

Saleyard Action Plan for a National Livestock Standstill

This action plan was created by DPI Victoria and launched at a Livestock Saleyards Meeting.

1. BACKGROUND

The Australian Productivity Commission has calculated the costs of a “short” FMD outbreak at \$ 3 billion. A multi-state 12-month outbreak has been estimated to cost Australia \$ 8-13 billion. Key beef and lamb markets would not reopen until at least 6 months after FMD was eradicated.

Speed is of crucial importance in controlling FMD. In the 2001 UK outbreak, FMD is thought to have been unrecognised for around 3 weeks. During this time the disease spread extensively, mostly by movement of pigs and sheep. As a result 2030 farms were infected and some 4.9 million sheep, 0.7 million cattle and 0.4 million pigs were slaughtered. The UK “Lessons Learned” inquiry cites the need for “rapid deployment of resources and the importance of speed” to minimise effects of a highly contagious disease such as FMD.

In the Victorian/Australian context, a “Livestock Standstill Order” would be imposed immediately a diagnosis of FMD was made anywhere in the nation. The standstill provides authorities with the time to assess disease risks and minimise the chances of spread through livestock trade and movement.

Rapid implementation of a livestock standstill will be a major challenge to the “saleyard industry” – saleyards themselves, producers, stock agents, transporters, local and state governments. Successful implementation of a standstill is vital to halt or slow the spread of disease. A Saleyard Livestock Standstill Plan will require the consideration, consultation and cooperation of all involved. The end point will be a written plan for each saleyard. The plan must be updated continuously, AT LEAST once a year.

If FMD is suspected or diagnosed in any susceptible animal at a saleyard, the saleyard may be designated as a “Suspect Premises” (SP), “Dangerous Contact Premises”(DCP) or “Infected Premises” (IP). In this event quarantine will be imposed on all stock at the saleyard and in the case of DCPs and IPs, compulsory slaughter will follow. **Saleyard Livestock Standstill Plans are to assume that the saleyard is not an SP, DCP or IP.**

2. AIM

The purpose of this proforma is to provide saleyard operators with the background knowledge and framework, so that each saleyard can create its own “Saleyard Livestock Standstill Plan” and implement the plan if a Livestock Standstill Order is announced, especially on a sale day. If a Livestock Standstill Order is announced before a sale day, the action plan should detail how each saleyard will go about informing stock agents, producers, transporters and buyers of the sale’s cancellation.

3. LEGISLATION

The Minister for Agriculture will make the Livestock Standstill Order under the Livestock Disease Control Act (1994). The Order will usually be invoked in Victoria following confirmation of FMD in any other State as part of a National Livestock Standstill. The provisions of the Order will be implemented for an initial period of 72 hours. Easing, lifting or extending the Order will be based on risk assessment and nature of the disease outbreak.

The Order only applies to FMD susceptible species such as cattle, sheep, goats, deer, pigs and alpaca. It will not apply to non-susceptible species such as horses or poultry unless they have been in direct contact with infected animals and could carry the virus (in this case they will be classed as “Specified Livestock”).

4. NOTIFICATION / COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of Victoria will inform the Livestock Saleyards Association of Victoria of a Livestock Standstill Order by electronic means (facsimile and/or email). The order will

be accompanied by an explanatory information package giving arrangements, for example, for stock in transit. The LSAV will be requested to notify all saleyards immediately by forwarding electronic copies of the order and package. All other affected industry organisations eg abattoirs, VFF, UDV, LTAV, local government will be informed officially, usually by facsimile or by email.

In addition there will be immediate and widespread dissemination of the order by national and local media – principally radio and television backed up by the national and rural press.

With a sale in progress, a saleyard official or a DPI officer will read a prepared statement informing all present of the provisions of the Standstill Order and its immediate imposition on all susceptible livestock.

5. SALEYARD RISK ASSESSMENT

The purpose of Standstill Order is to allow DPI time to assess the risk that any animal within a saleyard may have been exposed to FMD virus. For this to be achieved, DPI staff will require details of the ownership and origin of each consignment. Stock agents assisted by the saleyard management will be expected to provide DPI with lists of number and class of livestock by vendor and their Property Identification Codes (PICs) and the name of transporters.

6. COMPENSATION ISSUES

If stock are destroyed for disease control purposes, then compensation is payable under the Federal/State/Industry cost sharing arrangements.

The issue of compensation for stock caught up in a livestock standstill but not destroyed is unresolved. This grey area includes things like costs of feeding, loss of body weight, lost marketing opportunities and many other issues. However, the issue is recognised at the highest levels of federal and state governments.

7 CONTACT LISTS

The Saleyard Livestock Standstill Plan should include lists of the names and contact details of all parties likely to be involved. For example, stock agents, vets, feed suppliers, transporters, local government and DPI. Contact details for the closest abattoirs, renderers and knackereries may be required urgently, for example if a group of bobby calves are released by permit for urgent welfare slaughter. See Appendix 1 for a Contact List proforma.

8 REFERENCE MATERIAL

AUSVETPLAN Enterprise Manual: Saleyards and Transport

<http://www.aahc.com.au/ausvetplan/salfinal.pdf>

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR SALEYARD LIVESTOCK STANDSTILL¹

Prepared by the

..... LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE/SALEYARD

Dated/...../200.....

1. Business Details

Registered Name of Saleyard

Postal Address

Post Code

Physical Address/Location

Office Phone Number

After hours Phone Number

Manager's Mobile

Facsimile Number

Email address

ABN Number

For each heading below, consider the following for inclusion in your plan:

- **What – is it that needs to be done, what should be recorded?**
- **Why – is a task necessary? Understanding should result in better compliance**
- **Who is to do it - the person or responsible position eg Saleyard Manager, DPI official?**
- **How is the task to be performed - the method?**
- **When are they to do it – sequence, logical order, degree of urgency?**
- **Where - is the task to be performed?**

2. Saleyard Staff & Command

- What – record the management structure, who supervises/informs who, list of employees by position and their contact details.
- Why – so that all involved in implementing a Saleyard Livestock Standstill Plan (SLSP) can be informed of their role(s) ahead of time.
- Who – the person responsible for writing the plan.
- How – staff structure diagram, staff list with positions and duties.
- When – when plan is drafted, before any emergency.
- Where – to be included in the written plan.

3. Important Saleyard Contacts

- What – create a detailed list of important contacts with all relevant details.
- Why – to know how and who to contact in the face of an emergency.
- Who – the person responsible for writing the plan.
- How – fill in all details as per Appendix 1.
- When – when plan is drafted, before any emergency.
- Where – to be included in the written plan in Appendix 1.

¹ Please lodge a copy of your Action Plan for Saleyard Livestock Standstill to the Livestock Saleyards Association of Victoria



4. Livestock Standstill Order released on a Non-sale day

- What – the Order will have been received by fax or email. All parties involved with the saleyard must be informed of the provisions of the order as soon and as effectively as possible.
- Why – to prevent stock leaving their properties of origin and potentially being exposed to or spreading disease at a saleyard. To save producers, transporters and saleyards financial losses.
- Who – the saleyard manager will be responsible for informing stock agents. Stock agents must inform their clients and transporters. The order will also be widely publicised on the electronic media – radio and television backed up by the print media.
- How – by electronic means – telephone, facsimile or email.
- When – as soon as the Livestock Standstill Order is received.
- Where – process is to be managed from the offices of the saleyard manager and stock agents.

5. Announcing a Livestock Standstill Order & Provisions for Sales in Progress

- What – the Order will have been received by fax or email. All parties involved with the saleyard must be informed of the provisions of the order as soon and as effectively as possible.
- Why – to minimise any unauthorised livestock movements with attendant risks of disease transmission.
- Who – the Saleyard Manager or a DPI official is responsible for announcing the provisions of the Order.
- How – the provisions of the order are to be announced to all present at the saleyard, preferably over a public address system. (Appendix 2). A handout and copy of the order prepared by DPI is to be copied, posted in prominent places and distributed to all present.
- When - immediately the Livestock Standstill Order is received.
- Where – within the saleyard premises including parking, cafeteria and wash down areas.

6. Securing the Saleyard

- What – preventing the unauthorised movement of livestock and loaded transports into or out of the saleyard premises.
- Why – to prevent unauthorised entry/exit with attendant risks of disease transmission
- Who – DPI officers, the saleyard manager assisted by saleyard staff and Vic Police
- How – close and lock gates, block roads with vehicles, barriers or boomgates
- When – immediately the Order is received
- Where – will be dictated by saleyard layout, access points to be identified in plan (Note: please attach a map of the saleyard and associated roads, fences, boundaries and drainage lines to this plan – see Appendix 3)

7. Assisting DPI

- What – DPI officers will require considerable assistance, for example, details of the ownership and origin of each consignment, the name of the transporter, a list of number and class of livestock by vendor and their Property Identification Codes (PICs). Stock agents assisted by saleyard management will be expected to assist DPI to obtain this information as soon as possible. A proforma for the information required by DPI is presented in Appendix 4.
- Why – for the DPI risk assessment it is crucial that DPI staff know where each consignment has come from and how and who has transported each consignment. Where consignments have gone to is vital for trace forward purposes.
- Who – the saleyard manager should assign a person with the clerical knowledge and skills to work with stock agents to provide DPI with the information required.
- How – work with stock agents to prepare lists of the information requested by DPI (see Appendix 4).
- When – as soon as possible after announcement of the Livestock Standstill Order.
- Where – by hand delivery to DPI at the saleyard or by electronic means to a fax or email address provided by DPI.

8. People Issues

- What – there are no laws restricting movement of persons (unless infection is actually suspected in saleyards). However, advice to all present on precautions for personal bio-security will be provided by DPI – see Appendix 2.
- Why – to minimise risks that any person will have footwear or clothing or a vehicle contaminated by potentially infectious material
- Who – saleyard manager to distribute the information provided in Appendix 2.
- How – public announcement backed up by pre-prepared paper handout.
- When - immediately the Livestock Standstill Order is received.
- Where – within the saleyard premises including parking, cafeteria and wash down areas.

9. Livestock Transports

- What – loaded transports still at saleyards must be unloaded, stock must be confined. Recommendations for cleansing all unloaded transports before they leave saleyard are given in Appendix 2. A separate parking lot should be provided for personal (non transport) vehicles.
- Why – to prevent loaded transports leaving, to minimise risks of transports spreading infection
- Who – saleyard manager/DPI to announce, truck operators to cleanse trucks.
- How – public announcement backed up by pre-prepared paper handout. Note- there is no law preventing the movement of transporters in the situation where FMD is diagnosed in another state, but it is in the interests of the industry that all transports, clothing and footwear be cleansed before leaving the saleyard.
- When - immediately the Livestock Standstill Order is received.
- Where – within confines of saleyard, parking lot, wash down bay.

10. Livestock already Trucked from Saleyards (in transit to destination(s))

- What – livestock movements that commenced prior to the Livestock Standstill Order coming into effect may be completed provided completion is within 12 hours. DPI will specify procedures for loaded trucks in transit and perform risk assessments on a case-by-case basis.
- Why – to minimise the risk of disease spread, to record possible traces.
- Who – stock agents assisted by saleyard manager/staff to contact and inform drivers; to record all details and to pass on to DPI for risk assessment and possible surveillance visit. Information required by DPI can be listed - see Appendix 4.
- How – refer to Appendix 1 and/or contact trucking companies for drivers details, destination(s) and mobile phone number
- When - immediately the Livestock Standstill Order is received.
- Where – managed from the saleyard and agents' offices. Information recorded in Appendix 4.

11. Livestock in Saleyards.

11.1 Holding arrangements (time frame)

- What – livestock are to be held in the yards for the minimum term specified in the order.
- Why – to minimise risks of disease spread whilst DPI assesses risks
- Who – saleyard management in association with DPI manage the holding operation
- How – livestock to be held in secure pens or saleyard paddocks
- When – from the time the Livestock Standstill Order is received and announced. Note: Individual consignments may be released under permit before the expiry of the order.
- Where – on the saleyard premises

11.2 Feeding and watering arrangements

- What – stock must have access to drinkable water at all times. Fodder (hay) will have to be brought in on the second day of confinement.
- Bobby calves must be fed within 24 hours of leaving their home farm. This will be a particular challenge; humane destruction may be required if they can not be fed within this time.
- Why – to meet animal welfare requirements and to preserve, as far as possible, the commercial value of the stock
- Who – feed merchants and contractors will need to be tasked with supplying fodder. The issue of “who pays” is unresolved at this time but is under discussion at high government levels.
- How – fodder, usually hay, will be distributed to held stock in amounts determined by the number and class of stock
- When – fodder is to be supplied from the second day after imposition of the Livestock Standstill Order.
- Where – stock are to be fed in their pens

11.3 Security

- What – stock must be prevented from leaving the confines of the saleyards until termination of the Order or until official DPI approval or a permit allows their movement.
- Why – to minimise risks of disease spread and to allow time for DPI risk assessments.
- Who – security contractor to be supervised by DPI official.
- How – security contractor to provide 24-hour coverage to ensure no unauthorised livestock movements occur.
- When – ASAP after announcement of the order until the Livestock Standstill Order is revoked or expires. Individual consignments may be released with a permit issued by an Inspector of Livestock.
- Where – security must be maintained at the checkpoints (locked gates or blocked roads).

11.4 Release of Livestock from Saleyards.

- What – stock will be released from saleyards when official approval from DPI is given. This may be by individual permit issued by an Inspector of Livestock or by expiry of the order.
- Why – to allow movement to properties or meat works after completion of risk assessment.
- Who – DPI will publicise the expiry date of the order and/or provide individual owners with permits.
- How – release of stock ahead of expiry of the order will be by written DPI permit. Expiry of the order will be widely publicised on radio, television and in local newspapers.
- When – as soon as the risk assessment process is complete.
- Where – permits will be provided on a risk assessed basis to owners/transporters.

Appendix 1**SALEYARD LIVESTOCK STANDSTILL ORDER - CONTACT LIST**

This list should include full contact details for the organisations, businesses and persons listed. It must be updated not less than once yearly.

Organisation	Contact person	Phone	Facsimile	Mobile	Email Address
Abattoir - 1					
Abattoir - 2					
Abattoir - 3					
DPI Office - nearest					
DPI District Veterinary Officer					
DPI Senior Veterinary Officer					
DPI Chief Veterinary Officer					
EPA nearest office					
Feed Agent - 1					
Feed Agent - 2					
Feed Agent - 3					
Knackery - nearest					
Local Government					
Neighbour – 1					
Neighbour – 2					
Neighbour – 3					
Renderer - nearest					
Stock Agent - 1					
Stock Agent – 2					
Stock Agent - 3					
Transport Company 1					
Transport Company - 2					
Transport Company - 3					
Worker 1					
Worker 2					
Worker 3					



Victoria Police					
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Appendix 2

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT AND PUBLICITY FOR A SALEYARD LIVESTOCK STANDSTILL ORDER

When a livestock standstill order is imposed on a sale day this statement should be read out by the Saleyard Manager or by a DPI Officer. It should be posted with a copy of the Livestock Standstill Order at multiple locations around the saleyard.

“This notice is to inform all interested parties that a Livestock Standstill Order was received from the Chief Veterinary Officer of Victoria at(time) on/...../200.....(date).

The Order is signed by the Minister of Agriculture(insert name) at(time) on/...../200.....(date). The order is issued under Section 29 of Victoria’s Livestock Disease Control Act (1984).

The order has been issued following the diagnosis of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in(insert state).

The purpose of the order is to provide authorities with the time to assess disease risks and minimise the chances of spread through livestock trade and movements. DPI will be working closely with all parties, particularly agents, to determine the origin of all stock yarded and whether any present a risk of spreading FMD in Victoria.

The provisions of the order relevant to this saleyard are:

1. That the whole state of Victoria is declared a **Control Area** in respect to the exotic disease Foot and Mouth Disease.
2. Movement of all susceptible livestock, that is cattle, sheep, goats, deer, pigs or alpaca to or from any premises within Victoria is prohibited unless in accordance with a written permit issued by an Inspector of Livestock.
3. No susceptible livestock are to enter or leave this saleyard with immediate effect unless in accordance with a permit issued by an Inspector of Livestock.
4. No shows, sales or gatherings of susceptible livestock are to be held for the duration of this order.
5. All susceptible livestock are to be held at this saleyard until expiry of the Livestock Standstill Order on/...../200.....(insert date) or until a permit is issued for the entry or release of any consignment by an Inspector of Livestock.
6. The order may, if necessary, be extended for a further period.
7. DPI and saleyard management seek the cooperation of all persons – livestock owners, transporters, agents and buyers to implement the provisions of this standstill”.

The following advice is given to all people present within the premises of this saleyard:

1. **All persons** are advised that before leaving this saleyard, they should ensure that their footwear and clothing are not contaminated by dung. A pressure hose should be used to cleanse private vehicles contaminated by animal manure before leaving these premises. Special attention should be directed at tyres and the undersides of mudguards and the bottom of trays. Roll the vehicle forward slightly to cleanse the underside of tyres. A pressure hose will be made available at.....
2. **All persons** are advised to shower and to change their footwear and all clothing at their first opportunity **BEFORE** having any contact with livestock. Footwear should be disinfected and clothes laundered in a hot wash.

3. **Transport operators** are advised to follow the personal recommendations listed above. In addition they are advised to wash their truck with a pressure hose before leaving these premises. Particular attention should be paid to the tray, tyres and undersides of mudguards. Roll the vehicle forward slightly to cleanse the underside of tyres. After pressure hosing, these should be free of visible dung. Mats from the interior should be hosed down and be free of dung. A pressure hose is available at the truck wash.
4. All livestock have or will have access to drinking water today. Contractors will be hired to feed livestock as soon as possible. Owners and buyers are asked not to return to this saleyard until their stock are released.

Appendix 3 – PLAN OF SALEYARD

Please append a plan of your saleyard. The plan should show pens, paddocks, roads, laneways, buildings, drainage and effluent ponds, parking areas, fences and boundaries. The plan should indicate where roadblocks would be set up to restrict access to the saleyards. If neighbouring properties ever run susceptible species (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, deer, alpaca), then they should be indicated on the plan as “grazing property” with the name and contact details of the owner, lessor or responsible person listed in the contact list (Appendix 1).

