



COVID-19 ADVISORY

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To:	Forum Directors, Area Executives, Presidents, CEOs, NLT&SG
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COVID 19 ADVISORY: OF IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTERS - ANIMAL STATUS DECLARATION HANDLING ALTERNATIVES

The livestock transport industry has raised concerns with handling Animal Status Declarations (ASD) in the current COVID-19 lockdown. The concern being, the potential for spreading pathogens by handling and passing on paper-based forms through the chain of participants.

The livestock industry is one the last remaining bastions of paper-based information transfer and the Electronic ASD is the apparent solution to that issue. However, to function legitimately the eASD requires farmer participation and a number aren't geared for that. Some eat processors are set up to handle eASD. Check with the processing company to determine if electronic ASDs can be utilised.

Until all farmers get on board we need other solutions to alleviate the current situation. Discussing this with our NZ Livestock Transport programme partners the following has been devised - in order of descending preference. Each will require a little bit of leg work to set up.

Preference 1 – eASD – if this option is not being used now, seek support from your livestock reps/agents to get it set up. This will obviously be over the phone, but reps aren't going anywhere right now so they shouldn't be difficult to get a hold of.

Preference 2 – if the farmer cannot get the eASD app/computer systems sorted, then a photo of the ASD emailed to the livestock rep, or a dedicated site admin email address, should suffice. Beforehand, this will have to be set up with the processor. An initial call to them is recommended.

Preference 3 – if option 1 and/or 2 above is no good, then fax to the plant.