

ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD

VECTOR CONTROL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT PROCESSES WITH REFERENCE TO AERIAL 1080 BAITING OPERATIONS

1. **Obligations to the Crown**

The Animal Health Board (AHB) is the management agency for the National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Strategy under the Biosecurity (National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Strategy) Order 1998.

There is also a Crown funding agreement with specific audit and reporting provisions.

2. **AHB Reporting responsibilities**

The AHB has reporting requirements to the Crown (via MAF) and the Members of Animal Health Board Incorporated.

3. **Audit of AHB**

External audit is required under provisions for Crown audits of AHB. AHB carries out internal audits and is subject to independent external audits.

4. **Vector Manager (VM) contract obligations**

The AHB has a contract with each Vector Manager which covers all operational requirements as follows:

- Compliance with AHB requirements, legal requirements¹, bylaws, approvals, licences, labels, permits and consents.
- These requirements include obtaining resource management consents; approval for application of hazardous substances from aircraft; management, transport, handling, storage and application of pesticides under HSNO Act (including all regulations) Medical Officer of Health (MOH) consent and requirements; Crown agency approvals, land access consents and approvals from landowners, and other regulatory authorities.
- The VM is further responsible for ensuring all notices required (to land owners, the public etc) are given in the appropriate timeframe; management of vector control contractors; ensuring contract performance requirements are met; incident management and reporting²
- AHB audit of VM and control contractor provision is included in the contract requirements as is provision for Crown audit of VM and control contractors.
- There is nationally consistent use of the Crown-approved Vector Management Standard, the AHB Vector Control Contracting Procedure and Vector Control Contract³ standard format which have been developed by the AHB in consultation with relevant parties.

5. **Vector Control Contractor Management**

Control contractor management and audit requirements are specified in the Vector Control Contract which is administered by the VM. This includes:

- Operational specifications and performance targets
- Operational plans
- Health and safety requirements
- Hazard and risk management plans
- Management of sub-contractor
- Audit plans

6. Aerial Operational Requirements

These routinely include the following which are provided either by the VM or the control contractor –

- Landowner consultation and planning
- Medical Officer of Health requirements,
- Boundary identification, ground truthing, exclusion zone identification
- Water catchment and water supply protection requirements and notices
- Public notices
- Specification of contractor requirements – experience, qualifications, equipment and resources, GPS systems and experience, reporting requirements
- Bait specifications (type, size, toxicity, sowing rate) and verification
- Operational restrictions – people, stock, other land use issues, weather.
- Aerial operator briefing and instructions
- Boundary flying and application restrictions including over flying restrictions
- Operational base location and safety and operational management, access control, clean-up requirements
- Operational audits conducted during the operation to ensure all specifications, plans and safety requirements are being met.
- Post application inspections of water supply areas, boundaries, public tracks, exclusion zones, and roads to ensure they are clear of toxic bait
- Decontamination of application equipment, loading equipment and loading zones.

7. **Issues, Incidents and Complaints**

There is a contractual requirement to document incidents such as:

- Complaints
- Transgressions
- Over flying reports
- Loss or spillage of toxin
- Other hazards
- Harm to protected wildlife
- Injuries

Incidents must be reported as soon as practicably possible to the VM who must inform appropriate authorities (MOH, Police, DoC) and the AHB. The action required on any incidents, transgressions, over flying reports is specified in operation and hazard/risk management plans.

8. **Post Operational Activities**

These are specified as required to meet legal and contractual obligations and requirements specific to each particular operation e.g. independent water sampling as required by MOH, wildlife surveys, bait breakdown, rainfall records, landowner communications.

9. **Operational review**

A post operational review is routinely conducted for continuous improvement purposes.

10. **Records**

There is a requirement to maintain all records for a minimum period.

References

1. Acts and regulations governing vector control operations:

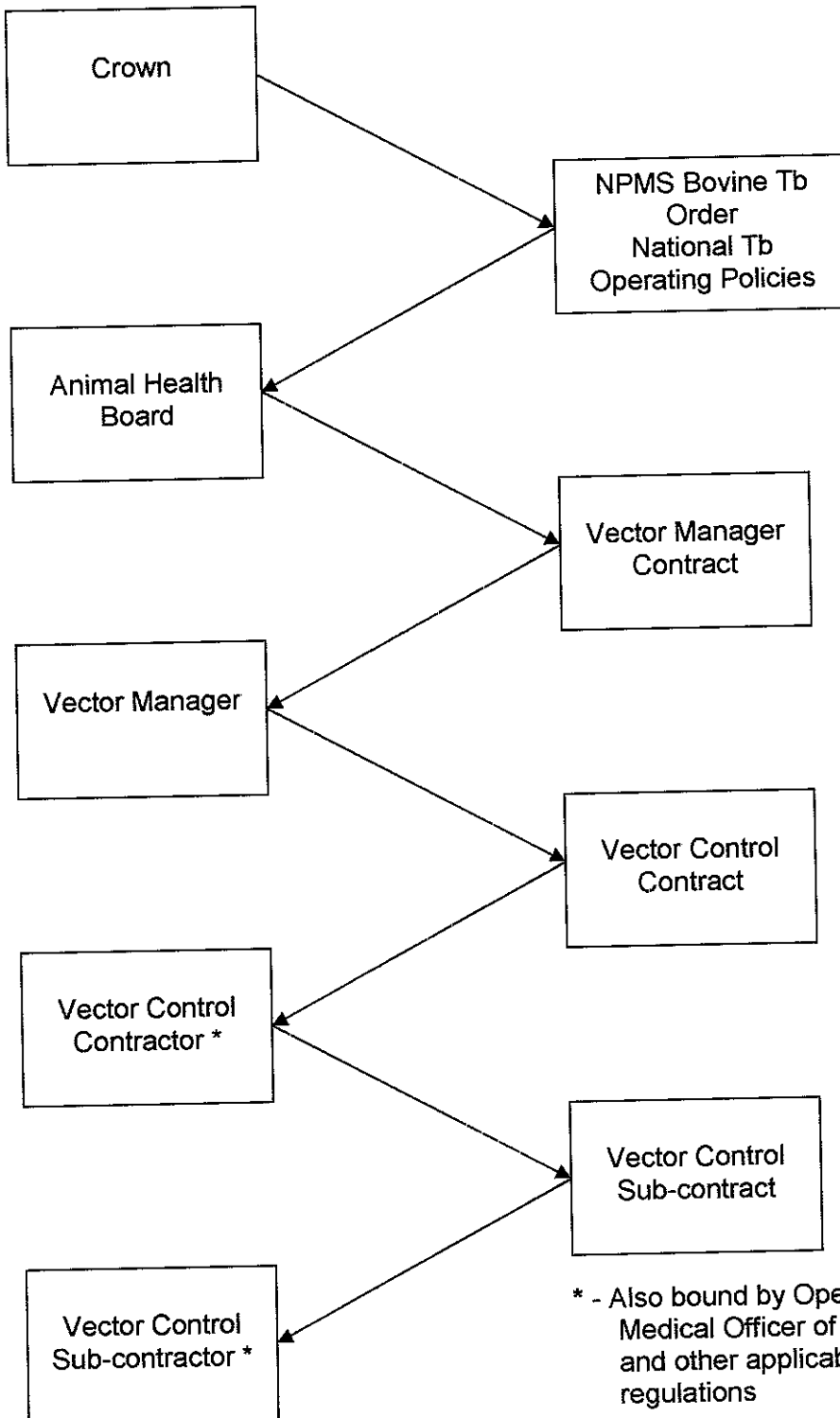
Resource Management Act 1991.
The applicable Resource Management Plans.
Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992.
Arms Act 1983
Biosecurity Act 1993
Transport Act 1962
Animal Welfare Act 1999
Wild Animal Control Act 1977
Public Health Act 1956
Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.
Wildlife Act 1953
Conservation Act 1987

2. AHB reportable incident or complaint – see Appendix A
3. The Vector Management Standard, Vector Control Contracting Procedure (VCCP) and Vector Control Contract (VCC) are all documents available for reference. Vector Managers are contractually required to follow the VCCP and use the VCC for all vector control work undertaken. The Vector Management Standard is based on the VCCP and VCC documents.

LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP FLOWCHART

Entity

Legal Authority/Obligation



* - Also bound by Operational Plans, Medical Officer of Health requirements and other applicable Acts and regulations

Appendix A

ANIMAL HEALTH BOARD CONTRACTS

WHAT CONSTITUTES A REPORTABLE INCIDENT OR COMPLAINT

The various contracts established and managed by the Animal Health Board (AHB) require contractors to advise AHB of all matters described in Policy 14 (Investigations, Reporting and Reviews), Section 2.1.1 within 24 hours of becoming aware of any matter

Policy 14, Section 2.1.1 states –

2.1.1 The following important political, technical or Tb breakdown information is required by the Animal Health Board:

2.1.1.1 Information regarding any aspect of the National Pest Management Strategy that is perceived as being politically important or sensitive; or

2.1.1.2 Detection of large herd breakdowns; or

2.1.1.3 Detection of clustered herd breakdowns in Surveillance Areas; or

2.1.1.4 Any other information considered to be of significant concern to the Animal Health Board.

Sections 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 are self explanatory.

Typical issues of concern which would come under section 2.1.1.1 are –

1. Poison, toxin, bait or trapping issues around vector control operations or pest control with which AHB might be associated – 1080, cyanide etc including non-target animals affected (farm and domestic animals),
2. Local protests or commentary against any operations,
3. Any incidents which could be of media interest,
4. Incidents involving any contractors while involved in NPMS activity,
5. Any formal exercise of powers

Typical issues of concern which would come under section 2.1.1.4 are –

1. Any illegal activity, fraud etc which affects the AHB in any way
2. Contractor staff mis-conduct which affects the contract performance and/or the AHB in any way
3. Significant errors and mistakes which affect any party – contractors, farmers, members of the public – incorrect identification of animals resulting in incorrect slaughter, disputes with farmers, extreme action such as a forced muster,
4. Issues which affect AHB's or AHB contractors relationship with landowners around land access or landowner willingness to participate in the NPMS in any way eg unauthorised access, hunting, dog incidents,
5. Serious injury accidents ie which require hospital or doctor administered medical treatment

6. Firearms incidents which affect contractor staff while carrying out AHB contract business, landowners or members of the public, pets or non-target species,
7. Discovery of deceptive or misleading reporting to the AHB,