

STANDARD DEFINITIONS AND RULES
FOR
CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF
ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUCOSIS
in
DAIRY CATTLE

Prepared for Veterinary Committee
(now Animal Health Committee)

by the EBL Working Party

April 2002

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APAV	Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians
ANZSDPs	Australian and New Zealand Standard Diagnostic Procedures
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
AHC	Animal Health Committee (formerly VetCom – see below)
BMT	Bulk Milk Test
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DB	Disbanded
EBL	Enzootic Bovine Leucosis
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immuno-sorbent Assay
IN	Infected
MF	Monitored Free
NA	Non-Assessed
NAHIS	National Animal Health Information System
NLIS	National Livestock Identification Scheme
OIE	Office International des Epizooties
PC	Provisionally Clear
PF	Provisionally Free
PISC	Primary Industries Standing Committee
SCAHLs	Sub-Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards
SDRs	Standard Definitions and Rules
SU	Suspect
VetCom	Veterinary Committee (re-named Animal Health Committee in 2003)

INTRODUCTION

These Standard Definitions and Rules (SDRs) comprise the national standards by which States, Territories and industry formulate disease control programs to suit their circumstances, and have been prepared by the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) through the Veterinary Committee (VetCom) – now renamed Animal Health Committee (AHC) since 2003.

These SDRs are designed to assist disease control in a nationally coordinated manner, classifying cattle herds according to their EBL status. They refer to other authoritative documents including the Australian and New Zealand Standard Diagnostic Procedures (ANZSDPs). They are rules drafted within the following parameters –

1. The aim is eradication of EBL from the national dairy herd, based on guidelines formulated on the basis of valid technology by Animal Health Committee and agreed by the dairy industry.
2. Movement controls should be based on valid herd status and vendor declarations.
3. The herd status should be determined under the authority of the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).
4. The beef industry shall be invited to participate as it sees fit.

Control and eradication programs provide dairy cattle producers with a mechanism to control EBL in, and eliminate EBL from a herd. They also provide dairy cattle breeders with a means of providing assurance of EBL disease status to purchasers of their stock. The principles of the programs can be adapted for use by beef producers. The outcome is for milk and dairy products from Australia to be marketed inside and outside Australia as free of EBL.

International standards for EBL control have been considered in the development of these SDRs by incorporating key elements of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) requirements for EBL programs.

Detailed operating procedures for the implementation of programs are the responsibility of the animal health authorities in each State/Territory. In some states, voluntary EBL Accreditation Schemes have been in existence for some time. It is expected that with the adoption of bulk milk testing by accredited herds, these herds will move to Monitored Negative status. The value of the accreditation schemes has been to emphasise the need for producers to protect their status and only introduce tested animals or animals from other accredited herds of the same or better status. Given the industry based nature of the EBL eradication program this will remain an important element in maintaining Group Freedom.

It is intended that these definitions and rules will be progressively reviewed in the light of anticipated progress with existing State/Territory EBL control and eradication programs.

PART 1: DEFINITIONS

1.1 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

1.1.1 Accreditation scheme

A program in place in some states that enables participants to achieve and maintain a herd status at least equivalent to Monitored Negative.

1.1.2 Approved eradication program

An official program developed with the herd owner and approved by the CVO that enables eradication of EBL from a herd. Approved eradication programs should be based on a written undertaking to implement herd testing and management procedures that address the following issues:

- identification of infected animals,
- husbandry and management procedures to prevent infection of other cattle in the herd,
- preventing spread of infection to other farms, and
- prevent the introduction of EBL into the herd.

1.1.3 Approved barrier

A fence or other physical feature approved by the CVO as providing assurance that all cattle in the herd are under effective control and maintained as a discrete unit.

1.1.4 Approved laboratory

A laboratory approved by the CVO of the Animal Health Committee State/Territory in which the laboratory is located to carry out diagnostic tests for the identification of EBL in cattle.

1.1.5 Approved monitoring program

A bulk milk test monitoring program that is approved by the, based on a bulk milk testing year or an equivalent monitoring program sufficient to detect herd prevalence of >0.2% within a Group with 99% confidence.

1.1.6 Australian and New Zealand Standard Diagnostic Procedures (ANZSDPs)

The standard diagnostic procedures for animal diseases as approved by the Sub-Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards.

1.1.7 Authorised officer

A government officer or other person approved to undertake control and/or eradication activities by the CVO. This approval will involve specific duties prescribed under specific programs following appropriate training.

1.1.8 Bulk milk testing year

A bulk milk testing year consists of 3 sampling times, four months apart, in any 12 month period. All milk from farms producing milk, at any of these sampling times, must undergo a bulk milk test.

1.1.9 Chief Veterinary Officer

The person appointed as the CVO, or Chief Inspector of Stock or other equivalent title as the case may be, under legislation in the State or Territory, or the person for the time being having the delegated authority of that office.

1.1.10 Dairy Herd

A dairy herd is a group of cattle as defined in 1.1.13 that provides dairy products for human consumption.

1.1.11 Eligible animals

Any cattle over 6 months of age are eligible animals for individual testing by a serological or milk test. Cattle less than 6 months of age may have circulating maternal antibodies and testing for active infection may be inconclusive. Once a group has achieved provisional freedom, all cattle of any age are eligible for individual testing by serological or milk test.

1.1.12 Enzootic Bovine Leucosis

For the purposes of this document, “enzootic bovine leucosis” is a disease of cattle deemed to be caused by infection with bovine leukaemia virus (a type C retrovirus).

1.1.13 Herd

A herd is a group of cattle managed as a unit separate and discrete in terms of physical contact from other groups of cattle. For a particular property or farm all cattle grazed together at the same time on the same area are considered to belong to the same herd.

1.1.14 Herd Status

The EBL status of a herd assigned by the CVO in accordance with these SDRs as outlined in Appendix 1.

1.1.15 Incident

The occurrence of EBL infection in any herd in a Provisionally Free Group or Free Group.

1.1.16 Infected animal

An infected animal is one that returns a positive test result to an approved test, unless after an investigation by an authorised officer, the result is found to be invalid.

1.1.17 Intensive bulk milk testing year

A bulk milk testing year is where samples at one of these three testing times are collected by a method listed in Appendix 4.

1.1.18 Notification

Advice by meat inspectors, veterinarians or persons in charge of cattle or approved laboratories or others, of EBL infection or suspicion of EBL infection in accordance with the legislative requirement of the State or Territory concerned.

1.1.19 Pooled sample

A sample formed by aggregating samples of milk or sera from individual animals using protocols prescribed by the ANZSDPs.

1.1.20 Quarantine

An order empowered by legislation restricting cattle to a certain location and requiring authorisation for movement to and from that location.

1.1.21 Reactor

An animal that returns a positive or suspicious reaction to an approved test.

1.1.22 Susceptible species

For the purpose of these SDRs, only cattle are susceptible to natural infection with bovine leukaemia virus.

1.1.23 Suspect animal

An animal that the CVO requires to be further tested or otherwise examined to determine whether it is an infected animal.

1.1.24 Traceback

The identification of the property or properties of origin of animals.

1.1.25 Traceforward

The identification of the place of destination of animals.

1.2 GROUPS

1.2.1 Group

A group is any number of herds in which all members supply milk to a dairy factory, factories or company even though these are not necessarily contiguous properties. Such an aggregation of herds may be drawn from regional or State(s) based herd(s).

1.3 TESTS

1.3.1 Approved test

An EBL ELISA on serum or milk or any other test approved by the SCAHLS and which may be published in the manual of ANZSDPs.

1.3.2 Bulk milk test (BMT)

The bulk milk test is a test of milk collected as one or more samples from a herd's on-farm storage vat as outlined in Appendix 3. Methods of sampling and testing comply with standards prescribed by the ANZSDPs.

1.3.3 Herd test

A test of individual blood and/or milk samples collected from all eligible animals in the herd. This will include all eligible beef cattle where dairy and beef cattle are considered to be a single herd by the CVO.

1.3.4 Intensive bulk milk test

A sampling and testing regime by a method listed in Appendix 4, where it is determined that the number of cows contributing to a vat sample is greater than the limit of detection of the BMT.

1.3.5 Negative herd test

An approved serological or milk test of all eligible animals without the detection of an infected animal.

1.3.6 Official test

All testing for EBL is official and must be reported to the CVO of the State/Territory in which the herd is located. This includes testing for shows, sales and movements.

1.3.7 Positive herd test

A test at which one or more animals in a herd gives a positive reaction to an approved test.

1.3.8 Movement test

A test of individual animals within a prescribed period prior to movement of those animals between herds or groups. The period may be prescribed by the State/Territory or group of destination, or will otherwise be 30 days.

1.4 HERD STATUS

1.4.1 Non-Assessed

A Non-Assessed (NA) herd is one that has not been assessed by having a herd test or one negative bulk milk testing year.

1.4.2 BMT Negative

A Non-Assessed herd becomes BMT negative after one bulk milk testing year with negative results.

1.4.3 Suspect

A suspect herd is one in which the CVO determines there is sufficient epidemiological evidence to suspect the presence of EBL, such as

- A herd that has returned an inconclusive BMT and has not undergone a herd test; or
- A herd that has had traceforward contact with (received animals from) an infected herd(s); or
- A herd that has had traceback contact with (were the source herd of) an infected animal(s); or
- A herd that contains calves fed unpasteurised milk from an infected herd; or
- A herd that contains one or more animals with clinical signs consistent with EBL infection that remain unresolved;
or
- A herd in which eradication of EBL has been attempted in the past, but not under an approved property disease eradication program or where the program has not been completed in accordance with these SDRs.

Suspect status can be resolved by the CVO obtaining evidence to remove the suspicion of infection from the herd.

One or more herd tests maybe a necessary component of the process to remove suspicion.

1.4.4 Provisionally Clear

An Infected herd becomes Provisionally Clear (PC) when it has a negative herd test at least 4 months after all known infected animals are removed from the herd

1.4.5 Monitored Free

A BMT Negative herd can become Monitored Free (MF) by;

- having one bulk milk testing year (including intensive BMT where necessary) of consecutively negative BMT results followed by a negative test of all eligible animals which have not contributed milk to any of the BMTs; or,
- having four bulk milk testing years of consecutively negative BMT results.

A Non-Assessed herd can become Monitored Free by achieving a negative herd test.

A Provisionally Clear herd can become Monitored Free by achieving a negative herd test at least 4 months after reaching Provisionally Clear status.

1.4.6 Infected

A herd in which one or more infected animals have been detected by individual tests or at the latest herd test or a herd that has returned a positive BMT result and which has not undertaken a herd test.

1.4.7 Disbanded

The State/Territory CVO may allocate disbanded (DB) status to a herd that has ceased to exist as a discrete herd, upon written advice from the herd's owner or an officially recognised body.

PART 2: RULES

2.1 DECLARATION OF GROUPS

Animal Health Committee may declare a Residual, Control, Provisionally Free or Free Group if satisfied that all of the requirements for that Group status have been met. Qualification and maintenance requirements for Provisionally Free and Free Group status is in Appendix 6.

2.1.1. Residual Group

- EBL is present in an unknown number of herds
- EBL may not be notifiable
- No approved monitoring program is in place
- There are no official control or eradication programs.

2.1.2 Control Group

- EBL is present in a known number of herds
- EBL is notifiable
- An approved monitoring program is in operation and all positive monitoring results are investigated
- Control and eradication programs are in operation
- Tracing and investigation of all known or suspected infection is undertaken
- Less than 99.8% herds are Monitored Free
- Vendor/owner declarations are encouraged for movement of cattle within the group.

2.1.3 Provisionally Free Group

All of the conditions for a Control Group apply, plus

- EBL is not known to exist in the group and there are no Infected herds at the time of declaration
- More than 99.8% of herds are Monitored Free
- Eradication is compulsory
- All Infected herds are placed in quarantine or movement controls on infected or suspect animals apply until they reach Monitored Free status

2.1.4 Free Group

All of the conditions for a Provisionally Free Group apply, plus

- A Free Group may be declared when it has been a Provisionally Free Group for at least 3 years
- There are no NA or PC herds in the Group at the time of declaration
- The approved monitoring program continues indefinitely, with a frequency as determined by Animal Health Committee
- Infected herds are quarantined or movement controls are applied to suspect or infected animals until the herds reach Monitored Free status
- Infected herds are tested immediately and infected animals slaughtered as soon as possible under the control of the relevant veterinary authority.
- Eradication must be achieved so that Infected herds achieve Monitored Free status within the shortest possible time.

2.2 TESTING FOR EBL

2.2.1 Herd Test Interval

The minimum time between successive herd tests is 4 months.

2.2.2 Performance of tests

Laboratory testing must be performed at an approved laboratory. An approved laboratory is required to keep the records of all testing carried out for EBL for a minimum period of 5 years and to provide information to an authorised officer as required.

2.2.3 Reporting of tests

Interpretation and reporting of tests will be done according to the ANZSDPs. All testing for EBL must be reported to the CVO of the State/Territory in which the herd is located.

2.2.4 Retesting

Retesting of reactors with the same immunological test will only be permitted by the CVO when:

- the laboratory reports inconclusive results, or
- a further sample is specifically requested by the laboratory, or
- to clarify the identity of reactors.

2.3 MOVEMENT CONTROLS

2.3.1 Eligibility for movement within a Group

Movement of cattle within a group should be based on herd status supported by a vendor declaration as outlined in Appendix 5. Herds will be assigned a status equivalent to the lowest status of herds from which the introduced cattle originated.

2.3.2 Eligibility for movement to a Group of higher status

Movement of cattle to a group of higher status must be based on a compulsory vendor declaration.

Cattle moving to Provisionally Free or Free Groups must originate from Monitored Free herds or, if from herds with Provisionally Clear status, have a negative test no less than 4 months after the herd achieved PC status.

2.4 INCIDENTS IN A PROVISIONALLY FREE GROUP

2.4.1 Infection found in a Provisionally Free Group

Detection of an infected herd in a Provisionally Free Group will not initially affect the Group's classification. The herd will be quarantined or subjected to movement controls and an approved eradication program so that infected animals will be removed from the milk supply immediately after detection and no more than 30 days after a positive BMT result. Movement controls or quarantine will be released when the herd status returns to Monitored Free. Group classification will be re-assessed by animal Health Committee if the number of infected herds remains unacceptable.

2.5 INCIDENTS IN A FREE GROUP

2.5.1 Infection found in a Free Group

Detection of an infected herd in a Free Group will not initially affect the Group's classification. The herd will be subjected to an approved eradication program so that infected animals are removed from the milk supply immediately after detection and no more than 30 days after a positive BMT result. Movement controls will be released when the herd status returns to Monitored Free. Group classification will be re-assessed by Animal Health Committee if the number of infected herds remains unacceptable.

2.6 REPORTING INCIDENTS

Incidents should be reported as soon as possible, both to the CVO(s) of the affected state(s), and to NAHIS State/Territory Coordinators.

2.6.1 Reporting of Incidents in a Provisionally Free Group

Incidents in Provisionally Free Groups are to be reported to Animal Health Committee bi-annually.

2.6.2 Reporting of Incidents in a Free Group

Incidents in Free Groups are to be reported to Animal Health Committee within 7 days of confirmation.

2.7 PROCEDURE FOR INVESTIGATING INCIDENTS IN PROVISIONALLY FREE AND FREE GROUPS

The investigation by an authorised officer should aim to:

- determine the source(s) of infection,
- determine whether it may have spread to other herds, and
- determine whether infection has spread to other animals in the herd.

Full traceback and traceforward investigations are to be carried out.

Where it is determined that the infected animals originated from another property, tracing shall aim to determine, if possible, other herds in which the animals had been run. Appropriate action should then be taken to reassess the status of these herds.

Herds that have received animals from the breakdown herd since the infected animals were introduced and traceback herds are to be thoroughly investigated.

2.8 IMPORTATION OF CATTLE INTO AUSTRALIA

The negotiation and development of importation protocols is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government through AQIS. The conditions detailed below are considered necessary to support a national EBL control and eradication program, consistent with these SDRs

2.8.1 Considerations

EBL exists in other countries and introduction into the Australian dairy industry would hinder eradication and declaration of EBL freedom. Cattle must be subjected to appropriate importation requirements so as to minimise the risk of introducing disease. Cattle imported into Australia should be derived from populations or herds where the EBL status has been scientifically assessed.

2.8.2 Conditions for imports

Cattle imported for unrestricted entry into the Australian dairy herd should:

- originate from herds that have been assessed as equivalent to Monitored Free status; and
- be subjected to an approved test with negative results on 2 occasions within 6 months of importation. The 2 tests must be separated by an interval of at least 4 months.

2.9 MISCELLANEOUS

2.9.1 Animal Identification

All cattle in a herd in an approved eradication program must be permanently and uniquely identified so that their identification within the herd can be verified by an authorised officer eg. legible tattoo, freeze brand, individual numbered ear tags or leg bands. Wherever possible, animal identification should be consistent with the National Livestock Identification Scheme.

2.9.2 Compensation

Compensation will not be available unless provided for by the relevant legislation in a State or Territory.

2.9.3 Fate of animals from an Infected herd

Untested animals from an Infected herd should be consigned direct to an abattoir, consigned to a saleyard for sale for slaughter only or ordered for supervised destruction on the property or other place approved by the CVO.

In Residual Groups, animals from an Infected herd that have had a negative test in the previous 30 days are eligible for open sale in the Group.

2.9.4 Fate of infected animals

Infected animals in Control, Provisionally Free and Free Groups must be consigned directly to an abattoir for slaughter or consigned to a saleyard for sale for slaughter only, or ordered for supervised destruction on the property or other place approved by the CVO.

2.9.5 Herd status

Herds of the same status will be regarded as equivalent for the purposes of eligibility for movement.

2.9.6 Identification of Infected animals

Infected animals must be permanently identified in such a manner that their identity can be easily verified by an authorised officer at all times prior to their disposal for slaughter.

2.9.7 Interstate notification

Where, on the basis of traceforward or traceback investigations, EBL is suspected to occur in, or to have spread to another State or Territory, the CVO of that State/Territory must be notified in writing within 30 days of its being known.

2.9.8 New Herds

New herds will be assigned a status equivalent to the lowest status of herds from which the cattle constituting the herd originated.

2.9.9 Notification to owners

Where a herd has been determined to have a status of Infected, the CVO will ensure that the owner is notified in writing of the herd status, within 30 days of that determination.

2.9.10 Official herd history

All histories of herds should be held by the CVO and only released to authorised officers. Owners can receive their herd history by applying in writing to the CVO of the State/Territory in which their herd is located.

The release of Group and herd EBL status information is dependent on privacy, disease control and other relevant legislation.

2.9.11 Owner records

An owner of a herd undertaking an approved eradication program must maintain accurate records of all animals in the herd and make available these records to an authorised officer on request.

Appendix 2: EBL Tests used by State Veterinary Services at March 2002

State	Serum	Pooled Serum	Milk	Pooled Milk	Bulk Milk
QLD	3	4	6	6	5
NSW	4	4(10)*	6	6(20)*	5(200)*
VIC	2	N/A	4	4	4, 5
TAS	4	4	4	4	5
SA	4	4(10)*	4	4(10)*	4(50)*
WA	7	7	6	5	5

- maximum pool size

-
1. Eurodiagnostica
 2. Institute Pourquier
 3. Svanovir BLV gp 51 Ab AGID
 4. Svanovir BLV gp 51 Ab ELISA
 5. Synbiotics Lacetelisa 250
 6. Synbiotics Lacetelisa BLV Ab Bi Indirect
 7. Synbitotics Seelisa Bi Indirect

At the time of writing (March 2002) there was no published Australian Standard Diagnostic Technique for EBL ELISA assays. However the listed ELISA kit manufacturers use standard sera provided by the OIE to gauge the sensitivities of EBL ELISA tests. These standard sera have also been adopted by the European Union EBL reference laboratories. Kit manufacturers who wish to sell kits for use in EU countries are required to calibrate their ELISA assays using the sera and provide user instructions based on the demonstrated sensitivities.

References

OIE Manual of standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines 3rd edition 1996.
Chapter 3.2.4 *Enzootic Bovine Leukosis*

EEC Directive 88/406/EEC Annex G.

Appendix 3: BULK MILK HERD TESTING

Principle

To use a sampling regime that ensures at least 1 sample from each cow in the herd is tested for EBL antibodies annually.

Background

Ongoing demonstration of EBL freedom in dairy herds in Australia is required as EBL has not been eradicated from the beef industry. To support a claim for Provisional Freedom or Freedom all dairy herds in a production group such as a factory or a company must annually demonstrate their freedom from EBL. In addition the status of most clean herds is retained by regular bulk milk testing.

Method

Compliance can be achieved by either:

1. An annual individual milk or blood test of all adult female cattle in all herds or
2. An annual bulk milk testing regime in accordance with the requirements for a bulk milk testing year or intensive bulk milk testing year.

An approved test must be used. BMT sample size must not exceed the lower limit of detection of the test. That is, the number of samples comprising each bulk milk sample, must not exceed the capacity of the test to detect one positive cow.

The timing of tests should be decided by the industry and/or milk processing company in close consultation with the relevant Chief Veterinary Officer(s) to ensure that the regime selected ensures that every milking cow in the herd has milk sampled at least once in the bulk milk testing year. In general, herds will undergo 3 tests in a bulk milk testing year unless they have a very defined seasonal calving period.

Appendix 4: Sampling Strategies for Intensive Bulk Milk Testing

An Intensive Bulk Milk Test Year is required where it is determined that the number of cows contributing to a vat sample is greater than the limit of detection of the BMT. At least one intensive BMT must be conducted each year. The following strategies may be used to meet the requirements of a Bulk Milk Test .

1. Individual Animal Sampling.

Individual milk or blood samples are collected from all adult milking cows in the herd. Samples must be collected and submitted under the supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner. Samples may be pooled at testing laboratory using sub-samples of equal size. Pool size must not exceed the capacity of the test to detect one positive cow as indicated by the manufacturer.

2. Samples collected during routine monthly or bimonthly production recording.

Sample collection will occur on-farm under normal herd testing conditions. Pooling of samples will occur at the herd test centre by a trained technician using sub-samples of equal size. Pool size must not exceed the capacity of the test to detect one positive cow as indicated by the manufacturer.

3. Samples collected during supervised “one-off” herd recording.

Milk samples should be collected using the in-line milk meters used for herd recording. The milk collection process and delivery to a herd test centre should be supervised by a technician approved by the CVO. Samples may be pooled at the herd testing laboratory using sub-samples of equal size. Pool size must not exceed the capacity of the test to detect one positive cow as indicated by the manufacturer.

4. Samples collected during supervised sampling of a herd using in-line milk samplers.

Milk samples should be collected using milk sampling devices approved by the CVO. The samplers should be installed by an appropriately trained technician approved by the CVO. The milk collection process and delivery to an EBL testing centre should be supervised by an appropriately trained technician approved by the CVO. Samples may be further pooled at the testing laboratory using sub-samples of equal size. Final pool size must not exceed the capacity of the test to detect one positive cow as indicated by the manufacturer.

Note. Addition of a preservative such as bronopol to milk samples is desirable to ensure sample quality. Preservatives do not affect EBL test unless used in excessive concentrations. Milk samples should not be exposed to heat before testing as this may denature antibodies in the milk and invalidate the test.

Appendix 5: OWNER/VENDOR DECLARATION OF ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUCOSIS

(STOCK AGENTS MUST NOT MAKE THIS DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS)

I, _____
(full name must be shown in BLOCK LETTERS)

of _____ Post Code: _____

declare that the particulars given in this declaration are true:

1. I am the owner/authorised representative of the owner of the cattle detailed below:
2. I have a detailed knowledge of the EBL history of the stock:
3. The numbers and particulars of the stock to which this declaration refers are set out in the box below and overleaf if space insufficient:

Total number of cattle to which this declaration refers: _____ and details of the individual cattle are:

Animal Identification Number	Breed, age and sex	Animal Identification Number	Breed, age and sex
1		5	
2		6	
3		7	
4		8	

4. Each of the cattle referred to above originate from: _____
(Property Name)

at address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____ Owner's Tail Tag Number: _____

5. These cattle left or will leave the property on date: _____ / _____ / _____

6. Each of the cattle originate from a dairy herd which has the following official EBL status:

(Print current EBL status of your dairy herd as stated in the most recent letter from the relevant authority)

7. If the cattle originate from a herd the status of which is other than: **MONITORED FREE**, all the cattle have been individually blood or milk tested for EBL with negative results on date: _____ / _____ / _____ which is within 30 days of leaving the above property.

I further declare that if EBL infection is detected in any of the cattle referred to in this declaration within 14 days of leaving my property, I will refund the purchase price plus transport costs of these cattle:

Declared at: _____ on date: _____ / _____ / _____

Owner/Vendor signature: _____

Witness full name: _____ Witness signature: _____
(full name must be shown in BLOCK LETTERS)

Witness address: _____

The making of a false statement may be an offence under State legislation.

All purchasers of cattle should retain this Declaration. It is recommended that all cattle should be tested for EBL before entry to a new herd unless the cattle originate from a herd which is **MONITORED FREE**. Interpretation of the test results will depend on the status of the herds involved and should be discussed with your veterinarian. A single negative EBL test of an animal coming from a herd with a status of Infected, Provisionally Clear, BMT Negative, Non-assessed or test of an animal of unknown origin may not guarantee freedom from EBL.

OWNER/VENDOR DECLARATION OF ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUCOSIS

Additional space provided for listing details of individual cattle:

Animal Identification Number	Breed, age and sex	Animal Identification Number	Breed, age and sex
9		35	
10		36	
11		37	
12		38	
13		39	
14		40	
15		41	
16		42	
17		43	
18		44	
19		45	
20		46	
21		47	
22		48	
23		49	
24		50	
25		51	
26		52	
27		53	
28		54	
29		55	
30		56	
31		57	
32		58	
33		59	
34		60	

Owner/Vendor signature: _____ Witness signature: _____

Keep this EBL Vendor Declaration form handy for use when you purchase or sell cattle either privately, through saleyards or agents.

*When a Vendor signs one of these forms prior to or upon sale of cattle which are subsequently **tested positive to EBL within 14 days of leaving the Vendor property**, the Vendor has agreed that the purchaser of the cattle is entitled to a refund of the purchase price plus transport costs.*

Appendix 6: Qualification for and Maintenance of EBL Provisional Freedom and EBL Freedom in a Group

1. Qualification for Provisionally Free Status

To qualify as provisionally free from enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL), a Group must:

- a) Demonstrate that at least 99.8% of the dairy herds which supply milk for direct or indirect human consumption have a Monitored Free status (or better).
- b) All dairy herds with serological or other evidence of EBL must be promptly notified to the relevant CVO(s). Movement of cattle from infected herds must be restricted by quarantine or other movement control measures whilst the herds are managed to Monitored Free status in the shortest possible time using the Australian EBL SDRs.
- c) The Group must apply in writing to the relevant Chief Veterinary Officer(s). The CVO(s) will review the production group records for compliance with the Australian EBL SDRs before accepting or rejecting the application.

2. Maintenance of Provisionally Free Status

To maintain a provisionally Free status a Group must:

- a) Conduct a milk or serological survey using an approved EBL test and an approved sampling strategy 3 times per year at 4 monthly intervals of all dairy herds supplying milk for direct or indirect human consumption. The survey must provide a 99% level of confidence of detecting EBL if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 0.2% of the herds.
- b) All introduced dairy cattle must come from herds with a Monitored Free status.
- c) All dairy herds with serological or other evidence of EBL must be promptly notified to the relevant CVO(s). Movement of cattle from infected herds must be restricted by quarantine or other movement control measures whilst the herds are managed to Monitored Free status in the shortest possible time using the Australian EBL SDRs.
- d) The Group must apply in writing to the relevant Chief Veterinary Officer(s). The CVO(s) will review the Group records annually for compliance with the Australian EBL SDRs before accepting, maintaining or rejecting the application.
- e) The Group will lose its Provisionally Free status if less than 99% of herds are Monitored Free at any time.

3. Qualification for Free Status

To qualify as unconditionally Free from EBL, a Group must demonstrate that:

- a) At least 99.8% of the dairy herds which supply milk for direct or indirect human consumption have a Monitored Free status (or better) for a minimum of 3 years.
- b) All dairy herds with serological or other evidence of EBL must be promptly notified to the relevant CVO(s). Movement of cattle from infected herds must be restricted by quarantine or other movement control measures whilst the herds are managed to Monitored Free status in the shortest possible time using the Australian EBL SDRs.
- c) The Group must apply in writing to the relevant Chief Veterinary Officer(s). The CVO(s) will review the Group records for compliance with the Australian EBL SDRs before accepting or rejecting the application.

4. Maintenance of Free Status

To maintain a Free status a Group must:

- a) Conduct an annual milk or serological survey using an approved EBL test and an approved sampling strategy 3 times per year at 4 monthly intervals of all dairy herds supplying milk for direct or indirect human consumption. The survey must provide a 99% level of confidence of detecting EBL if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 0.2% of the herds. If the Free status is attained a risk assessment may enable a milk or serological survey to be conducted every third year.
- b) All introduced dairy cattle must come from herds with a Monitored Free status.
- c) All dairy herds with serological or other evidence of EBL must be promptly notified to the relevant CVO(s). Movement of cattle from infected herds must be restricted by quarantine or other movement control measures whilst the herds are managed to Monitored Free status in the shortest possible time using the Australian EBL SDRs.
- d) The Group must apply in writing to the relevant Chief Veterinary Officer(s) every 3 years. The CVO(s) will review the production group records annually for compliance with the Australian EBL SDRs before accepting, maintaining or rejecting the application.
- e) The Group will lose its Free status if less than 99% of herds are Monitored Free at any time and/or the management of the herds other than the Monitored Free herds is deemed to be inappropriate by Vet Com.

Appendix 7: Roles and Responsibilities

Note: These SDRs have been developed to reflect industry and government roles and responsibilities for the programs as follows:

Roles

- 1 Chief Veterinary Officer of State/Territory (CVO)
The CVO or delegate in consultation with other CVO's and the dairy industry formulates the guidelines for the program and implements the guidelines through agreements with producers and processors or through legislative requirements and policy directions.
- 2 Laboratory Officer in Charge (LOIC)
The LOIC ensures that all EBL tests are carried out according to approved procedures and reports results in a timely manner to submitters and the CVO.
- 3 Dairy Producer
Producers contribute to and agree to the guidelines through a consultation process and implement the guidelines in respect of quality assurance arrangements and the biosecurity of their herds.
- 4 Dairy Processor
Processors contribute to and agree to the guidelines through a consultation process and implement the guidelines in respect of their processing operations and quality assurance arrangements with suppliers.

Responsibilities

- 1 Industry
The dairy industry should drive the program through quality assurance arrangements supported by minimal regulations or through more formal agreements between industries and States/Territories.
- 2 Individual Producers
The final responsibility for introduction of disease-free cattle into a herd must rest with individual producers. EBL control and eradication programs should operate in conjunction with vendor declaration systems. Under vendor declaration provisions, a purchaser can request a declaration from the vendor describing the status of the herd as defined by these SDRs. The purchaser can then assess the risk of introduction of EBL and make an appropriate judgement. The vendor carries the responsibility for the truthfulness of the declaration.
- 3 State/Territory responsibilities
State and Territory authorities shall be mindful that these SDRs were developed as the basis of an industry run national program for the eradication of EBL in dairy herds. State authorities will ensure that systems are in place to ensure programs are consistent with the SDRs and are subject to monitor adherence to the specific requirements of the program. They will ensure that the results of all testing for EBL are recorded. All testing is designated as "official" to facilitate this. Where a Group is located in several states the CVOs of those states shall jointly allocate Group EBL status. The CVO may devolve some responsibilities for operational aspects of the program to non-government staff. Such staff include producers, private veterinarians and milk processing factories.
- 4 Laboratories
Testing procedures shall be of a consistently high quality to maintain confidence in the results. All laboratories shall be approved by the CVO to carry out testing for this program. The national Sub Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards (SCAHLs) will define and audit standard procedures for all laboratory techniques to ensure consistency is maintained.
- 5 Private Veterinary Practitioners
Private veterinary practitioners can have a key role in the program. These veterinarians may be accredited under the Accreditation Program for Australian Veterinarians (APAV). They must ensure they comply with these SDRs in order to maintain involvement with approved eradication programs and protect the interests of their clients. They will be provided with nationally consistent information about the program by Animal Health Australia.