

Important changes to the ABC Scheme come into place from 31 March 2008.

What are the changes?

New Prevalence Areas have been defined and revised points have been allocated. Most producers will find that they are in a new area with new points although the names of the Prevalence Areas have stayed the same.

Present Arrangement



New Arrangement from 31 March

Original Prevalence Area up to 30 March 2008	Old points	Maximum estimated % of infected flocks within the Prevalence Area ¹	NEW Prevalence Area from 31 March 2008	New points	Maximum estimated % of infected flocks within the Prevalence Area ¹
Very Low Prevalence	5	0.5	Low Prevalence ²	4	0.8
Low Prevalence	3	8	Medium Prevalence ²	2	12.5
Medium Prevalence	1	32	High Prevalence	0	>12.5
High Prevalence	0	>32			

¹ Maximum estimated % of infected flocks in the Prevalence Area is measured at the upper confidence limit.

² There will be two Prevalence Areas in Victoria. The Shires of Mildura, West Wimmera, Glenelg, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Gannawarra, Yarriamback, Buloke and Swan Hill are now included in the Low Prevalence Area. The remainder of Victoria will become a Medium Prevalence Area.

What do the changes mean for producers and buyers?

They should check the map before they fill out a Sheep Health Statement to find out your new Prevalence Area and the appropriate ABC credit.

They can still get trading credits for vaccination, testing for OJD, for Abattoir Surveillance 700 and 200 tests and for the certification of low risk sheep; these all stay the same.

Why the ABC Scheme is changing from 31 March 2008.

Abattoir surveillance over the last two years has shown that the prevalence of OJD is increasing in some parts of Australia. Based on this information, stakeholders have agreed that the number of prevalence areas should be reduced from four to three with new boundaries that more closely relate to regional risk. The points allocated to each of the new Prevalence Areas have also changed. These now more closely quantify the true risk that sheep from these areas represent.

For further information visit the new OJD website: www.ojd.com.au or contact your local animal health advisor.

MAKE SURE YOUR CLIENTS KNOW WHAT THE CHANGES MEAN TO THEM.

the higher the score: the lower the risk

