



# **LIVESTOCK WELFARE COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Established 1978

Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee  
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## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **ELECTRO-IMMOBILISATION OF LIVESTOCK**

Devices are available that immobilise livestock by passing a small electrical current through specifically placed electrodes and cause spasm in skeletal muscles. Immobilisation may be required to carry out certain procedures with safety to both the operator and animal, where untoward movement may cause pain or damage. Excessive current settings or inappropriate placement can cause distress, dyspnoea and even luxations or fractures and death. There is no anaesthesia or diminution of pain whatsoever that results from the use of these devices, and therefore they can never be used as a substitute for anaesthesia or to mask pain that should have been prevented by other means. The use of electro-immobilisers must be limited to those situations requiring immobilisation but not anaesthesia. Operators must be responsible persons (or under responsible supervision) who are aware of the dangers and limitations of these devices, must be fully trained and only use them in situations where they are justified. The device must be applied for the minimum appropriate time for any given procedure. The class and age of animal must be taken into account and only used on animals where this is appropriate and recommended.

**Accepted: May 2012**