-farm screening and/or by use of abattoir monitoring. Strategic use of abattoir monitoring may be enhanced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determining the target regional prevalence that the group wishes to maintain ▪ Determining the percentage of flocks that should be monitored through abattoir monitoring or on-farm testing within a 2-year period ▪ Testing sufficient lines of sheep via abattoir monitoring or on-farm flock testing to be able to calculate the regional disease prevalence estimates ▪ Accessing abattoir surveillance monitoring reports ▪ Estimating and reporting prevalence for the group based on objective data. <p>Positive detections of disease are dealt with as agreed in the plan</p> <p>Cases of unexplained ill-thrift, wasting and death in adult sheep should be investigated to rule out OJD.</p>
<p>RBP provision(s)</p>	<p>As part of the SA OJD Control Program, there has been an abattoir monitoring program that has been actively engaged in the detection of sheep suspected of being infected with OJD. This monitoring program operates at the 2 Thomas Food International (TFI) abattoir plants in SA. In addition, six abattoir plants in Western Victoria have monitored for OJD – a weekly timetable of abattoirs to be inspected is notified to the SA Manager of the SA OJD Control Program. The six abattoir sites in Victoria are located at Ararat, Stawell, Geelong, Keyneton, Brooklyn and Warrnambool.</p> <p>A recently introduced initiative at the TFI abattoir plants involves the matching of the NLIS ear-tag carried by the sheep with</p>

	<p>any suspicious gastrointestinal lesions found in that animal. This will greatly enhance the ability to trace back to the original owner in the case of non-vendor bred sheep.</p>
<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>Surveillance is undertaken by everyone involved in the Regional Biosecurity Group including sheep producers, livestock agents, Animal Health personnel, abattoir operators and private veterinarians to ensure the regional low OJD prevalence is maintained and to ensure early detection of the disease.</p> <p>Appropriate surveillance and monitoring strategies are in place with monitoring at the two TFI abattoir sites. At these locations inspection for OJD is carried out on all consignments of adult sheep (that is, two years or older) regardless of line size. Monitoring reports from these abattoirs are sent to the Animal Health Advisor located at Murray Bridge on a daily basis.</p> <p>OJD surveillance can be arranged by SA Animal Health staff for SA producers sending their sheep to Victorian abattoirs.</p> <p>Surveillance also takes place through tracing sheep movements to and from newly detected OJD infected properties as well as testing of other “at-risk” properties such as the direct neighbours of newly detected OJD infected properties.</p> <p>In addition, all sheep properties which may be suspected of being infected with OJD as a result of private veterinary practitioner activity are also investigated.</p> <p>All results of OJD testing are reported to the OJD project manager.</p> <p>Since the commencement of the SA Regional Biosecurity Group on 1st July 2013 1,492,239 sheep from 3,418 SA PIC’s have been inspected at the two SA TFI abattoirs.</p> <p>The SA OJD Control Program has an extremely rigorous abattoir monitoring program for OJD.</p> <p>Should a positive OJD detection be reported from abattoir monitoring, the following procedures occur: The abattoir samples</p>

	<p>collected after a positive inspection are forwarded to VETLAB for histopathological examination along with their associated National Vendor Declaration. The sheep's owner is then contacted to arrange flock profile testing.</p> <p>Any flock investigations in which there are significant number of ill-thrifty sheep can be subjected to faecal testing. The testing is carried out as part of the SA OJD Control Program. The faecal sample collection is carried out by Biosecurity SA authorised private veterinary surgeons or by Animal Health staff personnel from Biosecurity SA.</p> <p>Biosecurity SA holds and maintains all records of testing.</p>
Standard 5	<p>Sheep entering the RBA meet the agreed minimum standards of assurance against OJD risk.</p>
Guidelines	<p>All sheep movements into the RBA should be accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and a Sheep Health Statement (SHS).</p> <p>All SHSs for sheep entering the RBA should show that the entries conform to the agreed minimum standards of assurance against OJD.</p> <p>The agreed minimum standards of assurance against OJD risk for sheep entering the RBA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adult sheep and lambs from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another OJD RBA (other than from infected or suspect flocks); • SheepMAP flocks; • Flocks that have had a negative PFC 350 or Abattoir 500 test within the preceding two years and the flock is a closed flock (no introduced sheep, including rams);

- Flocks that have had a negative PFC 350 or Abattoir 500 test within the last two years and all sheep introduced¹ within the preceding 5 years were from;
 - Flocks located in the OJD Protected Area; OR
 - SheepMAP flocks OR
 - (prior to 11 January 2013) flocks that met the requirements for moving into SA (except KI) and NSW Exclusion Areas (i.e. ABC Score 4 or higher under the superseded ABC scheme), OR
 - (after January 2013) flocks that had a negative test
- An OJD RBA flock, and have attended a show or breeding centre at which they have been housed, fed and watered separately from all other stock, and are returning direct to a RBA within 14 days.
- Other than a RBA to attend a show or breeding centre at which they will be housed, fed and watered separately from all other stock, and will be returning directly out of the RBA within 14 days.
- Terminal T-tag lambs (A)
 - Terminal lambs identified with an approved NLIS T Tag may be moved/traded into any flock. Terminal lambs must be slaughtered before cutting adult teeth.
 - Where terminal lambs have been introduced to a flock and are removed before cutting any adult teeth the flock's status remains unchanged.

Conformance with the entry standards is monitored.

High-risk entries are identified, and owners notified of agreed standards, potential consequences, and options to mitigate risk of establishment of OJD.

RBP
provision(s)

The National Sheep Health Statement is mandatory for all sheep transactions into and within South Australia excluding sheep sent direct to slaughter.

The minimum entry requirements for sheep entering South Australia's RBP are as follows and the SHS of sheep entering SA's RBP must indicate that sheep meet these requirements. The only exception is sheep going direct to slaughter.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEP ENTERING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

All sheep introduced from interstate must be accompanied by a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and a National Sheep Health Statement* (NSHS) **other than those moving direct to slaughter**. If sheep are purchased from an interstate location by means of an on-line facility such as Auctions Plus, a period of **ten working days** will apply for the provision of the NSHS.

1. Adult sheep and lambs (other than Terminal 'T' tag lambs)

Adult sheep and lambs (other than Terminal 'T' tag lambs) that are derived from a property with an Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) status of Infected or Suspect are not eligible for entry into SA (unless they are destined direct for slaughter). Resolution of Infected or Suspect status must in accordance with current version of the Standard Definitions Rules and Guidelines for the management of OJD in Sheep and Goats.

For adult sheep and lambs (other than Terminal 'T' tag lambs) to be eligible for entry, **at least one of the following conditions** must be met;

1 (a) The sheep destined for entry must come from a flock participating in a Regional Biosecurity Plan Area approved by SA's Chief Inspector of Stock (CIS); **OR**

1 (b) The sheep destined for entry must come from a SheepMAP accredited flock; **OR**

1 (c) The sheep destined for entry must come from a flock(s) that has had a negative faecal test (either a Pooled Faecal Culture (PFC) 350 or High Throughput Johne's (HT-J) 350 or for small flocks all sheep over 2 years of age have been tested) or Abattoir 500 test within the last two years and the flock is a closed flock (no introduced sheep, including rams); **OR**

1 (d) The sheep destined for entry must come from a flock(s) that have had a **negative faecal test** (either a PFC 350 or High Throughput Johne's (HT-J) 350 or for small flocks all sheep over 2 years of age have been tested) or Abattoir 500 test within the last two years **and** all sheep **introduced** within the preceding 5 years were from:

- Flocks participating in a Regional Biosecurity Plan Area approved by the CIS; **OR**
- A SheepMAP accredited flock; **OR**
- Flocks that had a negative faecal test (either a PFC 350 or HT-J 350 or for small flocks all sheep over 2 years of age have been tested) or Abattoir 500 testing within the last two years.

2. Adult sheep and lambs attending shows or breeding centres

Sheep from an area without a South Australian CIS approved RBP may enter to attend a show or breeding centre but **MUST** be housed, fed and watered separately from all other stock at the show/breeding centre (movement tests may apply).

These animals **MUST** return direct to their source property or be sold to a non-South Australian flock. These animals can only be sold to a South Australian flock with prior CIS approval.

3. Terminal 'T' tag lambs.

	<p>Terminal 'T' tag lambs (identified by a NLIS 'T' tag) may enter South Australia for fattening.</p> <p>Terminal 'T' tag lambs MUST either be sold for slaughter before they cut their first permanent teeth or sold to a feedlot or property approved by the CIS (under Order for the control of OJD).</p> <p>4. CIS approved and accredited sale yards and selling facilities.</p> <p>The SA CIS approved and accredited sale yards and selling facilities will continue to operate in SA for slaughter livestock or breeding animals returning interstate (i.e. ineligible for entry to SA properties).</p> <p>There are 7 such facilities in SA and three more in Victoria. They are: in SA - Tatiara Council Bordertown Saleyards; Keith & District Saleyards; Loxton & District Saleyards; Mount Gambier & District Stock Saleyards; Naracoorte Regional Livestock Exchange; Pinnaroo Saleyards and The Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of SA Selling Facility: and in Victoria – Swan Hill Regional Livestock Exchange, Wycheproof Saleyards and Yelta Saleyards.</p>
<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>Conformance with the entry standards are monitored by Animal Health Advisors at SA saleyard facilities through checking all sheep are accompanied by a NVD and a SHS. Consignments of sheep not accompanied by a SHS are only allowed to be sold direct for slaughter and the producer may attract an expiation fine of \$315. Sheep that do not reach the minimum entry requirements for SA are placarded as not for retention in SA. Lambs that meet the T-tag requirement are placarded as not to be retained as hoggets in SA.</p> <p>Individual SA sheep producers are expected to retain copies of the NVDs and Sheep Health Statements for seven years.</p>

	<p>If sheep enter SA and have not met the entry requirements outlined above, they are considered as high-risk introductions. The acquisition property and all of the sheep on it will most likely be subject to quarantine and movement restrictions. Testing of the imported sheep will be undertaken as soon as is practical. A Property Disease Management Plan will be created.</p>
<p>Standard 6</p>	<p>Technical assistance is provided to suspect and infected flocks</p>
<p>Guidelines</p>	<p>Technical assistance is available and is provided to suspect and infected flocks.</p> <p>Owners of suspect or infected flocks are referred to one or more veterinary adviser(s) (either government or MAP-approved private practitioners) who are familiar with the group’s RBP and the epidemiology of the disease(s) being covered.</p> <p>Examples of the roles of the technical advisors could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understand the RBP aims, objectives and specifications ▪ Comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations ▪ Provide advice to help producers develop their understanding of OJD, risks involved, management and control ▪ Assist with the development of a Property Disease Management Plan ▪ Assist with the investigation and testing of suspect and infected flocks and individual sheep such as high-risk introductions ▪ Assist with the implementation of agreed surveillance and monitoring activities ▪ Conduct risk assessments with individual producers ▪ Assist to identify and notify tracing backward and forward of animal movements and high-risk neighbours if required. This is most efficiently be done by tracing movements through the NLIS database, some of which (property identification) is a government role. ▪ Report to the group as required.

RBP provision(s)	<p>In SA the SA OJD Control Program which is funded by the Sheep Industry Fund provides assistance to any OJD Suspect or OJD Infected flock.</p>
Actions and outcomes to comply with standard	<p>The Animal Health group has multiple OJD technical advisors available to assist producers with suspected or infected OJD flocks. The role of these technical advisors is to help the producer understand the RBP aims, objectives and specifications in order for them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations. They also provide advice to help producers develop their understanding of OJD, risks involved, management and control. Producers with suspect or infected flocks are also given assistance to development of a Property Disease Management Plan (PDMP) or a Property Disease Eradication Plan (PDEP). An example of a PDMP and a PDEP can be found in Section 4.7 of the Business Rules. In SA OJD Suspect and OJD Infected properties are subject to quarantine order.</p> <p>Producers with suspect or infected flocks are assisted with the investigation and testing these flocks and individual sheep. Their government technical advisor helps them determine what animals require testing. All veterinary and laboratory costs are paid for by the SA OJD Control program. Through completing a PDMP or PDEP with their government technical advisor producers are assisted in implementing agreed surveillance and monitoring activities and conduct individual risk assessments. Government technical advisors also identify, notify and ensure testing is completed of forward and backward animal movement traces and high-risk neighbours where required. This testing is paid for by the SA OJD Control Program. Infected, suspected and at-risk producers are also entitled to Gudair vaccine subsidised by the SA OJD Control Program.</p>

Standard 7	Suspect cases are investigated.
Guidelines	Any suspect case is investigated by the nominated technical advisor in accordance with the SDRGs.
RBP provision(s)	In SA the SA OJD Control Program which is funded by the Sheep Industry Fund provides assistance to any OJD Suspect flock.
Actions and outcomes to comply with standard	<p>In SA all OJD detections are investigated as part of the SA OJD Control Program. These investigations may include positive abattoir detections, trace forward and trace back from confirmed OJD infected properties or private veterinarian diagnostics. Investigations involve on-farm faecal testing for confirmation of OJD infection and to quantify the extent of infection. If OJD infection is confirmed, the property will be under order restrictions.</p> <p>Section 4 of the Business Rules describes the strategy for dealing with suspect cases of OJD.</p> <p>All test results are recorded on the Primary Industries Information Management System and also retained in the relevant PIRSA office filing systems.</p>
Standard 8	Effective control/eradication programs are implemented on infected properties
Guidelines	In consultation with the nominated technical advisor, owners of all infected or suspect flocks develop and implement a Property Disease Management Plan. The plan should consider identification of high- and low-risk mobs, testing and/or

	<p>culling, vaccination, flock and pasture management, destocking to minimise within-flock spread, reduction of clinical impacts, progression towards eradication, and prevention of spread to neighbours and trading partners.</p> <p>A risk assessment of shared facilities, waterways and flood zones is carried out.</p> <p>Immediate neighbours of the infected property should be notified of the confirmed infection and encouraged to check boundary fences and review straying history.</p> <p>The response to detected infection should also include identification and notification to traceforward and high-risk traceback properties to enable those owners to manage OJD risk with new information.</p> <p>All individual producers of the RBA should ensure that their biosecurity procedures are reviewed and implemented.</p>
<p>RBP provision(s)</p>	<p>Again in SA the SA OJD Control Program which is funded by the Sheep Industry Fund is responsible for ensuring that effective control/eradication programs are implemented on infected properties.</p>
<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>In consultation with an Animal Health technical advisor, owners of infected or suspect flocks develop a Property Disease Management Plan (PDMP) or a Property Disease Eradication Plan (PDEP). Both plans document the proposed steps to be undertaken to control the disease. The PDMP includes identification of high- and low-risk mobs, testing and/or culling, prolonged vaccination programs using the Gudair vaccine flock and pasture management. The PDEP involves voluntary destocking. This plans aim to reduce clinical impacts, progression towards eradication, and prevention of spread to neighbours and trading partners.</p> <p>Properties in which OJD is confirmed are then subject to quarantine. This restricts the spread of the disease to other properties via sales of infected animals. Sheep from infected properties can only be sold direct to slaughter.</p>

	<p>Flocks that are infected with OJD are no longer considered to be infected when the whole flock consists of Approved Vaccinates and has undertaken a Pooled Faecal 350 test with negative results, at a minimum of 2 years after the last known detected infected animal has been removed. Alternatively in the case of a voluntary whole property destock, properties are no longer considered to be infected with OJD once a destocking/decontamination program approved by the Chief Veterinary Officer has been completed.</p> <p>Neighbouring properties and those that share facilities, waterways and flood zones to an infected or suspected OJD property are notified of the confirmed infection and required to undergo faecal testing to ensure the disease has not spread locally via strays and water movements. These properties are classified as at-risk and recommended to form a PDMP 'at-risk', check boundary fences, review straying history and vaccinate. These properties are also eligible for subsidised vaccine.</p> <p>Following a positive OJD detection, identification and notification is made to traceforward and high-risk traceback properties. These trace properties are classified as "at-risk" and are required to undergo faecal testing. At-risk properties are encouraged to form an 'at-risk' PDMP, maintain their whole of farm biosecurity and vaccinate with Gudair vaccine. Trace properties are eligible for subsidised vaccine.</p>
<p>Standard 9</p>	<p>High-risk neighbouring flocks are investigated.</p>
<p>Guidelines</p>	<p>High risk neighbouring flocks are investigated by the nominated technical advisor.</p> <p>The objectives of these investigations are to determine whether the infection has spread and to minimise the potential for further spread. Depending on the level of risk, management and monitoring procedures may be put in place to minimise risk</p>

	<p>of infection and to facilitate early detection.</p> <p>A risk assessment of shared facilities, waterways and flood zones is carried out.</p> <p>Boundary fences are checked and maintained to keep them in a condition that prevents neighbouring sheep straying between properties.</p> <p>Strategies such as ring vaccination may be considered.</p>
<p>RBP provision(s)</p>	<p>The SA OJD Control Program which is funded by the Sheep Industry Fund is responsible for ensuring that all high-risk neighbours are fully investigated. A risk assessment is conducted on all neighbouring properties to determine whether a neighbouring property is classified as a high-risk or not.</p>
<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>In SA high risk neighbours of an OJD Suspect and OJD Infected property are investigated. Direct neighbours to an infected property or ones that share facilities, waterways and flood zones are all classified as at-risk.</p> <p>At-risk neighbouring properties must undergo faecal testing.</p> <p>In the making of a PDMP or PDEP for infected or suspect properties or in the instance of 'at-risk' properties, a PDMP 'at-risk' is created. The plan includes the inspection of all boundary fences. Any unsatisfactory boundary fences are advised to be repaired.</p> <p>'At-risk' properties, even in the event of returning a negative result for OJD flock profile testing, are recommended to develop, with the help of an Animal Health technical advisor, a Property Disease Management Plan - Vaccination 'at-risk'. They are eligible for subsidised Gudair vaccine. The subsidy for an 'at-risk' property is a 100% subsidy for a year. The logic of this that</p>

	<p>all sheep will receive immunization within this year.</p> <p>An example of a SA PDMP – ‘at-risk’ template can be seen in Objective 8 of the Regional Biosecurity Plan for South Australia.</p>
Standard 10	Tracing of high-risk traceforward and traceback movements is conducted.
Guidelines	<p>High risk movements backward and forward are traced to determine whether the infection has spread and minimise the potential for spread.</p> <p>The objectives of these investigations are to determine whether the infection has spread and to minimise the potential for further spread. Depending on the level of risk, management and monitoring procedures may be put in place to minimise risk of infection and to facilitate early detection.</p> <p>Owners of infected flocks should identify and notify owners of flocks to which they have sold at-risk animals or from which they have introduced high-risk animals.</p> <p>Owners and advisors may need to seek government assistance in using NLIS to identify movement details.</p>
RBP provision(s)	The SA OJD Control Program which is funded by the Sheep Industry Fund is responsible for ensuring that all high-risk traceforward and traceback movements are fully investigated.
Actions and outcomes to	All Suspect or OJD Infected properties undergo investigation of all traceforward and traceback movements to determine if the infection has spread and minimise the potential for spread.

<p>comply with standard</p>	<p>Depending on the level of risk, trace properties may then undergo investigation through faecal testing.</p> <p>With the assistance of owners of infected flocks, Animal Health personnel identify and notify owners of flocks found to be at-risk through tracing.</p> <p>Animal Health staff personnel have the ability to use the NLIS data base to identify movement details.</p>
<p>Standard 11</p>	<p>A Sheep Health Statement is obtained for all sheep movements into the RBA.</p>
<p>Guidelines</p>	<p>A SHS is used for all movements of sheep, purchased or on agistment, into the area.</p> <p>A SHS is also encouraged for all movements of sheep, purchased or on agistment, within the area.</p> <p>Only sheep that come with a signed SHS which meet the minimum entry standards should be introduced into the RBP. Introductions of stock which are higher than the minimum entry requirements are encouraged.</p> <p>A SHS should always be provided when selling sheep not for slaughter.</p> <p>Records should be securely and retrievably retained for at least seven years.</p>
<p>RBP provision(s)</p>	<p>All sheep introduced from interstate must be accompanied by a National Sheep Health Statement (NSHS) other than those moving direct to slaughter. If sheep are purchased from an interstate location by means of an on-line facility such as Auctions Plus, a period of ten working days will apply for the provision of the NSHS.</p>

<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>A National Sheep Health Statement (NSHS) is required for all sheep movements within SA. This is monitored at livestock markets across SA by the attending Animal Health staff.</p> <p>Individual SA sheep producers are expected to retain copies of the NVDs and NSHS for seven years.</p>
<p>Standard 12</p>	<p>Technical information and operational aspects of the RBP are actively communicated to producers, agents and advisers</p>
<p>Guidelines</p>	<p>Key aspects of the plan that need to be communicated to ensure producers are aware of their obligations are identified.</p> <p>A strategy to communicate these key messages is developed and implemented.</p> <p>The group should consider whether signs into the area are required.</p> <p>The group should also determine opportunities for the area that may provide trading advantages for them.</p> <p>All flock owners in the group should be provided with a copy of the RBP and business rules.</p>
<p>RBP provision(s)</p>	<p>To allow for effective communication of the SA RBP the SA OJD Control Program ran a series of road shows throughout SA at 12 different locations during June, July and August 2013. The road shows were presented by a previous manager of the SA OJD Control Program, Dr Jack Reddin.</p> <p>Continual support to producers, agents and external advisers is provided.</p>

<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>The key messages delivered at the SA OJD Control Program Road Shows were the economic effects of the introduction of OJD into a naïve flock. They also conveyed the current prevalence of OJD in SA, the safeguards available to deal with an incursion of OJD in the flocks in SA and the entry requirements for sheep originating from other areas in Australia.</p> <p>All spheres of the rural communities including, sheep producers, livestock agents and rural press were invited to attend the road shows.</p> <p>Implementing the RBP has provided SA producers with trading advantages by allowing greater market access and increasing value of animals.</p> <p>Animal Health staff is continuously providing ongoing support to producers, agents and external advisers.</p>
<p>Standard 13</p>	<p>Compliance is audited and performance is reported at an agreed frequency.</p>
<p>Guidelines</p>	<p>Compliance with the RBP should be audited annually and performance of the group is reported to relevant personnel, which may include the state CVO and other RBAs.</p> <p>Auditing may be conducted internally, but for a higher level of transparency should be conducted by an independent auditor.</p> <p>The audit should determine whether the group adequately meets the criteria set out in the RBP. Non-compliances with the RBP should be identified as minor, major or critical. Outcomes of the audit including any corrective actions should be implemented according to the level of risk that they impose; critical non-compliances must be corrected immediately.</p> <p>The group should meet to prepare for the RBP audit and to review the RBP. The Plan should be assessed for its level of</p>

	<p>support by the producers, the effectiveness of the plan, benefits and costs, both past and future.</p> <p>Annual reporting should include the numbers of flocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infected at the start and end of each reporting year ▪ Detected with infection during each year ▪ Resolved from Infected status during each year.
<p>RBP provision(s)</p>	<p>At this time, auditing has been conducted internally.</p> <p>It has been identified nationally that an independent auditor of compliance with the RBP guidelines is desirable. However, an impasse has been reached about who this organisation should be and who should be paying for the cost of the audit.</p>
<p>Actions and outcomes to comply with standard</p>	<p>This document shall be circulated initially to the SA CVO, then to the funding body SASAG. It will then progress to all of the other recognised Regional Biosecurity Areas.</p> <p>Annual reporting should include the numbers of flocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infected at the start and end of each reporting year: <p>1st July 2014 - 48 IN flocks; 1st July 2015 - 49 IN flocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Detected with infection during each year: <p>12 new flocks confirmed with OJD in 2014-2015</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolved from Infected status during each year : <p>11 flocks cleared of OJD infection in 2014-2015</p> <p>At July 1st 2015 there were 49 Infected properties in the Regional Biosecurity Area of SA – this is equivalent to 0.58% of the SA sheep flock. This means that the SA Regional Biosecurity Group remains below 1% prevalence and thus fulfils one of the primary goals of remaining as a Regional Biosecurity Area.</p>
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Summary of Findings:

	Non-compliances	Corrective action required
Critical		
Major		
Minor		

The question of an external auditor is unresolved.

Auditor

Date

Addendum

This Audit Checklist has been completed.

Whilst each Standard and its accompanying guidelines have been addressed, there have been certain guidelines that have been impractical to follow for Regional Biosecurity Areas such as the 'South Australian Ovine Johne's Disease Regional Biosecurity Group'. In the case of SA the distribution of a copy of the RBP (and Business Rules) to all flock-owners in the group would be a costly undertaking and has not been done. However, a copy of each original document has been posted on the PIRSA website.