

Property Identification Codes for livestock properties

All livestock owners, managers and occupiers of land must have a Property Identification Code (PIC) for all properties where livestock resides, regardless of whether the livestock are being moved or not. All livestock businesses, such as saleyards, abattoirs, showgrounds, feedstocks and depots (goats) must also have a PIC. For more information, please call Agriculture Victoria's NLIS Helpline on 1800 678 779 during business hours.

WHAT IS A PIC?

A **property identification code or PIC** is an eight character code allocated by Agriculture Victoria, or the equivalent authority in other states/territories, to identify a property on which livestock are kept. PICs are also now being used in some circumstances to identify properties involving in horticulture and viticulture.

In Victoria, PICs commence with the prefix '3' and are in the format '3ABCD123'. The first two letters identify the local government area in which the property is located.

NSW and South Australian PICs commence with the prefix 'N' and 'S' respectively.

For the purposes of allocating PICs, a property is defined as a parcel of land, consisting of one or more blocks within the one locality, operating as part of a livestock enterprise.

Property Identification Codes – Why?

It is essential that livestock are able to be located quickly and accurately to manage the spread of disease and to address food safety related issues, for example associated with chemical contamination.

The ability to be able to quickly and reliably establish the properties of residence of livestock is critical to protecting the reputation of Victoria's beef, dairy, sheep meat, wool, goat and pig industries.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for the identification and tracking of livestock for market access, food safety, disease control and animal welfare purposes. The NLIS uses the PIC system to facilitate the recording of movements of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs from property to property throughout their lives. The ability to track livestock provides confidence to consumers in domestic and overseas markets that Victorian produced meat and milk products are safe and wholesome.

PICs also play a crucial role during response to emergencies such as floods, fires and disease outbreaks because livestock owners can often be warned of impending danger, and can also be assisted more effectively in the aftermath of such events.

Who should have a PIC?

If you have livestock you are required under the Livestock Disease Control Act to have a PIC for the property on which the livestock is held. This includes people who keep livestock for lifestyle or hobby purposes, or as pets.

You must have a PIC if you intend to acquire one or more cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camelids (as in alpacas or llamas), deer or horses.

You must have a PIC if you have more than 100 poultry, or more than 10 farmed emus or ostriches. The term 'poultry' in this instance refers to domesticated fowl, chickens, ducks, geese, turkey, guinea fowl, pigeons, quail or pheasants.

All businesses that receive livestock, including saleyards, cattle scales, abattoirs, knackereries, veterinary clinics, breeding centres, and show and exhibition venues, must also have a PIC.

Horse owners running horses on their own property, and owners of properties where horses are agisted are also required to have a PIC.

Stock agents who buy cattle or sheep on behalf of clients, and are uncertain where the livestock will be taken, can also apply for a PIC. Agents using a 'stock agent PIC' have seven days to transfer purchased livestock to the correct destination PIC on the NLIS database.

If you no longer have livestock or have introduced new livestock species, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic and update your PIC.

You can also call the Agriculture Victoria's NLIS Helpline on 1800 678779 during office hours to register the changes in circumstance in relation to your property.

When will I need to use my PIC?

If you purchase cattle, sheep, goats or pigs, you must be able to provide the PIC of the property where the livestock will be taken to the seller, or seller's agents in the case of saleyard purchases.

You will need a PIC to order NLIS tags for the identification of the cattle, sheep or goats that you breed, and to replace missing NLIS tags on introduced animals. If you own pigs, you will need a PIC before you can purchase a tattoo brand, or ear tags for the identification of pigs under 25 kilograms in weight.

You will also need a PIC to order the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) forms that you are required to complete when selling cattle, sheep and goats, and PigPass NVDs when selling pigs

NVD forms can be obtained by contacting the LPA Helpline on 1800 111 during office hours or by visiting www.mla.com.au. PigPass NVDs can be obtained by visiting www.pigpass.com.au

What about agistment and lease properties?

PICs are allocated to a parcel of land that may consist of more than one block within the one locality, operating as part of one livestock enterprise. As long as the agistment property or leased land is in the same locality, i.e. in the same shire or in a neighbouring shire, you can then apply for these additional blocks of land to be covered by your 'home' PIC.

To add or remove an agistment property or leased land from your PIC, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic and update your PIC details. Alternatively you can call the Agriculture Victoria's NLIS Helpline on 1800 678779 during office hours to register the changes to your PIC.

How can I apply for a PIC?

It is important to remember that there is no cost associated with applying for a PIC, or updating PIC details.

If you are unsure of your PIC number, please call Agriculture Victoria's NLIS Helpline on 1800 678 779 during business hours.

To apply for a PIC you can

Apply online at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic. You can also use the online service to update your existing PIC details if they have changed.

Download an application form by visiting www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic.

Contact Agriculture Victoria's NLIS Helpline during office hours on 1800 678 779 to have a form mailed or emailed to you

If you apply for a PIC online you will not need the Council Rate Assessment Numbers for the parcel/s of land that comprise your property because you'll be able to click on the relevant allotments using the map of the area where your property is located.

You will need the Council Rate Assessment Number/s sourced from your annual rate notice/s for the titles associated with your property if you choose to complete the paper PIC application form.

If you have applied for a PIC online, you will be emailed the details once the new PIC is issued. Regardless of the application method used, applicants will receive by mail a credit-card style card which displays their PIC number.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone the Communications and Project Officer on (03) 9217 4441.

This document is also available in PDF format at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au