

On-Farm

Industry Agreed Standards

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Operating Standards

1. Facilities

Appropriate and suitable facilities must be available to allow handling, treatment and care of the health and welfare needs of the animals. Potential health and injury risks to animals and/or handlers must be minimised.

1.1 Deer Sheds/Yards

Standard :

Deer sheds and yards must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise the risk to animals and humans, providing safe humane confinement and handling.

Water must be available to stock if yarded for more than 6hrs.

Qualifiers :

To ensure animal safety, protrusions that may cause damage (e.g. gate hinges, gudgeons, gate catches, bolts, nails, wire-knots, tie downs) shall be cut flush where practicable or modified to prevent damage to deer.

To ensure animal safety, gaps that may cause injury shall be filled or modified to prevent damage to deer.

Outside yard surfaces shall be constructed in such a manner and of such material as to minimise the presence of mud or dust and ensure safe footing at all times.

Deer shed floor surfaces shall be constructed of material which must:

- (i) ensure secure footing;
- (ii) ensure safety and freedom from injury for both the deer and handler;
- (iii) ensure the presence of mud and dust is minimised;
- (iv) ensure adequate drainage.

There shall be sufficient ventilation and light to ensure the safety and wellbeing of deer and handler. Walls and gates are to be of substantial construction which prevents injury to deer.

Confinement - Deer sheds/yards shall be constructed so as to safely contain and permit ease of movement of deer.

Recommendations :

In high use work areas it is recommended that a permanent cleanable surface is provided.

For fallow the use of netting in confined yards is not recommended.

1.2 Loading Ramps

Standard :

Loading ramps shall be designed and constructed to allow safe and unobstructed loading and unloading of deer onto and off transport.

Qualifiers :

To ensure animal safety, protrusions that may cause damage (e.g. gate hinges, gudgeons, gate-catches, bolts, nails, wire-knots, tie downs) shall be cut flush where practicable or modified to prevent damage to deer.

There shall be no gaps which could cause injury to either the deer or handler. The ramp floor shall be of permanent non-slip design and construction.

Recommendations :

The ramp floor should be easily and safely adjustable and securable at any vehicle height.

The minimum clearance from the top of the ramp to ceiling should be 1500mm.

Walls should be at least 2m above floor when no roof.

The recommended width to be 800-1200mm.

A backing gate at the entrance to the ramp may be beneficial in some circumstances to facilitate easy loading of deer.

It is recommended that ramp angles should not exceed 1 in 3 or 20°.

1.3 Deer Handling And Treatment Facilities

Standard :

Handling and treatment facilities relevant to the current farming operation must be designed, constructed and located to allow safe, hygienic and humane handling for treatment of animals.

Qualifiers :

Where provided, scales, deer restraint, race, tunnel and dark room shall be designed, constructed and used to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the deer and handler.

Any storage cupboard shall be locked if used for the storage of drugs, and maintained in a hygienic condition.

Water shall be made available as required by veterinarian and handler.

1.4 Access Ways

1.4.1 Stock Access Ways

Standard :

Access ways shall be designed and constructed to allow both unobstructed and safe movement of animals at all times.

Qualifiers :

Access ways shall allow for the natural flow of animals.

To ensure animal safety, protrusions that may cause damage (e.g. gate hinges, gudgeons, gate catches, bolts, nails, wire -knots, waratahs and tie downs) shall be cut flush where practicable or modified to prevent damage to the deer.

There shall be no barbed wire in laneways.

There shall be no barbed wire within 20m of gates accessing laneways or yards.

1.4.2 Stock Access Ways Across And Along Public Roads

Standard :

When moving animals across or along public roadways the welfare of animals and the safety of road users shall be maintained.

Appropriately placed gates or similar must be used to prevent stock escape.

Recommendation :

Farmers should be aware of their responsibilities and liabilities with respect to stock on public roads and also be aware of any specific regional requirements of the Resource Management Act and Regional Council.

1.4.3 Stock Transport Access Ways

Standard :

Stock transport access ways shall be designed and constructed to allow both unobstructed and safe movement of stock transport at all times.

Qualifiers :

The route to the loadout facility for transporter use shall be accessible and safe in all weather conditions. There shall be sufficient area to manoeuvre the stock transporter to enable easy access to loading ramps.

The transporter shall be able to get access to and from the loading facilities under their own traction.

Note: Obstructions can include: trees, vegetation or overhead electric cables that may contact the vehicle.

1.5 Gates

Standard :

Gates and gateways shall be designed constructed and maintained to ensure ease of access for deer and machinery and allow the safe and secure movement and containment of deer

Qualifiers :

To ensure animal safety, protrusions that can cause damage (e.g. gate hinges, gudgeons, gate catches, bolts, nails, wire-knots, waratahs and tie downs) shall be cut flush where practicable or modified to prevent damage to deer.

Gates opening into paddocks shall be capable of being secured to a point so that animals cannot be trapped between the fence and the gate.

Gates shall be hung and secured to avoid gaps which could give rise to injury to deer.

1.6 Fences

Standard :

Fences shall be designed, constructed and maintained to safely contain farmed deer. Minimum boundary fence height must be 1.7m and should be 1.9m in regulated / at risk areas.

Qualifiers :

To ensure animal safety, protrusions that can cause injury or damage (e.g. gate hinges, wire knots, waratah or standard tie-downs, gate-catches) shall be cut flush where practicable or modified to prevent damage to deer.

(i) Boundary Fences are to keep stock in, as well as out, and prevent escapes.

(ii) Should designated areas be deemed special risk or at risk, the appropriate DOC fencing standard shall apply - **Appendix 1**

Where electric fences are used, the power supply to the unit shall be continuous.

Barbed wire shall not be used in new fences. The only exception is that barbed wire may be used as a bottom wire on boundary fences, excluding laneways, to help prevent feral animal entry.

Recommendations :

High tensile wire is recommended to minimise potential entanglement.

Electric fences are not recommended for fallow deer.

It is recommended that electric outriggers are not used unless continually powered.

1.7 Water

Standard :

To maintain animal health and welfare and ensure freedom from thirst, an adequate quantity and quality of water shall be provided for all animals.

Qualifiers :

Placement and construction of water facilities shall provide for safe and ready access and freedom from thirst.

Note: The farm operation should comply with Regulatory Authority requirements. Avoid pollution of water supplies and waterways.

1.8 Power Supply

Standard :

Where power is supplied to a facility within the deer farm it shall be designed, located and installed in such a manner that it cannot cause injury to deer and or people.

Qualifiers :

All power cables shall be inaccessible to deer, to avoid chewing and entanglement.

1.9 Farm Buildings

Standard :

Other buildings, structures, plant and equipment on the deer farm shall be designed, located and constructed in such a manner that they cannot cause injury to deer and or people.

Qualifiers :

Other buildings shall be constructed so that there are no protrusions which may injure deer. If deer have access to the inside of the shed, (e.g. hayshed etc) there shall be nothing inside which may be injurious to their wellbeing.

Farm implements, silos, fuel tanks or materials likely to be injurious to deer must be either inaccessible to deer or modified so that they will not cause injury.

1.10 Shelter

Standard :

To maintain animal health and welfare requirements the farmer shall take action to protect animals from the adverse effects of the elements. Farmers should enhance the natural environment with sufficient shade and shelter to minimise stress.

Qualifiers :

Any shelter provided which is accessible to the deer shall not be poisonous or injurious to their health.

Recommendation :

Where no natural shelter is present the establishment of shade and shelter is recommended.

2. Animal Health Welfare and Production

2.1 Health Management

Standard :

The property must demonstrate an animal health programme is in operation. All farms should have a documented annually reviewed Animal Health Plan.

Qualifiers :

Livestock should be monitored regularly to identify ill or distressed animals, gauge livestock performance, and ensure the general overall health and nutrition of the livestock is maintained.

Recommendation :

The Animal Health Plan should be reviewed annually in consultation with a veterinary practitioner or Animal Health Advisor.

Refer to the Deer Hub for further information www.deernz.org/deerhub

2.2 Animal Husbandry and Welfare

WELFARE MANAGEMENT

Standard :

All animal husbandry operations, (eg) tagging, vaccinating, velvetting, Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) testing (etc) must be carried out by competent, trained operators.

Records of animal husbandry operations and TB testing must be kept.

Surgical or emergency procedures (including velvet antler removal) must be carried out by a NVSB certified operator or veterinarian.

Qualifiers :

All farm stock should be reared according to good husbandry and welfare practices as set down in the current Code of Animal Welfare. See <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/deer>.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) testing to be completed as per the Operational Policies contained in the National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Plan, managed by OSPRI New Zealand.

2.3 Animal Remedies

Standard :

To maintain animal health and product quality, all animal remedies and farm chemicals must be safely stored and administered observing manufacturers' and or veterinary recommendations.

Withholding periods and the date available for slaughter ("safe date") must be recorded at the time of application of the animal remedy.

Farmers must record details of all animal health treatments including the date of application, stock class, product, application rate, expiry date, batch number, withholding period and "safe date" or earliest date available for slaughter.

Any off label medication use is to be in accordance with Ministry for Primary Industries criteria.

Qualifiers :

Any facility used for the storage of animal remedies shall be secure and maintained in a hygienic condition.

Animal live weights shall be established to give a correct dose as per label instructions. Veterinary medicines shall only be used after veterinary consultation.

Any off label use is in accordance with MPI criteria.

Storage

Farm chemicals and animal treatments must be stored in the original manufacturers' containers in order to prevent any cross contamination and must be clearly labelled.

Empty containers shall be handled and disposed of in a way which ensures there is no impact on the environment.

Expired or unused animal remedies shall be handled and disposed of in a way which ensures there is no impact on the environment.

Withholding periods

Withholding periods for administered animal remedies must be met before animals are sold for slaughter.

2.4 Injection Needles

Standard :

Administration of medicines by injection shall be carried out using accepted veterinary practices.

If a needle breakage occurs the animal must be clearly identified, and when sent for slaughter must have a separate ASD, and must have a separate transport consignment note or be separately identified on the transport consignment note.

A suitable container must be in use for the disposal of used needles ensuring the safety of humans and animals.

2.5 Culling

Standard :

Any undesirable deer must be humanely culled and correctly disposed of. Deaths and cause of death must be recorded.

The farmer must understand the procedures required when culling and disposing of undesirable animals.

Recommendation :

Culled animals may qualify to be sent for processing.

Note: Undesirable animals may be aged, injured, diseased, of bad temperament, or those that impose a health or safety risk to the herd or handler.

Farmers should monitor deer regularly for any signs of injury, illness or undue stress.

2.6 Offal Pits

Standard :

Dead deer shall be protected from vermin, birds or other animals and promptly disposed of according disposed of in offal pits appropriately fenced and/or covered to ensure exclusion of children, dogs and livestock, and must be located away from any waterways to the rules of the governing local body.

Qualifiers :

Offal pits should be covered and appropriately fenced to exclude entry by livestock, dogs and children.

2.7 Farm Management

Standard :

Farm management personnel must be familiar with the relevant New Zealand legislation that applies to their operations with respect to animal health and welfare, documentation requirements (ASDs, NAIT requirements, Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) testing requirements), health and safety and environmental issues.

The farmer must ensure that all employees are trained and competent, to ensure the welfare of the stock in their care.

Qualifiers :

The farmer shall adopt production management techniques which enable the optimum genetic potential of individual animals to be expressed to achieve the management objectives for the farm, while ensuring animal welfare needs are met.

Note: Resources include land, labour, capital and machinery.

Management involves planning, organising, controlling and directing to utilise resources.

2.8 Handling

Standard :

To ensure that the animals' welfare needs are met, an appropriate level of skill and knowledge is required during handling to minimise stress, injury or risk of disease and to ensure the safety of both the handler and the deer.

Note: Factors such as mob size, weather conditions, stockmanship, shed and farm design, operational planning, deer species and temperament all influence animal behaviour.

2.9 Hygiene

Standard :

To minimise the spread of pests and disease and enhance product quality, farm management shall ensure clean hygienic facilities are used for handling deer and that an appropriate whole farm attitude to cleanliness, hygiene and waste disposal is adopted.

2.10 Dog Management

Standard :

Farm dogs must be maintained in a healthy state for welfare reasons and to prevent transfer of parasitic diseases to livestock.

The date of any medical treatments (e.g. Worming) must be recorded.

Farm dogs should be adequately trained so as not to cause injury or excessive stress to stock.

Farmers should be able to display control of all dogs on their property.

2.11 Identification

Standard :

All deer over 6 months of age must be identified with a national animal identification (NAIT) RFID ear tag and be registered with NAIT. This allows individual animal information and tracing history from farm of origin to other NAIT locations and through to slaughter processing.

All deer being moved from the property must be moved in accordance with the Ospri/NAIT tagging and formal NAIT electronic movement reporting requirements, regardless of animal age.

2.12 Knowledge And Training

Standard :

The farmer shall ensure that deer handlers have either the relevant knowledge or training or appropriate supervision to ensure animals' health and welfare needs are recognised and met and the handler's safety is ensured.

Qualifiers :

Farmers should be aware that deer have specific seasonal needs, e.g. fawn shelter at fawning and weaning; weaners kept out of exposed paddocks.

To maintain a healthy animal the farmer and their staff should be aware of the disease susceptibility of the species farmed, e.g. fading elk syndrome, facial eczema and parasitism.

Note: Handlers include staff, consultants, advisors, agents, veterinarians and visitors.

Handlers should also be aware of the health and safety risks involved in handling deer at any time during the year and be aware of the different traits that deer can display at any time

2.13 Nutritional Management

Standard :

To maintain full health and vigour, all deer must receive a daily diet that is adequate to meet all nutritional and seasonal requirements.

Note: Refer to <http://www.deernz.org/deerhub/feeding>

Optimum nutritional management includes the provision of adequate minerals, vitamins, water, pasture and browse species, quantity and quality of crops and supplementary feeds.

2.14 Stock Movements

SALE AND PURCHASE OF DEER

Standard :

Farmers must secure and retain Animal Status Declarations (ASDs) from the vendor for all stock purchased.

Animal Status Declarations are mandatory requirements for all movements of deer.

All deer being moved onto or off the property must be moved in accordance with the Ospri/NAIT tagging and formal NAIT electronic movement reporting requirements regardless of age.

Qualifiers :

The farmer or person in charge of the deer is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information in the Animal Status Declaration and must sign and date the form, and update NAIT records.

The minimum period for deer purchased from non-accredited farms to be eligible for accreditation will be 30 days.

2.15 Records

Standard :

Appropriate records must be maintained that include (but not limited to) stock sales and purchases, animal health, agri-chemical use, deaths, ASD's, TB testing receipts, NAIT movements, supplementary feeding and fertilizer applications.

Qualifiers :

To function effectively any recording system shall be able to accurately record and recover information relevant to the needs of a farmer's potential customers.

Records shall include:

- (i) Age
- (ii) Origin
- (iii) Animal remedies applications, product name, volume administered and the date of administration
- (iv) Health status, including any TB testing receipts and Animal Status Declarations
- (v) For farm accreditation a minimum 90 days records shall be kept before farm accreditation will be granted.
- (vi) Use of vaccines and animal remedies shall be recorded and withholding periods strictly adhered to.

Note: The farmer should identify the needs of his/her customers and maintain records which guarantee the quality and safety of the product.

2.16 Separation of Age/Sex Groups

Standard :

To aid in the prevention of disease, injury or management problems, deer shall only be farmed and/or transported in mobs which are compatible.

Recommendation :

Mixing of different sexes, ages or types should be avoided, unless necessary, e.g. during mating, weaning and velvet removal.

2.17 Weed and Pest Control

Standard :

To maintain animal health and farm productivity, an effective programme must be implemented to control weeds and pests that present potential health and production risks.

For human and animal safety, all chemicals used on farm must be clearly labelled and stored in a lockable facility, and an appropriate warning sign displayed. Manufacturer's instructions concerning withholding periods and handling and storage must be followed.

Qualifiers :

Farmers and staff shall safely use chemicals, herbicides and pesticides and observe manufacturers recommendations concerning withholding periods and provide locked storage.

Note: Farmers should be aware of WorkSafe NZ and local body requirements.

2.18 Livestock Presentation

Standard :

Deer should be clean, free of accumulated mud and dags when being sent for processing. Deer should be emptied out and stood off feed for a minimum of 4 hours to reduce stress during transport and assist hygienic processing.

Recommendation :

Deer should be held in areas that reduce or limit contamination to the hide prior to being sent for processing.

Note: The main potential source of contamination during processing is mud and dags, excrement and or faecal matter attached to the belly of the deer.

3. Environment

Deer Farmers should demonstrate progressive achievement of environmentally sustainable land management. Every deer farmer has a “duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects that their activities may have on the environment”.

3.1 Soil and Pasture

Standard :

All soil and pasture operations must be included in the farm records.

All farmers should be aware of requirements of the Resource Management Act and Regional Councils within their respective regions.

Qualifiers :

Industry recognised best practice methods should be used for any land based operations in accordance with the Resource Management Act and Regional Council Regulations.

Recommendation :

All farmers should complete an entry level Land Environmental Plan (LEP) of their property.

The records should contain cultivation, spraying, fertiliser application and pasture conservation activities (including the date and details of operation).

3.2 Protection of Waterways

Standard :

The farmer must be able to demonstrate management practices to minimise contamination of waterways.

All farmers should be aware of requirements of the Resource Management Act and Regional Councils within their respective regions.

Qualifiers :

Farmers should take practical steps to minimise or avoid the following:

- (i) Accelerated sedimentation and degradation in water bodies
- (ii) Stock access to water bodies
- (iii) Any adverse effects of deer farming on water quality
- (iv) Blocking, impeding or diverting water flow in a river or stream

3.3 Soil Health and Stability

Standard :

The farmer must be able to demonstrate management practices to minimise land erosion.

Qualifiers :

Farmers should take practical steps to minimise or avoid the following:

- (i) Accelerated erosion of farmland
- (ii) Soil loss and damage resulting from fence line pacing
- (iii) Livestock access to waterways

Note: More detailed information regarding Risk Identification and Best Management Practices, to meet the above standards and recommendations are provided in the Deer Farmers Land Care Manual.

4. Velvet Antler

4.1 Removal of Velvet Antler

Standard :

The removal of velvet must be carried out either by a certified velveter in accordance with the National Velveting Standards Body (NVSB) programme or by a veterinarian

Qualifiers :

Refer to the NVSB programme by contacting DINZ or your veterinarian for more information

4.2 Velvet Antler & Antler Management

4.2.1 Velvet Antler

Standard :

Broken or diseased velvet which is likely to cause stress or compromise the welfare of affected stags, shall be attended to immediately.

4.2.2 Hard Antler

Standard :

All hard antlers shall be removed from stags by 1 March to ensure the safety, welfare and health status of the herd and handlers.

Qualifiers :

Hard antler may be left on master stags or trophy stags for sale that season providing that appropriate management procedures are undertaken to ensure the continued safety and welfare of the stags and their handlers.

Hard antler may be left on master stags or trophy stags for sale that season provided the stags are exclusively maintained for use on trophy blocks.

Appropriate management procedures must be demonstrated to ensure the continued safety and welfare of the stags and their handlers.

Spiker antlers may be grown out provided there is evidence that links this operation solely to trophy blocks or safari parks, or where there is a company and customer specific supply and farm management programme.

Recommendations :

Facilities should be designed to safely handle stags with hard antlers.

Stags with hard antlers should not be contained in paddocks with electric outriggers carrying electric wires or electrical tape.

These animals should have adequate scope within the farm environment to be able to display their normal patterns of behaviour.

These animals should not be held in close confines of small paddocks or enclosures and should never be paddocked adjacent to each other without separation by laneways, shelterbelts or some other barrier.

Farmers should be able to demonstrate skills in handling these animals in any situation where emergencies or animal health issues may arise.

Evidence of intent of future sale and purchase of spikers to trophy blocks and/or safari parks in the future may be provided through contracts, sale notes or other documents pertaining to intent.

When transporting these animals a DeerQA approved transport operator with a certified deer crate should be used. Farmers and handlers should be aware of the safety and welfare issues involved at all times.

Refer to DeerQA Transport Programme: www.deerhub/herdmanagement/transportingdeer

Farmers should be aware of all health and safety risks associated with stags in hard antler and should never enter a paddock on foot during the rut.

Stags with hard antler should be kept from stags that have had antlers removed

5. Transport

5.1 Transport of Deer

Standard :

To ensure animal health and welfare, a transport operator who is accredited to the Deer QA Transport Programme must be used.

The transport of deer must be in accordance with the requirements of the DeerQA Transport Programme.

Deer for transportation shall have no hard antler or velvet growth greater than 110mm in length measured from the centre of the skull; the only exception to this being when trophy stags in hard antler are being transported, in which case deer must be placed in individual pens.

Deer shall not be transported until 7 days after velveting except where NaturO™ Rings have been used. Refer to DeerQA Transport Programme.

Deer weaned less than 10 days shall not be presented at public auction.

Where deer are transported at weaning they must proceed directly from farm to farm immediately following weaning and the total duration of yarding and transport shall not exceed six hours.

These deer, when weaned less than 10 days, shall not be transported on the same unit as their mothers.

Only fit and healthy deer shall be offered for transport/slaughter.

Groups of deer with young at foot shall not be transported unless under exceptional circumstances in which case hinds should be separated from their fawns for transport.

Qualifiers :

- (i) Deer should be placed in yards a minimum of four hours before transport. These deer should have access to water.
- (ii) Pregnant hinds due to calve must not be transported (See Recommendations).
- (iii) Only stags under 2 years of age can be transported to DSPs during the roar. (from 1st March)
- (iv) Individual hinds with their fawn at foot can be transported together in a single pen.

Recommendations

It is recommended, in association with the DeerQA Transport Programme, that:

- (i) Where transport is imperative, stags should be kept in age groups and loaded to minimise movement and reduce aggression.
- (ii) Pregnant hinds should not be transported after 1 October.
- (iii) It is recommended that all deer, including hinds, be weaned a minimum of 10 days prior to transport.
- (vi) Stags over 2 years of age should not be transported for processing during the roar (from 1st March)

Refer to the DeerQA Transport Programme www.deerhub/herdmanagement/transportingdeer

Note: Transport of newly weaned deer (even short distances, or for less than 6 hours) can result in stress related illness and behaviour. It is noted from experience that young deer should be weaned at least 10 days prior to transport to avoid compromise to weaner health, wellbeing and productivity.

6. Cervena

6.1 Age Criteria

Standard :

To be eligible for Cervena™ all animals must meet the age criteria laid down by the Cervena™ Trust Ltd and must only be supplied by farms that have been audited and approved to the Deer QA Industry Agreed Standards or equivalent standard.

Qualifiers :

The deer must be three years and under (September 30th year) ie under 45 months.

Age must be verified by an auditable recording system.

A NAIT system giving year of birth and individual animal ID would be acceptable.

Note :

Criteria for the processing and supply of Cervena venison are contained in the NZ Deer Processors Cervena Agreed Standards.

7. Indoor Facilities, Feed Pads or Indoor/ Outdoor Facilities

Enclosure facilities, their management and operation must meet these minimum standards and in addition be adaptable and receptive to changing market attitudes and requirements.

There are three different systems recognised for on-farm production.

(1) Enclosure Area/feed pads

An area of the farm used specifically during winter to enclose deer where feed is supplied.

(2) Indoor / Outdoor

An indoor / outdoor wintering system is a combination of a housing system and/or wintering pad where deer have access to both areas.

(3) Housing System

Is a facility where animals are enclosed seasonally under a roofed area where they are completely dependent on humans for their daily requirements.

To ensure the health and welfare of deer when producing animals for slaughter from indoor facilities farmers must be aware of industry best practice guidelines and be able to demonstrate compliance with these requirements.

7.1 Enclosure Facilities

Standard :

Winter enclosure facilities must be designed, and constructed to satisfy all health, welfare and hygiene requirements of the deer.

Sufficient floor or pad space must be provided to enable all deer to display normal patterns of behaviour relating to resting, rumination, and play and to minimise animal aggression.

Animal cleanliness and hygiene must be maintained to acceptable standards for both animal welfare and presentation of stock.

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Boundary Fencing Regulations for Regulated/At Risk Areas

TYPE	SPECIFICATIONS
Notification DOC	Required
Species	All deer
Min fence height above ground	1.9m
Line wires	13 – all line wires fastened to inside of posts with exception of angle posts
Wire spacings	Min of 8 wires up to 1.2m high, max of 150mm apart Min of 5 wires above 1.2m high, max of 250mm apart
Height above ground to first wire	No greater than 75mm
Batten and stay wire spacings	Netting – max 300mm up to 1.2m high. Above 1.2m max 800mm. No hinge joint netting with stay wire spacing's greater than 200mm to be used for up to 1.2m in fence height. Battens – max 600mm apart (fallow); max 800mm apart (other deer species)
Wire gauge	2.5mm galv high tensile or wire equal to or of greater tensile strength
Post spacings	Max 5m
Post sizes	Rounds min 100mm SED; half rounds 175mm min face width; quarter rounds 100mm smallest fast width. Or posts of similar or greater strength. Min post length of 2.7m
Strainer posts	Min of 175mm SED; half rounds 175mm min face width; quarter rounds 100mm smallest face width. Or post length of 2.7m
Strainer distances	Max of 400m
Stays	Min of 120mm SED and min length of 2.7m. Tie backs and internal angle stays are acceptable.
Footings	Responsibility of person erecting the fence to use suitable footings according to soil types, soil acidity and soil conditions.
Top-up fences	Base fence must be in a sound condition, contain min of 8 line wires up to 1.2m with max wire spacing's no greater than that listed above.
Gates	Timber min height of 1.9m rails min 100mm x 25mm. Three uprights (or centered) and two diagonal stays on each side of gate. Min of MS bolts to be used. Rail spacing's to .2m high max 100mm apart. Above 1.2m max 150mm apart. Steel min height over frame of 1.9m wall thickness of 3mm min. Internal dia. 25mm. Gate covered with chain link of max aperture of 75mm and min wire gauge of 3.15mm. Mesh should be laced with min 2mm gauged wire. Hard-fill under all external gates.
Gate hinges	Hinges and gudgeons to be a min of 20mm dia. One hinge reversed or otherwise constructed to prevent the gate from being lifted off.
Gate locks	Must comprise a sturdy chain and padlock
Hanging gates	Hung gates must butt against the full inside surface of the latching post and open inwards
Flood gates	As approved (should not allow light through)
Staples	Post – min of 50mm in length and min gauge of 4.0mm Batten – softwood min of 30mm in length and min gauge of 3.15mm – hardwood min of 27mm x 2.8mm Steel fasteners for concrete posts can be used
Netting	No hinge joint netting with greater than 200mm. Stay wire spacing's shall be used below 1.2m in height above ground level.
Natural barriers	As approved

* Regulated / At-Risk areas are defined in NZ Gazette notice 125