

NLIS (Pigs) Standards

2022 edition





Contents

Introduction	4	Part 4: Saleyards	16
Purpose	4	Scope	16
Scope	4	Objective	16
Interpretation	4	Standards	16
Reasons for pig traceability	4	S4.1 Property identification	16
Traceability system	5	S4.2 NLIS (Pigs) tags.	16
Tattoos and tags	6	S4.3 Movement file.	17
PigPass and NLIS databases	6	Part 5: Processors.	17
Part 1: Producers	7	Scope	17
Scope	7	Objective	17
Objective	7	Standards	17
Standards	7	S5.1 Property identification	17
S1.1 Property identification	7	S5.2 NLIS (Pigs) tags.	18
S1.2 Pig ear tags and tattoo brands	8	S5.3 Movement documentation	18
S1.3 Movement documentation	10	S5.4 Pig identification	18
S1.4 Persons acquiring pigs	11	S5.5 Movement recording	19
S1.5 Movement recording of pigs moving between properties	12	Part 6: Agricultural shows and similar events.	19
Part 2: Transporters	13	Scope	19
Scope	13	Objective	19
Objective	13	Standards	19
Standards	13	S6.1 Property identification	19
S2.1 Transportation of pigs	13	S6.2 Pig identification.	19
S2.2 Movement document.	13	S6.3 Movement recording	20
Part 3: Livestock agents	14	Acronyms and terms.	21
Scope	14	Aboriginal Acknowledgement	23
Objective	14		
Standards	14		
S3.1 Pig identification	14		
S3.2 Records regarding the sale of pigs	14		
S3.3 Provision of documentation to buyers	15		
S3.4 Record keeping	15		
S3.5 Auctions on farms and at public events	15		

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to specify the standards for the operation of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for pigs, known as the NLIS (Pigs), in Victoria. The commencement date for these Standards is 31 October 2022.

These rules have been developed following consultation between Agriculture Victoria and industry, and were also informed by the national NLIS Pig Standards – December 2016 edition available at australianpork.com.au/sites/default/files/2021-06/NLISigStandardsFINAL_20170802.pdf.

The expected outcome associated with the operation of the NLIS (Pigs) is that pigs dispatched from, or arriving at, a Victorian property will be traceable in line with Australia's *National Livestock Traceability Performance Standards* (available at animalhealthaustralia.com.au/traceability).

The National Livestock Identification System (Pigs), Victorian Standards – 2022 edition (the Standards) list the obligations on industry participants that relate to the operation in Victoria of the NLIS (Pigs). By observing these obligations, industry participants will be compliant with Victorian legislation relating to the identification and tracking of pigs. These Standards also need to be read in conjunction with those elements of the *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* and associated Regulations and Orders that address the identification of pigs and the recording of their movements.

Scope

These Standards apply to:

1. all domesticated pigs including pigs kept as pets and whole carcasses of dead pigs,
2. their movements between properties where one or both locations are in Victoria, and
3. persons responsible for their management, husbandry and/or their dispatch to, receipt at and transportation from properties, including Victorian farms, residential properties, saleyards, transit depots, assembly points, artificial breeding centres, veterinary practices, export depots, knackeries, abattoirs and agricultural show venues.

Interpretation

Each numbered section or part of this document covers a responsible party, and contains the following information:

- **Scope** — specifies the parties to whom the section or part applies
- **Objective** — intended outcome(s) for each section of the Standards
- **Standards** — minimum requirements that must be met under Victorian law
- **Verifiable statements** — Standards intended to be clear verifiable statements, and that are numbered with the prefix 'S'
- **Notes** — guidance in the context of the Standards
- **Acronyms and terms** — are described in the glossary.

Further information on pig identification and traceability requirements can be found in Agriculture Victoria publications at agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/pigs

Reasons for pig traceability

Pigs act as vectors in the spread of infectious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, Classical swine fever and other diseases that have potentially significant market access and human health impacts. It is essential that pigs of interest are able to be located quickly and accurately, to manage the spread of disease and to address food safety related incidents, for example those associated with chemical contamination.

The ability to quickly and reliably establish current and past properties of residence of a pig underpins Victoria's quality brand, protects Victoria's pork industry and capitalises on emerging market opportunities associated with food safety and provenance.

Effective tracking enables authorities to impose preventive measures promptly that may shorten the duration of an epidemic, delivering considerable commercial and animal welfare benefits. The ability to accurately identify animals is also important when collecting disease surveillance information, including when sampling animals for diagnostic purposes.

Similarly, identifying animals helps authorities mitigate food safety risks. Being able to pinpoint the likely source of a contaminant improves response times to food safety incidents. Having access to information about where similarly affected animals might be located makes product recalls or on-farm follow-up investigations easier.

A ‘whole of life’ approach—by which animals can be tracked back to their farm of birth if necessary—is essential for addressing many animal health and food safety issues. The ability to trace forward to locate companions at various points in the life history of an animal is equally important for disease control and food safety.

Processors can also use animal tracking systems to support claims about features of the production systems that were used during an animal’s life, for example, ‘pasture raised’ and ‘growth promotant free’, as well as claims relating to food safety, product integrity and provenance.

Traceability system

The importance of animal identification and traceability is recognised in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and in a dedicated Codex Alimentarius standard.¹

Animal traceability is far more than simply identifying animals. Using brands, marks and identification devices is one component of a process that allows authorities to track an animal or group of animals along a production chain and to quickly locate members of their past cohorts. These components, when linked together, form a traceability system that authorities can use to address animal health and food safety challenges.

The NLIS (Pigs) covered by these Standards is an integrated package, linking several components in a framework designed to address clearly defined biosecurity, food safety, market access and industry productivity related objectives.

To achieve the required level of traceability, Victoria’s system for tracking pigs as part of the NLIS (Pigs) has the following elements:

- a) a property registration system maintained by Agriculture Victoria that allocates a unique identifying number known as a Property Identification Code (PIC) to properties. The PIC register contains information on the species present, contact details for the person who is responsible for the animals and a mapping capability
- b) tattoo brands, and visually readable NLIS (Pigs) ear tags to physically identify animals
- c) defined movement documentation requirements
- d) official secure databases—the PigPass and NLIS databases—that collaboratively receive and store movement records
- e) standards and associated legal and quality assurance frameworks, developed with input from all sectors of the supply chain
- f) an ongoing program to educate industry participants about their responsibilities and to provide training and technical support
- g) documented arrangements for performance monitoring, enforcement, evaluation and periodic review
- h) a query system that allows authorities to easily establish the history and whereabouts of individuals or groups and their cohorts, particularly during emergency responses, and
- a) an ability for the system to display geospatial and temporal information.

These Standards outline the obligations of industry participants relating to property registration, the means of identifying pigs, movement document requirements and database reporting.

¹ World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) 2012, Terrestrial animal health code, Volume 1: general provisions, [oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code](https://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code); Codex Alimentarius 2006, Principles for traceability/product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system, CAC/GL 60-2006, [Principles for traceability/product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org)

Tattoos and tags

Pigs are physically identified as part of the NLIS (Pigs) using a tattooed slap brand or accredited NLIS (Pigs) ear tag. For welfare reasons, tattoo brands are only permitted to be applied to pigs that are heavier than 25 kg.

NLIS (Pigs) ear tags have the PIC of the property on which pigs were tagged printed on them and are currently only available in visually readable designs. NLIS (Pigs) tags are stamped with the NLIS logo and the letter P inside a circle.

For information relating to NLIS accredited pig tags, please go to pigpass.australianpork.com.au/faq and then look for the identification tab.

PigPass and NLIS databases

PigPass is Australia's tracking system for pigs. The PigPass database is operated by Australian Pork Ltd and receives information from industry participants on the movements of pigs in Australia. It is linked to the NLIS database operated by Integrity Systems Company (a wholly owned subsidiary of Meat and Livestock Australia). During disease and food safety emergencies, the states/territories will access movement information stored on the PigPass and NLIS databases to track the movement of pigs and other susceptible livestock species.

A PigPass National Vendor Declaration (PigPass NVD), or movement document in similar form, must be completed when a producer dispatches pigs from their property. This applies to all pig owners and producers, regardless of the numbers of the pigs moved.

When transporting pigs off their property, an owner must complete a PigPass NVD or alternative movement document ensuring all information has been completed in full, including the PIC or address of the destination property. The receiver must record the movement details on the PigPass database. This obligation applies to abattoirs, other producers, pet pig owners, saleyards, veterinary clinics, artificial breeding centre operators, knackereries, agricultural show organisers and stock agents.

Information on the operation of the PigPass database is available at pigpass.com.au

For further information about the operation of the PigPass database and the use of PigPass NVDs, contact the PigPass Helpdesk on 1800 001 458 during business hours or email helpdesk@pigpass.com.au.



Part 1: Producers

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons owning and/or managing a property in Victoria on which pigs are bred, agisted, reared, held or kept,
- persons owning and/or managing pigs moving off or onto a property in Victoria at any point in a pig's life for any reason, and
- persons consigning pigs located in another state/territory to a Victorian property including a farm, saleyard, abattoir or knackery.

Note:

This includes properties where pigs are kept as a hobby or as pets, artificial breeding centres and the clinics of veterinary practitioners.

Objective

To ensure that properties on which pigs are held are registered with Agriculture Victoria and have a valid PIC, and that where necessary pigs are correctly identified with an NLIS (Pigs) tag or a tattoo brand prior to moving from a property.

Standards

S1.1 Property identification

S1.1.1

- a) A person owning or managing a property, including a residential property, on which one or more pigs are or will be kept must obtain and maintain a valid PIC assigned by Agriculture Victoria to that property. This includes farms, saleyards, showgrounds, abattoirs, knackeries, artificial breeding centres, veterinary clinics and any other property where pigs may be kept or processed.

S1.1.2

Agriculture Victoria must be notified within 28 business days of changes to any of the following details relating to a PIC:

- a) owner contact details including name, address, contact phone number and email address,
- b) manager contact details including name, address, contact phone number and email address,
- c) property boundaries involving their expansion through acquisition or agreement to graze or keep pigs, or their reduction through sale or the relinquishing of a lease or agistment right,
- d) the livestock species that are or will be kept on the property.

Note:

The presence of one or more cattle, buffalo, bison, sheep, goats, pigs, alpacas, llamas, camels, horses, domesticated deer, and more than 10 domesticated emus or ostriches, and more than 50 poultry present on a property must be reported to Agriculture Victoria and registered against that property's PIC.

Note:

PICs are assigned to a parcel of land, which can consist of more than one block within the one locality, operating as part of a livestock enterprise, hobby/lifestyle farm or residence.

S1.1.3

Agriculture Victoria must be notified within 28 business days if a property will no longer be used to keep pig. The tattoo brands and unused NLIS (Pigs) ear tags assigned for use on the property must not be sold or given away.

S1.1.4

A person placing an advertisement in the printed or electronic media, or on an on-line selling platform, offering one or more pigs for sale must include the PIC on which the pigs are residing in the advertisement, unless the advertisement is placed on behalf of the vendor by a stock agent and includes the stock agent's business name and contact address or phone number.

Note:

Persons selling pigs via advertisements in the printed or electronic media must ensure that their pigs are correctly identified (see S1.2) and provide the purchaser with a PigPass NVD or equivalent movement document (see S1.3).

S1.1.5

A person must not publish or display an advertisement in the printed or electronic media, or on an on-line selling platform, that offers one or more pigs for sale unless either the PIC on which the pigs are residing is included in the advertisement, or the advertisement is placed on behalf of the vendor by a stock agent and includes the stock agent's business name and contact address or phone number.

S1.2 Pig ear tags and tattoo brands

S1.2.1

The following methods of identifying pigs are permitted in Victoria as part of the NLIS (Pigs):

- a) Through the use of a tattoo brand of four characters commencing with the numeral '3' that has been assigned to a Victoria pig producing property by Agriculture Victoria and is linked to that property's PIC, and
- b) Through the use of NLIS (Pigs) ear tags (Breeder and Post-breeder).

Note:

Breeder NLIS (Pigs) tags are yellow. Post-breeder NLIS (Pigs) tags are orange.

Note:

Only NLIS (Pigs) ear tags printed with the PIC of the property on which they are to be applied may be used. Tattoo brands cannot be printed in place of PICs on NLIS (Pigs) ear tags.

S1.2.2

The tattoo brand includes the striker and permanent tattoo paste or ink. The numeral and letters encoded by the pins embedded in the striker must be at least 20 mm high, 12 mm wide and 2.5 mm apart. The pins must be tapered needles at least 6.8 mm long. Carbon based tattooing paste or ink must be used.

Note:

The use of markers such as stock sprays, bale stencilling ink or boot polish are unacceptable because they may lead to the contamination of carcasses and are likely to wash out in the hot water bath during the dehairing process in an abattoir, thus making the tattoo unreadable.

S1.2.3

The owner and person in charge of pigs that are to be dispatched from a property to another property that is not an abattoir, knackery or saleyard must ensure that each pig is identified with a tattoo brand or NLIS (Pigs) tag relating to the property from which the pig or pigs are to be dispatched unless:

- a) the parties responsible for consigning and receiving the pigs are both participants in the APIQ program and comply with the movement documentation and movement recording obligations specified in these Standards (see S1.5),
- b) the pig or pigs are being consigned to a veterinary clinic or artificial breeding centre and the pig or pigs will return within 7 days to the property from which they were dispatched. The owner and person in charge of the pigs must also comply with the movement documentation and movement recording obligations specified in these Standards (see S1.5),
- c) the pigs have not been weaned and are accompanied by their dam provided the parties responsible for consigning and receiving the pigs comply with the movement documentation and movement recording obligations specified in these Standards (see S1.5) and the dam is correctly identified with a tattoo or NLIS (Pigs) ear tag,
- d) the person in charge has received permission in writing from an authorised Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer because their pigs cannot be safely tagged on the property on which they reside before dispatch, or
- e) there is an extreme emergency such as imminent threat from a bushfire or floods, in which case the minimum information specified in S1.5 must be recorded and reported to the PigPass database within 14 days of the departure date of the pigs.

S1.2.4

By no later than the time of their departure from their property of birth to a saleyard, abattoir or knackery, pigs that have been weaned regardless of age must be:

- a) branded on the left shoulder using the tattoo brand assigned for use on that property; or
- b) if less than 25kg tagged with a Breeder NLIS (Pigs) ear tag on which is printed the PIC of the property from which the pigs are to be dispatched.

Note:

In line with established industry practice, it is preferable that NLIS Breeder tags be placed in the left ear of pigs and NLIS Post-breeder tags be placed in the right ear of pigs.

S1.2.5

A tattoo brand must not be applied to a pig that is less than 25kg in weight.

Note:

A tattoo brand must not be applied to a pig that is less than 25kg in weight for welfare reasons. Pigs that are less than 25kg in weight may be injured if struck with a tattoo brand.

S1.2.6

A person who brings a pig into Victoria or permits a pig to be introduced into Victoria must ensure that the pig is identified with a tattoo or ear tag that incorporates the brand or PIC assigned to the property from which the pig was dispatched. The tattoo or ear tag must have been applied in accordance with any laws relating to the identification of pigs in place in the state/territory from which the pig was dispatched.

S1.2.7

All introduced pigs and those of unknown or uncertain origin, by no later than the time of their departure to a saleyard, abattoir or knackery, must be:

- a) branded on the right shoulder with a tattoo brand assigned by Agriculture Victoria for use on that property with subsequent tattoo brands applied in order to the right rump and then the left rump, or
- b) tagged with an orange NLIS (Pigs) Post-breeder tag on which is printed the PIC of the property from which the pigs are to be dispatched.

Note:

For welfare reasons, a tattoo brand must not be applied to a pig that is less than 25kg in weight.

Note:

In line with established industry practice, it is preferable that NLIS Breeder tags be placed in the left ear of pigs and NLIS Post-breeder tags be placed in the right ear of pigs.

S1.2.8

Other than in the context of the slaughter of pigs in an abattoir or the processing of carcasses in a knackery, NLIS (Pigs) tags must not be removed from a pig, or altered, damaged or disfigured in any way.

S1.2.9

Pigs must not be identified with an NLIS (Cattle) or NLIS (Sheep) tag, and NLIS (Pigs) tags must not be used to identify cattle, camelids, sheep, goats or deer.

S1.2.10

NLIS (Pigs) tags and tattoo brands are issued for use on a specific property (PIC) and must not be used to identify pigs on a property assigned a different PIC unless approved in writing by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer.

S1.3

Movement documentation

S1.3.1

- a) A PigPass NVD or alternate movement document that is in a like form and that contains as a minimum the information listed in S1.3.2 must be generated by the person dispatching, or person authorising the dispatch of, pigs from a farm or residential property to another farm, residential property, saleyard or abattoir.
- b) A person may consign dead pigs to a knackery without a movement document provided the knackery operator is advised of the PIC on which the pigs died by no later than the time of their collection or delivery.

Note:

There is no requirement for a PigPass NVD or equivalent movement document to be generated when pigs are being dispatched to a veterinary clinic or artificial breeding centre provided there is no ownership change, the pigs will return to the PIC from which they were dispatched and movements to and from these locations are recorded on the PigPass database by the owner or manager of the pigs (see S1.5).

Note:

The PigPass NVD is industry's preferred movement document and may be used for all pig movements including movements from properties that are not participants in the APIQ program. Pig owners who are not part of the APIQ program are able to open a PigPass database account, register pig movements and access PigPass NVDs. For further information about the operation of the PigPass database and the use of PigPass NVDs, visit pigpass.com.au or contact the PigPass Helpdesk on 1800 001 458 during business hour or email helpdesk@pigpass.com.au

S1.3.2

The PigPass NVD or alternate movement document must be accurate in respect to each animal in the consignment and must include:

- a) name or trading name of the owner of the pigs
- b) the PIC and the physical address of the property from which the pigs are to be dispatched
- c) where one or more animals are identified with a tattoo brand or NLIS (Pigs) tag, the tattoo brand and the PIC printed on the tag or tags
- d) the number and description of pigs to be dispatched
- e) the date of dispatch of the pigs
- f) the name of the person creating and signing the document and his/her contact phone number
- g) whether the pigs in the consignment were bred on the property of dispatch, and if not, the length of time the most recently introduced pigs have been on the property
- h) the intended destination of the pigs, which may be the PIC of the destination property, the street address of the destination property, or the name of the saleyard or abattoir.

Note:

A PigPass NVD or alternate movement document must be generated even if ownership of the pigs involved in the movement is not changing.

Note:

A movement document may also have a serial number or electronically generated date and time stamp. The movement document's unique identifying number, if present, can then be included in the movement file uploaded to the PigPass database (see S1.5).

Note:

If a single movement document cannot accurately describe and record information about all pigs in a consignment, an additional movement document or documents should be used. It should also be possible to draft animals, if necessary, into groups relating to each of the movement documents used.

S1.3.3

The person responsible for dispatching pigs must ensure that an accurately completed movement document is provided to the receiver of the pigs by no later than the time of their arrival at the destination property.

S1.3.4

The person generating a movement document must keep a copy of the document for two years. Copies of movement documents must be retrievable by the person generating the document within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Documents, including copies of PigPass NVDs, can be stored in hardcopy or in a retrievable electronic format provided they are able to be promptly retrieved when requested to do so.

S1.3.5

A person introducing pigs onto a property must not move these pigs from that property without first receiving the movement document supplied by the previous owner or manager.

S1.4 Persons acquiring pigs

S1.4.1

A person acquiring pigs at a saleyard or public auction, including a processor or person acting on behalf of a processor, must at the time of purchase provide the selling agent with the PIC of the next property to which the pigs will be taken.

S1.4.2

By no later than the point when possession changes, a person acquiring pigs other than at a public auction must provide the person selling, dispatching or releasing the pigs with the PIC of the property to which they will be taken.

S1.4.3

- a) Copies of PigPass NVDs and alternate movement documents must be kept for two years from the date of their receipt by the person receiving the pigs.
- b) Copies must be retrievable by the person who receives the pigs within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Documents, including copies of PigPass NVDs, can be stored in hardcopy or in a retrievable electronic format provided they are able to be promptly retrieved when requested to do so.

S1.4.4

It is an offence to acquire or keep a feral pig that is alive. Feral pigs must not be introduced into Victoria, moved, fed, given away, sold or released.

Note:

Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are a declared pest animal under Victoria's Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. Under the Act, land owners have a responsibility to prevent the spread of feral pigs.

S1.5 Movement recording of pigs moving between properties

S1.5.1

When pigs arrive on a farm or residential property directly from a farm, residential property, veterinary clinic or artificial breeding centre, the person receiving the pigs and owner are responsible for ensuring that the following information is registered on the PigPass database:

- a) the PIC of the location from which the pigs were dispatched
- b) the date of arrival of the pigs
- c) the number of pigs received

- d) whether the pigs were declared as having been bred on the property from which they were consigned, and if not, the length of time the pigs were present on this property before being dispatched
- e) when a PigPass NVD has been supplied by the consignor, the document's serial number.

Note:

Pig owners who are not part of the APIQ program are able to open a PigPass database account, register pig movements and access PigPass NVDs. For further information about the operation of the PigPass database and the use of PigPass NVDs, visit pigpass.com.au or contact the PigPass Helpdesk on 1800 001 458 during business hours or email helpdesk@pigpass.com.au

Note:

If pigs within a consignment have been on the property from which they will be dispatched for varying lengths of time, the answer to the question about the length of time that pigs have been located on the property should relate to the most recently introduced animals.

Note:

Owners and managers who bring a pig or pigs to a veterinary clinic or artificial breeding centre are responsible for recording the movement to and from the clinic/centre on the PigPass database within 48 hours of the movement. There is no requirement for a PigPass NVD or alternate movement document to be generated provided there is no ownership change and the movement is recorded as required on the PigPass database.

S1.5.2

The information specified in S1.5.1 must be registered on the PigPass database within 48 hours of a pig's arrival or before it next moves, whichever is the sooner.

S1.5.3

The operator of a farm, veterinary clinic or artificial breeding centre must immediately report any deaths or diseases of pigs possibly caused by an emergency animal disease to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.



Part 2: Transporters

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons and businesses transporting pigs between properties including to a saleyard, depot, abattoir, knackery, veterinary clinic or artificial breeding centre, or agricultural show, or for any other reason or purpose.

Objective

To ensure that pigs are identified in accordance with these Standards and are traceable before dispatch.

Standards

S2.1

Transportation of pigs

S2.1.1

A person must only take possession of and transport pigs that are identified in accordance with these Standards (see S1.2).

S2.1.2

It is an offence to transport a feral pig that is alive.

S2.2

Movement document

S2.2.1

A person transporting pigs must deliver to the person receiving the pigs any movement document provided by the consignor by no later than the time the receiver takes possession of the pigs.



Part 3: Livestock agents

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons involved in the sale of pigs in a saleyard or at a public auction, including auctions held on a farm, at an agricultural show or at an exhibition.

Note:

This Part does not apply to agents involved in trading pigs via the internet, for example, on Gumtree.

Objective

To ensure that pigs are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movement between auction venues and the properties of the consignor and purchaser can be effectively and rapidly tracked.

Standards

S3.1 Pig identification

S3.1.1

The selling agent must ensure that before pigs are sold:

- a) they are correctly identified in accordance with these Standards (see S1.2),
- b) they can be reliably linked to the PIC of the property from which they were consigned, and
- c) a PigPass NVD or equivalent movement document supplied and completed by the owner or consignor has been received.

Note:

Before pigs are dispatched to a saleyard, the owner must ensure that each animal is correctly identified in accordance with these Standards (see S1.2). Persons facilitating the sale of pigs are also required to ensure that the animals they sell are correctly identified and traceable.

S3.1.2

NLIS (Pigs) tags and tattoo brands are issued for use on a specific property (PIC) and must not be applied to pigs on a property with a different PIC.

Note:

Vendors and their agents are not permitted to bring NLIS (Pigs) tags or tattoo brands to a saleyard or auction venue for the purposes of identifying pigs.

S3.1.3

- a) Any weaned pig arriving at a saleyard that is not identified with a legible tattoo brand relating to the property of dispatch or an NLIS (Pigs) ear tag on which is printed the PIC of the property of dispatch, must be tagged by the selling agent with a Post-breeder NLIS (Pigs) tag on which is printed the PIC of the saleyard before being offered for sale.
- b) A record of the use of Post-breeder NLIS (Pigs) tags must be provided to the saleyard manager on the day of the sale to enable the saleyard operator to comply with their obligations under Section 4.2.2.

S3.2 Records regarding the sale of pigs

S3.2.1

- a) The selling agent must record the following information for each sale lot of pigs and provide this information to the saleyard operator before pigs leave the saleyard:
 - i) date of sale
 - ii) PIC from which the pigs were consigned,

- iii number of pigs in each sale lot,
 - iv serial number, if present, associated with the consignor's movement document.
- b) The PIC of the property to which the pigs will be taken provided by the buyer, or by the vendor for a sale lot that was passed in, must be provided to the saleyard operator by midday on the next business day following the sale.

S3.3 Provision of documentation to buyers

S3.3.1

When the destination PIC provided by a buyer relates to an abattoir, the selling agent must provide a post-sale summary, or copies of the movement documents supplied by vendors, to the operator of the abattoir by midnight on the day of sale.

S3.3.2

When the destination PIC provided by a buyer does not relate to an abattoir, the selling agent must dispatch a copy of the movement document supplied by the vendor to the purchaser by no later than two business days after the date of the sale.

S3.3.3

Where a post-sale summary is provided by a selling agent to the operator of an abattoir, it must include:

- a) sale venue,
- b) date of the sale,
- c) selling agent's business name,
- d) number of head in each purchased lot,
- e) serial number, if present, associated with the consignor's movement document,
- f) the PIC from which the pigs in each purchased lot were dispatched to the saleyard,
- g) destination PIC provided by the purchaser, and
- e) whether the pigs in each sale lot were bred on the property from which they were dispatched.

Note:

Selling agents must provide sufficient information to an abattoir to enable the abattoir to link each animal in a consolidated mob containing two or more sale lots to a consignor and to that consignor's movement document. If the need arises, purchasers will then have sufficient information to draft a sale lot from the consolidated mob.

S3.4 Record keeping

S3.4.1

The selling agent must keep a copy of the movement document supplied by a vendor for two years from the date of the sale and be able to retrieve the document within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

S3.4.2

Copies of post-sale summaries supplied to purchasers must be kept by a selling agent for two years from the date of the sale, and be able to retrieve the document within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Movement documents can be stored in hardcopy, or in a retrievable electronic format provided they can be retrieved within 2 hours.

S3.5 Auctions on farms and at public events

S3.5.1

When a public auction occurs at a venue other than a saleyard (for example, on-farm or at a showground), the selling agent is responsible for creating and uploading movement files as specified in S4.3.1 to the PigPass database. The selling agent must create and upload movement files within two business days of the sale.



Part 4: Saleyards

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons operating a public saleyard, market or trading premises at which pigs are offered for sale, and
- agents conducting a public auction on a farm, at a showground, or other venue that is not a public saleyard.

Note:

The definition of a saleyard within these Standards includes locations where pigs are offered for sale to the public by a vendor, or sold by public auction, and includes farmer's markets and fair grounds where one or more stall holders are offering pigs for sale.

Objective

To ensure that pigs at saleyards, markets and public auctions are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements are able to be effectively and rapidly tracked.

Standards

S4.1 Property identification

S4.1.1

Persons operating a saleyard must obtain and hold a valid PIC relating to their premises issued by Agriculture Victoria.

S4.2 NLIS (Pigs) tags

S4.2.1

Orange NLIS (Pigs) Post-breeder tags on which are printed the saleyard's PIC and a serial number must be available for use on weaned pigs that arrive for sale and are found not to have been identified according to these Standards on the property from which they were dispatched with a legible tattoo brand or NLIS (Pigs) ear tag.

S4.2.2

- a) The saleyard operator or their authorised representative (which may be the selling agent) must make an auditable record of the use of NLIS (Pigs) Post-breeder tags to identify animals that were found not to be identified in accordance with these Standards. The record must link the:
 - i PIC and serial number present on the tag or tags used,
 - ii date of use,
 - iii person attaching the tag/s,
 - iv PIC from which the pigs were dispatched,
 - v the destination PIC provided by the buyer, and
 - vi the reason why Post-breeder tags needed to be used.
- b) The saleyard operator must within two business days of the arrival for sale of a pig or pigs on which Post-breeder tags needed to be used, send to nlis.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au the following information:
 - i the name and address of the person who consigned the pig/s,
 - ii the PIC of the property from which the pig/s was dispatched,
 - iii the serial number on the PigPass NVD, and
 - iv the PIC of the property to which the pig or pigs were dispatched.
- c) The saleyard operator is responsible for ensuring that records relating to the use of Post-breeder tags in the operator's saleyard are retrievable within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

S4.3 Movement file

S4.3.1

- a) The saleyard operator must upload to the PigPass database before pigs leave the saleyard, a movement file for each sale lot containing:
- i the date of sale,
 - ii the PIC of the saleyard, market or trading premises,
 - iii the PIC of the property from which the pigs were dispatched,
 - iv the number of head in the sale lot, and
 - v the serial number on the movement document (if a serial number is present) accompanying the pigs.
- b) The PIC of the property to which the pigs will be taken must be uploaded to the PigPass database by close of business on the next business day following the sale.

S4.3.2

When a public auction occurs at a venue other than a saleyard (for example, on-farm or at a showground or exhibition), the selling agent is responsible for creating and uploading movement files, as specified in S4.3.1 of these Standards, to the PigPass database.

S4.3.3

The operator of a saleyard must immediately report any deaths or diseases of pigs possibly caused by an emergency animal disease to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.



Part 5: Processors

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons owning, operating, or employed in the processing of pigs and their carcasses, including licensed abattoirs and knackereries.

Note:

Mobile abattoirs that process pigs on-farm and where all or part of pig carcasses leave the farm, are considered for the purposes of these Standards to be processors. Mobile abattoirs can apply to Agriculture Victoria for a PIC.

Objective

To ensure that pigs are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their last property of residence, not being a saleyard, prior to arriving at the abattoir or knackery can be rapidly established.

Standards

S5.1 Property identification

S5.1.1

A person owning or operating an abattoir or knackery that processes pigs must obtain and hold a valid PIC relating to their premises issued by Agriculture Victoria.

S5.1.2

All holding properties and depots used by a processor must hold a valid PIC relating to each location issued by Agriculture Victoria.

S5.2 NLIS (Pigs) tags

S5.2.1

NLIS (Pigs) tags must not be removed for reuse or recycling without the written permission of Agriculture Victoria.

S5.3 Movement documentation

S5.3.1

- a) Except where S5.3.1(b) applies, an abattoir operator must not slaughter pigs sourced from a Victorian or interstate property or saleyard unless the operator possesses:
- i a PigPass NVD,
 - ii an equivalent movement document (see S1.3), or
 - iii for pigs purchased at a saleyard, a post-sale summary or a copy of the vendor's movement document provided by the selling agent that records the PIC of the last place of residence of the pigs that was not a saleyard.
- d) An abattoir operator may slaughter pigs in the absence of a movement document to relieve unreasonable pain and suffering provided a record is made and kept for two years of the number of head that were not accompanied by a movement document and the PIC of the property or saleyard from which they are likely to have been sourced.

Note:

Processors should, as part of the quality assurance arrangements, have documented procedures for ensuring that incoming pigs are accompanied by correctly completed PigPass NVDs or equivalent movement documents and that individual animals can be linked to their last place of residence.

S5.3.2

Processors must keep a physical or electronic copy of the movement documentation described in S5.3.1 for two years and be able to retrieve the record within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Movement documents can be stored in hardcopy, or in a retrievable electronic format provided they can be retrieved within 2 hours.

S5.4 Pig identification

S5.4.1

Pigs must not be slaughtered or processed unless they are identified in accordance with these Standards (see S1.2), except:

- a) when pigs have arrived unidentified under a permit issued by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer,
- b) when their last property of residence (which may be a saleyard) before arriving at the abattoir or knackery has been established and a record made of the number of head that were unidentified, the PIC of the property or saleyard from which they were sourced and the accompanying PigPass NVD and equivalent movement document or post-sale summary, or
- c) because pigs need to be slaughtered to relieve unreasonable pain and suffering and a record made of the number of head that were unidentified, the PIC of the property or saleyard from which they were sourced and the accompanying movement document or post-sale summary.

S5.4.2

Once slaughtered, a pig's carcass must be identified in a manner that maintains correlation with the PIC of the property from which the pig was sourced until the point at which:

- a) it has passed meat inspection and is deemed to comply with the *Production and Processing Standard for Meat* (FSC 4.2.3) if destined for the human food chain, or
- b) it has been inspected and deemed to comply with the *Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat*, if destined for rendering or use as pet food.

S5.5**Movement recording****S5.5.1**

Processors and knackeries must generate a kill file that accurately links the:

- a) PIC from which a pig was sourced,
- b) processing establishment identifier or PIC,
- c) date of slaughter/processing,
- d) species,
- e) the PigPass NVD serial number, where present, for pigs consigned directly from a farm, and
- f) the unique body number assigned to each processed pig carcass (optional).

S5.5.2

Kill files must be uploaded to the PigPass database within two business days of the date of slaughter or processing of pigs.

S5.5.3

The processor must take steps to confirm that uploaded kill files have been received and accepted by the PigPass database and undertake prompt corrective action in response to all error messages relating to uploaded kill files generated by the PigPass database.

S5.5.4

The operator of an abattoir or knackery must immediately report any deaths or diseases of pigs possibly caused by an emergency animal disease to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.



Part 6: Agricultural shows and similar events

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons organising or managing an agricultural show or other public event to which pigs will be taken for public display.

Objective

To ensure that pigs are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements to and from the show/event can be tracked effectively and rapidly.

Standards**S6.1****Property identification****S6.1.1**

A person operating or organising an agricultural show, exhibition or similar event must ensure that the property or location where the event is to be held has a current PIC issued by Agriculture Victoria.

S6.2**Pig identification****S6.2.1**

Weaned pigs admitted to an agricultural show, exhibition or other similar event must be identified in accordance with S1.2 of these Standards.

S6.2.2

Pigs consigned to an agricultural show, exhibition or similar event in Victoria from a location outside of Victoria must be identified in accordance with the legal requirements in the jurisdiction from which they were dispatched.

S6.2.3

The person consigning pigs to an agricultural show, exhibition or other similar event must provide the organiser with a correctly completed PigPass NVD or equivalent movement document by no later than one hour after their arrival.

S6.3 Movement recording

S6.3.1

A person operating an agricultural show, exhibition or similar event, must ensure:

- a) pigs attending the show/event are identified with a tattoo brand or visually readable NLIS (Pigs) tag,
- b) that a movement document has been received from the exhibitor before pigs are exhibited relating to their consignment of pigs, and
- c) that the movement of pigs are recorded on the PigPass database in accordance with S1.5 of these Standards within two business days of their arrival at the show/event.

S6.3.2

A person operating an agricultural show, exhibition or similar event must keep a copy of the movement documents supplied by exhibitors for two years from the date of the show/exhibition and be able to retrieve the documents within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Movement documents can be stored in hardcopy, or in a retrievable electronic format provided they can be retrieved within 2 hours.

S6.3.3

A person who acquires pigs at an agricultural show, exhibition or similar event, but not in the context of a public auction, must register the arrival of the pigs on their property on the PigPass database in accordance with S1.5 of these Standards using the PIC assigned to the show or event venue as the PIC of dispatch ('FROM PIC').

S6.3.4

When a public auction occurs at a venue other than a saleyard, for example, on-farm or at a showground or exhibition, the selling agent is responsible for creating and uploading movement files, as specified in S4.3.1, to the PigPass database. The selling agent must create and upload movement files by close of business on the day following the sale.

S6.3.5

The operator of a show or exhibition must immediately report any deaths or diseases of pigs possibly caused by an emergency animal disease to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Acronyms and terms

Agriculture Victoria

Agriculture Victoria is a business entity within the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Australian Pork Limited (APL)

Australian Pork Limited is the producer-owned company responsible for delivering integrated product integrity, marketing, innovation and policy services for industry participants along the pork industry supply chain, including via the APIQ[®] and PigPass initiatives.

APIQ

The Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ[®]) is an industry managed program that enables pig producers to demonstrate their compliance with animal welfare, food safety and biosecurity standards.

Business day

Means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

Consignment

One or more pigs leaving a property.

Department

Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Integrity Systems Company (formerly known as NLIS Limited)

A wholly owned subsidiary company of Meat and Livestock Australia that manages the NLIS database and operates the NLIS database helpdesk and accredits NLIS tags.

Kill file

The electronic file generated by an abattoir or knackery and submitted to the NLIS or PigPass databases to register movements of pigs and their processing.

MLA

Meat and Livestock Australia

Movement

Any movement involving one or more pigs between two properties with different PICs.

Movement document

The document completed by the person consigning or selling pigs and used to describe the pigs and record the locations where the movement commenced and ended. Movement documents include the PigPass NVD, vendor declarations containing equivalent information and compliant Post-sale summaries.

NLIS database

National database operated by Integrity Systems Company (formerly NLIS Limited) that registers sheep, goat and cattle movements and also stores movement records relating to pigs received from the PigPass database.

National Livestock Identification System (Pigs)

Known as the NLIS (Pigs), the national system operating throughout Australia for identifying and tracking pigs.

PigPass NVD

Movement document sourced by producers from APL and completed by the person consigning or selling pigs, and used to describe the pigs and record the locations where the movement commenced and ended.

NLIS logo

Registered Trade Mark [993748] belonging to Meat and Livestock Australia, used to designate that a livestock identification device has been approved as an NLIS device.

NLIS (Pigs) Breeder tag

NLIS (Pigs) breeder tags are visually readable and yellow, and are used by a breeder to permanently identify pigs before they leave their property of birth.

NLIS (Pigs) Post-breeder tag

NLIS (Pigs) Post-breeder tags are visually readable and orange, and can be used to permanently identify introduced pigs.

Offering for sale/sell

Includes transactions where one or more pigs are offered free of charge or given away.

Producer

A person, organisation or business engaged in breeding, feeding or raising pigs. It includes artificial breeding centre operators, farm or depot managers, and persons keeping pigs for commercial purposes, for lifestyle reasons or as pets.

Property

A parcel of land, consisting of one or more blocks within the one locality, operating as part of a livestock enterprise, hobby/lifestyle farm or residence. It includes farms, feedlots, saleyards, holding depots, artificial breeding centres, veterinary practices, export depots, knackeries, abattoirs and agricultural show venues.

Property Identification Code (PIC)

The eight-character alphanumeric code for a property as allocated by the relevant state or territory authority. Agriculture Victoria assigns PICs to Victorian properties.

Sale lot

Those animals drafted or split from a consignment or consignments that are offered for sale and for which bids are invited at a public auction.

Saleyard

Location where pigs are offered for sale to the public by a vendor, or sold by public auction, and includes farmer's markets and fair grounds where one or more stall holders are offering pigs for sale.

Tattoo brand

Four-character brand commencing with '3' followed by three letters, for example 3ABC. Tattoo brand numbers are assigned by Agriculture Victoria to the Victorian property where the brand is to be used. Applied using a striker with embedded pins covered in tattoo ink.

Vendor

A person, organisation or company offering livestock for sale.

Aboriginal Acknowledgement

We proudly acknowledge Victoria's First Nations peoples and their ongoing strength in practicing the world's oldest living culture. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we live and work, and pay our respect to their Elders past and present. Victoria's Aboriginal communities continue to strengthen and grow with the ongoing practice of language, lore and cultural knowledge. We recognise the contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life.

Traditional owners managed Victoria's land and water for tens of thousands of years.

We acknowledge their history and their living cultural traditions.

