

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR ALPACA CHEQA PROGRAM

Introduction:

Biosecurity is a major risk for AAA members and the alpaca industry at large. With a decreasing uptake to Qalpaca and with Alpaca MAP now ceased, it has been considered that this biosecurity program, Alpaca CheQA, is suited to the member's needs.

The baseline module of Alpaca CheQA is available to all members at no cost, with no audit. Simple to follow questionnaire, including links for more information and “how-to” references. Priority with this module is to increase participation in biosecurity program use amongst the AAA membership & reduce the overall risk to industry.

Alpaca CheQA web-based form:

- Answering all questions and completing all fields will allow the form to be submitted to the AAA office.
- Alpaca CheQA number is a mandatory field. If you haven't been allocated a number to date, then please use your QAlpaca number or N/A.
- There is a strong focus within the Alpaca CheQA program on self-assessment. This includes farm record keeping and isolation periods.
- Completing the form with misleading or false responses will be considered with respect to AAA member Code of Conduct.
- This form is to be completed annually in July. Accreditation expires annually as of the 30th June, with a months grace to complete the renewal.
- The annual statement is checked by the AAA to ensure the answers meet the minimum benchmark set that year.
- The mandatory “Yes” responses are predetermined and will be reviewed by the AAA each year.
- Feedback on areas of improvement will be provided from the AAA if the member does not meet the minimum requirements to qualify for Alpaca CheQA.
- Members can resubmit the form at any stage to meet minimum requirements.

Minimum requirements to qualify for Alpaca CheQA. Mandatory “Yes” questions include the following:

- 1.1 PIC registered
- 1.2 record keeping
- 1.3 waybills and health declarations
- 1.4 signs of disease
- 1.5 stock isolation
- 2.1 animal identification
- 2.2 animal inspection
- 3.1 restricted animal material
- 4.1 treatments recorded
- 4.5 male castration
- 5.1 suspect disease reporting

If you answer no to any of these questions the AAA will respond via email outlining areas of improvement for your farm biosecurity plan. This also provides an opportunity for applicants

to provide further dialogue on the individual situation and how the applicant does meet the minimum standards.

Alpaca CheQA procedural guide:

- The form submission is automated. Please use the link online to complete application/submission. Renewals will be required via resubmission annually in the month of July.
- The member's alpaca farm would be considered "assessed" and an Alpaca CheQA number and certificate will be issued. The certificate is only valid for the next period expiring 31st of July each year.
- Existing QAlpaca members that complete the Alpaca CheQA can use their original QAlpaca number.
- When entering shows on the Ealpaca system, members will need to manually enter their Alpaca CheQA number in the notes section to assist convenors with penning. This will remain the responsibility of the member. NOTE: Ealpaca will be updated to include this.
- Alpaca CheQA farms will be considered assessed for AAA shows and remain isolated from non-assessed farms, and the higher-level biosecurity program QAlpaca.
- If the member is also a QAlpaca member then the higher biosecurity program status will apply for AAA shows and events.

For more information on Alpaca CheQA, please contact tanya@alpaca.asn.au