

WHP and ESI Cheat Sheet

How meat-WHP, milk-WHP and ESI work in Australia, the four off-label triggers, the top 15 AU products with their defaults, and a worked example.

Two acronyms that decide whether you can sell an animal: **WHP** (Withholding Period) and **ESI** (Export Slaughter Interval). Get them wrong and the abattoir rejects your lot.

What WHP and ESI actually mean

Meat WHP: How many days after treatment before an animal can be slaughtered for the domestic market. Starts the day AFTER the last treatment dose.

Milk WHP: How many hours/milkings after treatment before milk can enter the food chain. Cows in milking herds must be drafted out.

ESI: Export Slaughter Interval. Often LONGER than the domestic meat WHP, because export markets (EU, Japan, US) have stricter MRLs (Maximum Residue Limits). If you sell into the export chain, ESI is what governs - not WHP.

Every APVMA-registered product has a label-specified WHP, ESI, and dose. Use the product per label and you're covered. Deviate from the label and you trigger 'off-label' triggers - see below.

The four off-label triggers

If ANY of these apply, the printed WHP/ESI on the label does NOT apply. You need a vet to calculate a custom WHP, or you need to wait considerably longer than the label says.

Higher dose than the label. Doubling a 1 mL/10 kg drench at 2 mL/10 kg extends the WHP - sometimes by weeks. Vet-only calculation.

Different species than the label. A cattle product used on goats is off-label. Same for cattle drench used on alpacas. Check before using.

Different route than the label. Subcutaneous when label says intramuscular. Pour-on when label says injectable. Off-label.

Combining products not approved together. Mixing two drenches in one syringe, or treating with two antibiotics back-to-back, can extend residue clearance unpredictably.

Top 15 AU livestock products with default WHPs

Indicative only - **always confirm against the bottle label of the specific product you're using**. Concentrations and formulations vary; off-label use changes everything.

Product	Active ingredient	Meat WHP	Milk WHP	ESI
Ultravac 5in1	Clostridial vaccine	0 days	0 hr	0 days
Cydectin Pour-On (cattle)	Moxidectin	0 days	Nil dry, 0 hr in milk	21 days
Cydectin Long Acting (sheep)	Moxidectin	21 days	Not for dairy sheep	91 days
Engemycin 100	Oxytetracycline	21 days	96 hours	21 days
Metacam 20	Meloxicam	11 days	5 days	11 days
Pestigard	Pestivirus vaccine	0 days	0 hr	0 days
Glanvac 6 (sheep)	Clostridial + cheesy gland	21 days	N/A	21 days
Eweguard (sheep)	Multi-vaccine	21 days	N/A	21 days
Excede for Cattle	Ceftiofur LA	11 days	Not for lactating dairy	11 days
Vibovax (sheep abortion)	Campylobacter vaccine	0 days	N/A	0 days
Q-Drench (sheep)	4-active drench	14 days	N/A	28 days
Zolvix Plus (sheep)	Monepantel + abamectin	14 days	N/A	21 days
Stockguard (cattle)	Multi-active drench	21 days	Not for milking	42 days
Caprovac (goats)	Cheesy gland vaccine	21 days	N/A	21 days
Bovilis MH (cattle)	Pestivirus + 7in1	0 days	0 hr	0 days

Worked example: why label dose matters

Setup: A 600 kg Angus steer is drenched with Cydectin Pour-On (Moxidectin) at the label rate of 1 mL per 10 kg = 60 mL on 1 May 2026. The label meat WHP is 0 days. ESI is 21 days.

Scenario A - domestic sale: The steer can be sold for slaughter on 2 May 2026 (the day after treatment). Meat WHP cleared.

Scenario B - export sale (e.g. EU, Japan): The steer cannot be sold for export until 22 May 2026. ESI is 21 days. If you sell into a chain that supplies export at any point - even via a domestic feedlot that exports - ESI applies.

Scenario C - off-label double dose (120 mL): WHP no longer 0 days. You now need a vet to calculate a custom WHP. Realistically the steer is locked out of any sale for several weeks.

How PaddockMate IQ handles this

Every treatment entry asks for the product (APVMA list bundled), dose, and date. The platform computes meat WHP, milk WHP and ESI clear-dates automatically. Animals currently in WHP show a warning chip on every screen. Reminders fire 14 days before WHP clears so you know what you can sell.