

Moving cattle across the Queensland tick line

Queensland has two cattle tick zones, the cattle tick infested zone and the cattle tick free zone. The zones are divided by the cattle tick line.

Moving cattle poses the highest risk of spreading cattle tick into the free zone so there are laws and requirements about moving cattle across the tick line. These requirements are called risk minimisation requirements and can be found in the Queensland Biosecurity Manual. To read the manual visit business.qld.gov.au and search for 'Queensland Biosecurity Manual'.

These requirements are a combination of inspections and/or chemical treatments.

A biosecurity certificate issued by an accredited certifier must be obtained before cattle are moved into the cattle tick free zone.

Cattle owners in the cattle tick infested zone are responsible for ensuring they comply with the requirements to move livestock from the infested zone to the free zone.

All consignments presented to an accredited certifier must be accompanied by an **owner declaration**. The declaration will state how the owner has prepared the cattle to meet the requirements. The accredited certifier cannot inspect the livestock unless they have the declaration. To download the declaration form, visit business.qld.gov.au and search for 'moving high risk livestock'

To ensure cattle are not unreasonably delayed at clearing facilities it is critical that producers prepare their cattle correctly. This will normally be with the use of chemical treatments but there are other ways producers can ensure livestock meet the required standard. Talk to your local accredited certifier or biosecurity inspector for advice.

Risk minimisation requirements

Moving from a property in the infested zone to a property in the free zone

Cattle moving from a property in the infested zone to a property in the free zone must be manually inspected completely free of cattle tick and have a supervised chemical treatment done by an accredited certifier.

The inspection and treatment can occur on the property in the infested zone or at a traditional clearing dip facility.

Before moving cattle from the tick infested zone, the producer must:

- ensure the livestock are tick free
- complete an owner declaration form stating how the cattle were prepared to ensure they are free of cattle ticks

- obtain the services of an accredited certifier who will inspect and treat the livestock
- obtain a biosecurity certificate from the accredited certifier stating that the inspections and treatments have been completed and
- supply the transport operator with the biosecurity certificate.

If the cattle are found to be infested with cattle ticks by the accredited certifier, the cattle must remain in the infested zone and cannot be reinspected for at least 4 days.

Once the cattle are found to be cattle tick free, they must be moved into the cattle tick free zone within 24 hours.

Moving from a property in the infested zone to a feedlot or abattoir in the free zone

Cattle moving to a feedlot or abattoir have slightly different risk minimisation requirements. They can either be:

- visually inspected to confirm they are free of the adult stages of cattle tick **and** chemically treated **OR**
- manually inspected to confirm they are free of cattle ticks of any stage.

The accredited certifier can undertake the inspection and treatment either on the property in the infested zone or at a traditional clearing dip facility.

It is the cattle owner's responsibility to choose which option they will comply with and communicate this decision clearly to the accredited certifier.

Before moving cattle from the tick infested zone the producer must:

- ensure the livestock meet the requirement of being either visually free or manually free of cattle ticks
- complete an owner declaration form stating how the cattle were prepared to ensure they meet the preferred risk minimisation requirement
- obtain the services of an accredited certifier who will inspect and treat the livestock
- obtain a biosecurity certificate from the accredited certifier stating that the inspections and treatments have been completed and
- supply the transport operator with the biosecurity certificate.

If the cattle are found to be infested with cattle ticks, they must be re-treated and must remain in the infested zone. After re-treatment, they can be re-inspected every 24 hours to a maximum of 4 days until they meet the required standard. If they are still visually infested after 4 days they will need to be treated again and continue to be re-inspected until they meet the requirement

If the cattle are visually free of adult ticks upon the subsequent inspections, they can be moved into the free zone.

If the cattle were not chemically pre-treated and found to be visually infested with adult tick on the first inspection they will be treated and must wait a minimum of 4 days before they can be represented for inspection.

Once the cattle are found to be tick free, they must be moved into the cattle tick free zone within 24 hours.

Travel from the infested zone to the infested zone through the free zone

Cattle can be moved from the infested zone, through the free zone to a destination in the infested zone without an accredited certifier issuing a biosecurity certificate as long as:

- the vehicle does not stop in the cattle tick free zone for any single period of more than 2 hours or total stoppages in the cattle tick free zone are no more than 4 hours
- no cattle are to be removed from the vehicle or loaded onto the vehicle while it is in the cattle tick free zone.

Additionally, a person has a general biosecurity obligation to take reasonable and practical actions to prevent the spread of cattle tick in the free zone.

Travelling cattle known to be infested with adult stages of cattle tick poses a high risk and is not a reasonable action under this requirement. Owners should consider if their property management is sufficient to ensure the livestock are not infested with adult cattle ticks or if they should consider chemical treatments.

Unforeseen incidents such as breakdowns or accidents must be considered. Any incident that results in livestock escaping the vehicle in the free zone, whether accidental or intentional could mean the owner, the transport operator and the driver have breached their general biosecurity obligation.

When engaging a transport operator, the owner should discuss the route intended to be taken. If the owner cannot or chooses not to have animals free of adult tick, a route through the infested zone should be chosen.

More information

For more information call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.