



NLIS (National Livestock Identification System)

Legal requirements for recording livestock movement of cattle, sheep and goats

It is vital that livestock can be identified and tracked from their property of birth to slaughter. Traceability - the ability to follow an animal from one point in the supply chain to another - enables monitoring for disease, food safety and underpins protection of Australia's local and international markets.

Traceability protects human health, maintains public confidence and supports the increasing demands of consumers for healthy and safe food. NLIS and its individual elements: NLIS (Cattle), NLIS (Sheep & Goats) and NLIS (Pigs) form Australia's system for identifying and tracking livestock.

The NLIS combines three elements to enable lifetime traceability of animals:

1 Identification of a physical location

A Property Identification Code (PIC) defines a property where livestock are kept and who has responsibility for the livestock. PICs are used for a number of different purposes including recording movements of livestock, disease information and identifying places where livestock are kept, congregate and processed.

2 An animal identifier

As cattle, sheep and goats are bought, sold and moved along the supply chain, they must remain tagged with a NLIS-accredited tag or device. A species specific NLIS device consists of two identifiers: the visual identification on the outside of the tag including the PIC; and the Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) number which is the internal number of the device.

3 A web-accessible database.

The NLIS database is industry managed and stores a huge amount of information relating to cattle, sheep and goat movements. All supply chain participants benefit from data available from the database. There are many reports available from the NLIS database including confirming livestock movement records for stock that have moved onto, or from your PIC.

Recording livestock movements on the NLIS database

Property-to-property (P2P) Transfer

After animals are moved between properties with two different PICs (often called a P2P movement) it is the responsibility of the buyer/receiver of the stock to notify the NLIS Database of stock movements by conducting a transfer on the database. The buyer/receiver may engage someone else to notify the database on their behalf including the person who dispatched the livestock or a stock agent. The database transfer must be completed within two days of the arrival of the cattle, sheep and/or goats.



When livestock are bought or sold through a saleyard, cattle scale operator, public auction conducted on-farm or sold directly to an abattoir, it is the responsibility of the person operating the business to notify the database.



Visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/nlis



or call the Agriculture Victoria NLIS Helpline on 1800 678 779 between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

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