

## **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, the Alpaca CheQA biosecurity program, has been introduced to meet members and industry needs.

Alpaca CheQA is available to all members at no cost, with no formal audit process. Simple to follow questionnaire, including links for more information and “how-to” references. Priority with this program 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 for the relative levels.
- Notes section has been included within the questionnaire to allow for reasoning as to why an answer of “no” may have been selected that requires special consideration by the AAA Biosecurity Working Group.
- 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 – Farm Protect. 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 parasite control & vaccinations
- 1.6.2 stock isolation
- 1.7 show hygiene
- 2.1 animal identification
- 2.2 animal inspection
- 2.3 higher risk periods
- 2.4 water
- 2.5 fencing

- 3.1 restricted animal material
- 4.1 treatments recorded
- 4.5 male castration
- 5.1 suspect disease reporting

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

- 1.6.1 stock isolation
- 4.2 plan reviewed
- 4.3 BCS minimum
- 4.6 transport code
- 5.3 records
- 5.4 post mortem

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

- 1.9 LPA accreditation for sheep, goats or cattle

Alpaca CheQA procedural guide:

- If you answer no to any of the baseline mandatory questions the AAA Biosecurity Working Group 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.
- 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 it shall populate the Alpaca CheQA number to assist convenors with penning. The accuracy of this will remain the responsibility of the member.
- Each separate level of Alpaca CheQA farms will be considered assessed for AAA shows and remain isolated from non-assessed farms.
- Base level of biosecurity program is Alpaca CheQA - Farm Protect.
- Then mid level program is Alpaca CheQA – Secure, requiring all mandatory questions from Farm Protect and Secure to be met.
- Highest level of the Alpaca CheQA program is Alpaca CheQA - Assure, which includes Secure plus the additional LPA accreditation and online training requirements.
- QAlpaca remains considered the highest level of biosecurity assurance program offered by the AAA, although it remains recommended for the Alpaca CheQA program to be sought with additional features included.
- If the member is both an Alpaca CheQA and also a QAlpaca accredited 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](mailto:tanya@alpaca.asn.au)