

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

NLIS (Cattle) Standards

2022 edition





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Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to specify the standards for the operation of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for cattle, known as the NLIS (Cattle), in Victoria effective from 1 September 2022.

The expected outcome associated with the operation of the NLIS (Cattle) is that cattle in Victoria will be traceable in line with Australia's *National Livestock Traceability Performance Standards*.

These Standards list the obligations on industry participants relating to the NLIS (Cattle). By observing these obligations, industry participants will be compliant with Victorian legislation relating to the identification and tracking of cattle. 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 cattle and the recording of their movements.

Scope

These Standards apply to:

1. all cattle includes buffalo, bison, bobby calves and the intact carcasses of dead cattle,
2. their movements between properties (PICs) 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, scales, transit depots, assembly points, artificial breeding centres, feedlots, veterinary practices, export depots, knackeries, abattoirs, rodeo and camp drafting events and agricultural shows.

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 as defined in the glossary.

Further information on cattle identification and traceability requirements can be found at: agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/national-livestock-identification-system/nlis-cattle.

Reasons for cattle traceability

Cattle act as vectors in the spread of infectious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), anthrax and other diseases that have potentially significant market access and human health impacts. It is essential that cattle of interest are able to be located quickly and accurately to manage the spread of a disease and to address food safety related issues, for example those associated with chemical contamination.

The ability to quickly and reliably establish current and past properties of residence of cattle is critical to underpinning Victoria's quality brand, to protecting Victoria's beef and dairy industries and to capitalising on emerging market opportunities associated with food safety and provenance.

Effective tracking enables authorities to promptly impose preventive measures 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 sampling animals for diagnostic purposes.

Similarly, identifying animals helps authorities mitigate food safety risks. Rapid pinpointing of the likely source of contamination improves responses to food safety incidents. Having access to information about where similarly affected animals might be located makes product recalls and 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 the many animal health and food safety issues that could potentially affect cattle. The ability to contact trace to locate companions at various points in the life history of an animal is equally important for disease control and for maintaining food safety standards.

Processors can also use the NLIS (Cattle) to support claims about features of the production systems that were used during an animal’s life, for example ‘organic’ or ‘grass fed’, 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 standard¹.

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 past members of their cohort. These components, when linked together, form a traceability system that authorities can use to address biosecurity and food safety challenges.

The NLIS (Cattle) 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 NLIS (Cattle) system 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) NLIS (Cattle) devices to physically identify animals, with each device containing a transponder encoded with a unique unalterable number
- c) defined movement documentation requirements
- d) official secure database, the NLIS database, that registers NLIS (Cattle) devices and receives and stores 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 Agriculture Victoria to easily establish the history and whereabouts of cattle and their cohorts, particularly during emergency responses, and
- i) an ability for the system to display geospatial and temporal information.

These Standards outline industry participants’ obligations relating to property registration, the means of identifying cattle, 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; Codex Alimentarius 2006, *Principles for traceability/product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system*, CAC/GL 60-2006, codexalimentarius.org/standards/list-of-standards.

NLIS (Cattle) devices

Cattle are permanently identified as part of the NLIS (Cattle) using accredited NLIS (Cattle) devices in the form of ear tags or bolus/ear tag combinations.

NLIS (Cattle) devices have the PIC of the property on which cattle were tagged printed on them as part of their visually readable NLIS number. NLIS (Cattle) devices are stamped with the NLIS logo.

These tags offer the best 'value for money' solution for tracking animals to achieve the objectives of Victoria's NLIS (Cattle).

Information on procedures for accrediting NLIS (Cattle) devices can be found at: integritysystems.com.au/nlis

Producers can purchase electronic NLIS (Cattle) devices by visiting agriculture.vic.gov.au/nlis Tags will typically be delivered within 10 business days of the order being received.

NLIS database

Australia's NLIS database registers NLIS (Cattle) devices before manufacturers dispatch them to producers. The NLIS database receives, processes, stores and facilitates the prompt retrieval of information relating to cattle, sheep and goat movements between properties.

The Terms of Use governing the operation of the NLIS database and information on the process for opening a database account are available at integritysystems.com.au/nlis Through their database accounts, industry participants register movements involving cattle between properties in accordance with their obligations under these Standards and associated legislation.

Further information about the operation of the NLIS database is available from ISC's NLIS database helpline on **1800 654 743** during business hours.

Livestock Production Assurance

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is industry's on-farm market assurance program. LPA provides participants with the tools to demonstrate that their cattle, sheep and goats comply with the food safety and product integrity requirements of domestic and export markets. Producers choosing to participate in LPA must supply a current LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form when dispatching cattle to another property or to a saleyard, abattoir, feedlot or depot.

Producers seeking information about LPA and procedures for accessing LPA NVDs should visit integritysystems.com.au/lpa or phone the **LPA helpline** on **1800 683 111** during business hours.

Record keeping

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



Part 1: Producers

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons owning and/or managing a property on which cattle are bred, agisted, reared, held or kept
- persons responsible for the husbandry of cattle, and
- persons owning and/or managing cattle moving off or onto a Victorian property at any point of an animal's life for any reason.

Note:

These Standards also apply to cattle kept as pets and bobby calves, and to buffalo and bison (both species are defined as 'cattle' under Victoria's *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994*), and to the carcasses of dead cattle.

Note:

Feedlot operators, owners of residential properties on which cattle are kept, veterinary clinics and pound operators are considered to be producers for the purposes of these Standards.

Note:

These Standards also apply to cattle moving within live export supply chains. Movement recording requirements when live cattle finally leave Australia are discussed in Part 9 – Live Export.

Objective

To ensure that cattle, where appropriate, are permanently and uniquely identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device, and that their movements are recorded to facilitate tracking as and when required.

Standards

S1.1 Property identification

S1.1.1

- a) A person owning a property on which cattle are or will be kept must ensure that a valid PIC issued by Agriculture Victoria is in place for that property.
- b) The person who is responsible for the husbandry and management of cattle on a property (the manager) must ensure that a valid PIC issued by Agriculture Victoria is in place for that property.

S1.1.2

The property owner and manager are responsible for ensuring that Agriculture Victoria is notified within 28 days of changes to any of the following details relating to a PIC:

- a) owner contact details including name, address and contact phone number,
- b) manager contact details including name, address and contact phone number,
- c) changes to property boundaries involving their expansion through acquisition or agreement to graze cattle, or their reduction through sale or the relinquishing of a lease or agistment right, and
- 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.

S11.3

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

S11.4

A person must not publish or display an advertisement in the printed or electronic media, or on an on-line selling platform, that offers cattle for sale unless either the PIC of the property on which the cattle 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 address or contact phone number.

S1.2 Cattle identification

S1.2.1

- a) The only method for the permanent identification of cattle permitted in respect to these Standards is through the attachment of an NLIS (Cattle) device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- b) NLIS (Cattle) devices are marked with the NLIS logo and with a unique visually readable NLIS number with the first 8 characters of this number being the PIC of the property on which the device is to be used.
- c) NLIS (Cattle) ear tags must be placed in the right off-side ears of cattle.

Note:

NLIS (Cattle) devices are available in the form of ear tags and ear tag/bolus combinations.

S1.2.2

With the exception of the circumstances described in S1.2.5:

- a) cattle, including the carcasses of cattle, must be tagged with an NLIS (Cattle) breeder device before leaving their property of birth;
- b) cattle, including the carcasses of cattle, that have been introduced onto a property and that are not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device must be tagged with an orange NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder device before leaving that property.

Note:

Dead bobby calves that are to be collected by or delivered to a knackery must have an NLIS (Cattle) device in their ears at the time they leave the property on which they died.

S1.2.3

With the exception of the circumstances described in S1.2.5, if cattle on a property lose their NLIS (Cattle) device, the device must be replaced according to S1.2.2 before the animal leaves the property on which it resided when the device was lost.

S1.2.4

Except in the circumstances described in S1.2.5, if the transponder in an NLIS (Cattle) device on an animal located at a farm, feedlot or depot cannot be read electronically:

- a) that device must be removed and replaced in accordance with S1.2.2 before the cattle leave the farm, feedlot or depot, and
- b) the non-functioning NLIS device's visually readable number may be linked to the replacement NLIS (Cattle) device on the NLIS database.

Note:

Linking the unreadable NLIS (Cattle) device with the replacement device on the NLIS database to preserve the movement history of the animal and advantageous statuses such as 'lifetime traceable' is encouraged but is not mandatory.

S1.2.5

Cattle may be dispatched from a farm, feedlot or depot without an NLIS (Cattle) device, or with a device that cannot be read electronically, if:

- a) the person responsible for the cattle has received permission in writing from an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer because their cattle cannot be safely tagged before dispatch and a copy of the permit accompanies the cattle when they move, or
- b) there is an extreme emergency such as the imminent threat from a bushfire or flood, or where dairy cattle need to be urgently moved to another property for milking because of an equipment breakdown or power failure, in which case the minimum information specified in S1.5.1 must be recorded and emailed to nlis.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au by the person responsible for the cattle within 14 days of the departure of the cattle.

S1.2.6

Other than in the context of the slaughter of cattle in an abattoir or the processing of a carcass in a knackery, NLIS (Cattle) devices that can be read electronically must not be removed from cattle, or altered, damaged or disfigured in any way.

S1.2.7

Cattle must not be identified with an NLIS (Sheep) or NLIS (Pigs) tag, and NLIS (Cattle) devices must not be used to identify any livestock species other than cattle.

S1.2.8

NLIS (Cattle) devices are issued for use on a specific property (PIC) and must not be applied to cattle on a property assigned a different PIC unless approved to do so in writing by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer.

Note:

The PIC of the property on which an issued NLIS (Cattle) device is to be used is printed on the device. The PIC forms the first eight characters of the NLIS number printed on each NLIS (Cattle) device. Arrangements for registering unused devices against a different PIC can be made by calling the Agriculture Victoria NLIS helpline on **1800 678 779** between 9.00am and 4.30pm on business days.

S1.2.9

NLIS (Cattle) devices must be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using an applicator recommended by the manufacturer.

S1.2.10

It is not permissible to change or substitute a component of an NLIS (Cattle) device, or affix an additional tag or device to an NLIS (Cattle) device.

Note:

Changing NLIS (Cattle) device components, for example by using a different pin, may compromise the retention and readability of the device.

S1.2.11

- a) Unless permission in writing has been received from an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer, it is not permissible to dispatch from a property cattle that have a half duplex (HDX) or full-duplex B (FDX-B) transponder implanted subcutaneously or intramuscularly in them.
- b) Unless permission in writing has been received from an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer, it is not permissible to dispatch from a property cattle that have a non-NLIS ear tag or bolus containing a half duplex (HDX) or full-duplex B (FDX-B) transponder.

Note:

If cattle have been identified with either a non-NLIS HDX or FDX-B transponder, and in addition an NLIS (Cattle) device, readers in supply chain locations may unintentionally read the non-NLIS transponder rather than the transponder in the NLIS (Cattle) device. If this occurs, traceability will be compromised.

S1.3 Movement information and documentation

S1.3.1

- a) A person dispatching cattle from a farm or feedlot to a destination other than a knackery, show, rodeo, camp draft, exhibition or veterinary clinic (see S1.3.5 and S1.3.6 for exemption conditions), and the owner of the cattle, must ensure that an accurately completed movement document is provided to the person receiving the cattle.
- b) The movement document must be accurate in respect to each animal in the mob and must include:
 - i. the PIC and address of the property from which the cattle are to be dispatched
 - ii. the date of dispatch of the cattle
 - iii. the number and description of cattle to be dispatched
 - iv. the name and signature of the person creating the document
 - v. the date the document is made
 - vi. whether the cattle in the consignment were born on the property from which they will be dispatched, and if not, the length of time the most recently introduced cattle have been on the property, and
 - vii. the intended destination of the cattle, which may be the PIC of the destination property, the street address of the destination property, or the name of a saleyard or abattoir.
- c) The person responsible for dispatching cattle and the owner of the cattle must ensure that an accurately completed movement document is provided to the receiver of the cattle by no later than the time of their arrival at the destination property.

Note:

A movement document is required when cattle move between two farms with different PICs even if ownership does not change.

Note:

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

S1.3.2

The following are considered acceptable movement documents, whether supplied in electronic or paper form by a producer, for the purposes of these Standards:

- a) National Vendor Declaration (NVD) forms issued by LPA for use when cattle move between properties,
- b) a declaration designed for use when cattle move between properties found on the Agriculture Victoria website, and
- c) a declaration form that is in a like form to an LPA NVD, or the declaration found on the Agriculture Victoria website, and that as a minimum contain the information listed in S1.3.1 (b).

Note:

A current edition LPA NVD is the cattle industry's preferred movement document. Some buyers may require as a condition of purchase that vendors supply a correctly completed current edition LPA NVD form.

S1.3.3

- a) The person generating a movement document must keep a copy of the document for seven years.
- b) Copies of movement documents must be retrievable by the person who generated the document within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer.

S1.3.4

A person introducing cattle onto a property must not dispatch these animals from that property unless they have:

- a) received the movement document supplied by the previous owner or manager, or the selling agent, or
- b) forwarded to nlis.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au prior to the movement the following information:
 - i. the name and address of the person from whom they acquired the animals (which could be the name of an agent),
 - ii. date of acquisition,
 - iii. if known, the PIC of the property from which the animals were dispatched,
 - iv. the PIC of the property on which the animals now reside prior to their dispatch, and
 - v. either the address or PIC of the property to which the animals are to be sent.

Note:

The movement document that a producer who is planning to dispatch introduced cattle must have may be the NVD supplied by the previous owner, or a post-sale summary provided by the selling agent involved in the auctioning of the animals (see S.3.4).

S1.3.5

A person may consign dead cattle to a knackery without a movement document provided the knackery operator is advised of the PIC of the property on which the cattle died by no later than the time of their collection or delivery.

S1.3.6

A person may consign cattle to a veterinary clinic, rodeo, camp draft, show or exhibition without a movement document provided each animal will return to the property from which it was consigned within 7 days of its departure.

S1.3.7

- a) A person receiving a movement document relating to cattle that they own or manage must keep the original or a copy for seven years.
- b) Movement documents must be retrievable within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer.

S1.4**Persons acquiring cattle****S1.4.1**

A person acquiring cattle at a 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 property, not being a depot, to which the cattle will be taken.

S1.4.2

- a) Where cattle are purchased other than at a public auction, at the time of purchase the purchaser must provide the person selling the cattle with the PIC of the next property, not being a depot, to which they will be taken.
- b) A person receiving from the purchaser of cattle information on the PIC of the next property, not being a depot, to which the cattle will be taken must keep a record of this PIC for seven years.

Note:

In the circumstances described in S1.4.1 and S1.4.2, if cattle are to be taken initially to a depot before travelling to their next property of residence, the PIC of the property on which the cattle will next reside must be provided to the selling agent, not the PIC of the depot. The operator of the depot, however, must scan each NLIS device present on cattle in the consignment and 'sight' each animal on the NLIS database within 48 hours of the arrival of the cattle or by no later than the day of their departure, whichever is sooner (see Part 8 of these Standards).

S1.5 Movement recording

S1.5.1

- a) When cattle arrive on a farm or feedlot directly from a farm, feedlot or depot, the livestock manager of the property at which the cattle were received and the owner of the cattle are responsible for ensuring the registration of the following information on the NLIS database:
 - i. the PIC of the location from which the cattle were dispatched (FROM PIC)
 - ii. the date of arrival of the cattle
 - iii. the electronic number encoded on the transponder in each electronically readable NLIS (Cattle) device present on the introduced cattle, and
 - iv. the serial number on the movement document if a serial number is present.
- b) This information must be registered on the NLIS database within 48 hours of the arrival of the cattle or before they next move, whichever is the sooner.

Note:

This section applies to movements involving cattle acquired via internet based selling services, for example Auctions Plus, Gumtree and Facebook.

Note:

If cattle arrive from a depot, the PIC of the property of residence immediately before the depot should be used as the FROM PIC in the movement record uploaded to the NLIS database.

Note:

A producer may engage a third party to scan devices and report movements to the NLIS database. The third party could be an agent, transporter or other service provider. The NLIS website contains the authorisation form that must be completed and returned to allow a third party to access and record information on the NLIS database on a producer's behalf.

Note:

Wand readers with the ability to record the GPS coordinates of the location where an NLIS (Cattle) device was scanned and the time of scanning have recently become commercially available. Agriculture Victoria anticipates that by no later than 1 January 2024, people involved in the live export trade will be required to also record and upload the GPS coordinates of the location where NLIS (Cattle) devices have been scanned and the associated time stamp.

S1.5.2

- a) When cattle that are not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device arrive on a property, the person receiving the cattle and the owner of the cattle are responsible for ensuring that the following information is reported to nlis.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au:
 - i. the PIC of the location from which the cattle were dispatched (if known)
 - ii. the PIC of the property at which the cattle were received
 - iii. the date of arrival of the cattle
 - iv. the total number of cattle in the consignment
 - v. the number of cattle that were not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device, and
 - vi. the serial number on the accompanying movement document if a serial number is present.
- b) This information must be reported within 48 hours of the arrival of the cattle or before they next move, whichever is the sooner.

S1.5.3

- a) A person must not dispatch or allow the dispatch of cattle that were identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device when they arrived on a property unless the movement of the cattle onto that property has been recorded on the NLIS database.
- b) A person must not dispatch or allow the dispatch of cattle that were not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device when they arrived on a property unless the movement of the cattle onto that property has been reported to nlis.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au in accordance with S1.5.2.

Note:

Where one or more head of cattle were at the time of their arrival on a property identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device, the person planning to dispatch them and their owner should check the NLIS database to ensure that each device is recorded as being associated with an animal residing on the property (PIC) from which it will be dispatched.

S1.5.4

- a) The operator of a veterinary clinic or pound must scan the NLIS (Cattle) device on each head of cattle arriving at the clinic or pound and either record each device against the clinic's or pound's PIC on the NLIS database (known as a 'sighting') or report the movement in full on the NLIS database (see S1.5.1), within 48 hours of their arrival.
- b) The operator of a veterinary clinic or pound must ensure that where cattle are found to have died in transit to the clinic or pound, or die at the clinic or pound, that the NLIS (Cattle) device on each dead animal is scanned. The NLIS (Cattle) device transponder or NLIS number, the clinic or pound PIC and if known the PIC of the property from which the dead animal was consigned must be uploaded to the NLIS database using 'deceased' as the destination PIC ('TO PIC') by close of business on the next business day.



Part 2: Transporters

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons and businesses transporting cattle between properties including to or from a saleyard, fixed scale, feedlot, depot, abattoir, knackery, veterinary clinic, artificial breeding centre, rodeo, camp draft or agricultural show, for any other reason or purpose.

Note:

Persons who visit farms to collect bobby calves and then transport them to abattoirs or assembly points have additional NLIS (Cattle) device scanning and movement reporting obligations. See Part 5 for further information.

Objective

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

Standards

S2.1 Transportation of cattle

S2.1.1

Other than in an extreme emergency or where a permit allowing the movement of the cattle has been issued by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer, a person must not take possession of and transport cattle from a property other than a saleyard, that are not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device.

S2.1.2

A person must not take possession of and transport from a saleyard cattle that are not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device, or in the case of cattle that are too dangerous to identify with an NLIS (Cattle) device, with a blue tail tag.

S2.1.3

Cattle that have been identified with a blue tail tag at a saleyard must be transported directly from the saleyard to an abattoir or knackery.

S2.2 Movement document

S2.2.1

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



Part 3: Livestock agents

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons involved in the sale of cattle 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 the private trading of cattle or the trading of cattle on the internet on websites such as Auctions Plus.

Objective

To ensure that cattle are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements between auction venues and properties can be effectively and rapidly tracked.

Standards

S3.1

Cattle identification

S3.1.1

The selling agent must ensure that before cattle are sold:

- a) they are correctly identified in accordance with these Standards (see S.1.2 and S4.2)
- b) a movement document supplied and completed by the vendor or consignor has been received, and
- c) they can be reliably linked to the accompanying movement document and the PIC of the property from which they were consigned.

Note:

The owners of cattle must ensure that before they are dispatched to a saleyard each animal is correctly identified in accordance with these Standards (see S.1.2). Persons facilitating the sale of cattle are also required to ensure that each animal is correctly identified and traceable.

S3.1.2

NLIS (Cattle) devices are issued for use on a specific property (PIC) and must not be applied to cattle on a property with a different PIC.

Note:

Vendors and their agents are not permitted to bring NLIS (Cattle) devices to a saleyard or auction venue for the purpose of tagging cattle.

S3.1.3

Selling agents must ensure that NLIS (Cattle) devices present on cattle are functional and able to be successfully scanned before cattle are offered for sale.

S3.2 Records regarding the sale of cattle

S3.2.1

- a) The selling agent must provide the following information for each sale lot of cattle to the saleyard operator before the cattle leave the saleyard or sooner if required to do so by the operator:
 - i. date of sale
 - ii. sale lot number
 - iii. PIC from which the cattle were dispatched, and
 - iv. the serial number on the accompanying movement document if a serial number is present.
- b) For each sale lot, the destination PIC 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 or sooner if required to do so by the saleyard operator.

S3.2.2

The information specified in S3.2.1 must be provided to the saleyard operator by each selling agent in the manner and format specified by the saleyard operator.

S3.2.3

- a) When cattle arrive at a saleyard with an NLIS (Cattle) device that cannot be read electronically, or do not have an NLIS (Cattle) device, and where these cattle are not able to be identified safely with an NLIS (Cattle) device, the cattle must be identified before being offered for sale with a blue adhesive paper or ratchet tail tag on which is printed the PIC of the saleyard and a serial number.
- b) Cattle identified with a blue tail tag because they cannot be safely tagged can only be offered for purchase by a processor for immediate slaughter.

S3.2.4

Where an agent has sold one or more head of cattle that were identified with a blue adhesive paper or ratchet tail tag, the following information must be supplied by email to the saleyard operator by close of business on the next business day following the sale, or sooner if required to do so by the saleyard operator;

- a) the name and address of the person who consigned the cattle
- b) the PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched
- c) the serial number on the movement document if a serial number is present
- d) the serial number on each of the tail tag or tags used to identify the cattle
- e) whether the cattle were found to be untagged on arrival and could not be identified safely with an NLIS (Cattle) device, or whether they had an unreadable device and were unable to be safely retagged, and
- f) the destination PIC provided by the buyer, or by the vendor if the sale lot was passed in or not accepted for sale.

S3.3 Post-sale documentation – record keeping

S3.3.1

The selling agent must keep a copy of the movement document supplied by each vendor or consignor 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 authorised Agriculture Victoria officer.

S3.4 Provision of documentation to buyers

S3.4.1

- (a) When the destination PIC provided by a buyer of a sale lot relates to an abattoir, the selling agent must provide a post-sale summary, or a copy of the movement document supplied by the consignor or vendor, to the operator of the abattoir by midnight on the day of sale.
- (b) Where an agent has sold one or more head of cattle that were identified with a blue adhesive paper or ratchet tail tag (see S4.2.5), and the buyer of the cattle is an abattoir, the selling agent must include the PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched in the post sale summary sent to the buyer.

S3.4.2

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

S3.4.3

A post-sale summary provided by a selling agent to the operator of an abattoir, or to a purchaser who provided a destination PIC relating to an abattoir, 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) the serial number on the movement document if a serial number is present
- f) the PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched
- g) destination PIC provided by the purchaser, and
- h) whether the cattle in each sale lot were dispatched from the property on which they were born, and if not the length of time they have been present on the property from which there were dispatched.

Note:

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

S3.5 Purchasing of cattle by an agent

S3.5.1

When the buyer of cattle at a public auction is a stock agent or agent acting on behalf of a processor and he/she is uncertain of the destination PIC of a sale lot at the time of purchase, the buyer may provide their Agent's PIC to the selling agent, but then must transfer the purchased animals on the NLIS database to the PIC of the property to which they were next taken within 48 hours of the sale.

S3.6 Auctions on farms and at public events

S3.6.1

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 of these Standards to the NLIS database.



Part 4: Saleyards

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons operating a saleyard at which cattle are sold by public auction, and
- agents conducting a public auction on a farm, at a showground, or other venue that is not a saleyard

Objective

To ensure that cattle that are offered for sale by public auction are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements to and from the sale venue are able to be rapidly tracked.

Standards

S4.1 Property identification

S4.1.1

A person operating a saleyard must obtain and hold a valid PIC and also a linked eight character code commencing with 'EUSY' assigned by Agriculture Victoria to their saleyard.

Note:

The EUSY code is used by saleyards and scales for NLIS database account and movement recording purposes. Use of this code signifies that a movement has involved a saleyard or scale.

S4.1.2

A saleyard with an adjoining holding paddock or paddocks must obtain a separate PIC for the land from Agriculture Victoria.

Note:

Where a saleyard has an adjoining paddock or paddocks, the saleyard must either transfer the cattle onto the paddock PIC (see S4.3.1(a)), or 'sight' cattle against the paddock PIC on the NLIS database if they are to remain on the adjoining paddock or paddocks for less than seven days. The movement or 'sighting' must be completed by close of business on the next business day following the sale, or before the cattle leave the paddock, whichever is sooner.

S4.2 Cattle identification

S4.2.1

Orange NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices on which are printed the saleyard's PIC must be available for use on cattle that arrive for sale and are found not to be identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device or that are identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device that cannot be read electronically.

S4.2.2

- Unless unsafe to do so (see S4.2.5), when an NLIS (Cattle) device on one or more head of cattle is unable to be read electronically at a saleyard or public auction that device must be replaced with an NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder device,
- The non-functioning NLIS device's visually readable number may be linked to the replacement NLIS (Cattle) device on the NLIS database.

Note:

Linking the unreadable NLIS (Cattle) device with the replacement device on the NLIS database to preserve the movement history of the animal and advantageous statuses such as 'lifetime traceable' is encouraged but is not mandatory.

Note:

Provided a replacement NLIS (Cattle) device is used to identify cattle with an unreadable device, the unreadable device does not need to be physically removed.

S4.2.3

- a) The saleyard operator or their authorised representative (which may be a stock agent) must make an auditable record of the use of NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices to identify cattle that are untagged or are found not to be identified with an electronically readable NLIS (Cattle) device. The record must link the:
 - i. NLIS number or transponder number of the device or devices used
 - ii. date of use
 - iii. person attaching the device/s
 - iv. PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched
 - v. the destination PIC provided by the buyer, and
 - vi. the reason why an NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder device needed to be used.
- b) Records relating to the use of NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices must be retrievable within 2-hours of being requested to do so by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer.

S4.2.4

NLIS (Cattle) devices must be scanned and transponder numbers recorded before cattle are offered for sale.

S4.2.5

- a) When cattle arrive at a saleyard with an NLIS (Cattle) device that cannot be read electronically, or do not have an NLIS (Cattle) device, and where these cattle are not able to be identified safely with an NLIS (Cattle) device, the cattle must be identified before being offered for sale with a blue adhesive paper or ratchet tail tag on which is printed the PIC of the saleyard.
- b) Cattle identified with a blue tail tag because they cannot be safely tagged can only be offered for purchase by a processor for immediate slaughter.

Note:

It is an offence to consign to a saleyard, or transport to a saleyard, cattle that are not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device. S4.2.5 provide a mechanism for responsibly managing dangerous cattle that are found to be untagged or to have a non-functioning device at a saleyard.

S4.3 Movement file

S4.3.1

- a) The saleyard operator or their authorised representative must upload to the NLIS database before cattle leave the saleyard, a movement file for each sale lot containing:
 - i. the date of sale
 - ii. the PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched
 - iii. the encoded transponder number of each electronically read NLIS (Cattle) device,
 - iv. the serial number on the movement document if a serial number is present, and
 - v. where an NLIS (Cattle) device on a bobby calf has been scanned, the time the device was scanned.
- b) The PIC of the property to which the cattle will be taken provided by the purchaser at the time of sale must be uploaded to the NLIS database to complete the movement file by close of business on the next business day following the sale.
- c) Where cattle are moved after they are passed in or sold onto an adjoining paddock, the saleyard must either transfer the cattle onto the paddock PIC (see S4.3.1(a)), or 'sight' the cattle on the NLIS database against the paddock PIC if they are to remain on the adjoining paddock for less than seven days. The movement or 'sighting' must be completed by close of business on the next business day following the sale, or before the cattle leave the paddock, whichever is sooner.

Note:

The responsibility of ensuring that NLIS (Cattle) devices are scanned, that corrective action is taken where cattle are not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device or have an unreadable device, and that movement files are uploaded to the NLIS database resides with the saleyard. They may authorise a stock agent or scanning contractor to act on their behalf, however the legal responsibility remains with the saleyard operator.

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, to the NLIS database.

S4.3.3

The saleyard operator must ensure that where cattle are found to have died in transit to the saleyard, or die at the saleyard, that the NLIS (Cattle) device on each dead animal is scanned and

- i. for cattle that are to be collected by a knackery, the device transponder number, and the saleyard 'take possession' and 'sell' files including the PIC from which the dead animal was consigned, must be uploaded to the NLIS database using the knackery PIC as the destination PIC ('TO PIC') by close of business on the next business day following the sale
- ii. for cattle that are not to be collected by a knackery, the device transponder number, and the saleyard 'take possession' and 'sell' files including the PIC from which the dead animal was consigned must be uploaded to the NLIS database using 'deceased' as the destination PIC ('TO PIC') by close of business on the next business day following the sale.

S4.3.4

The saleyard operator is responsible for ensuring that where the saleyard receives cattle other than for public auction, ie where the saleyard is being used as a depot, that these movements are recorded in accordance with S8.2 of these Standards.

S4.3.5

Where a blue adhesive paper or ratchet tail tag has been used to identify cattle (see S3.2.4 and S4.2.5), the following information must be supplied by the saleyard operator by email within two business days of the sale to nlis.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au:

- a) the name and address of the person who consigned the cattle
- b) the PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched
- c) the serial number on the movement document if a serial number is present
- d) the serial number on each of the tail tag or tags used to identify the cattle
- e) whether the cattle were found to be untagged on arrival and could not be identified safely with an NLIS (Cattle) device, or whether they had an unreadable device and were unable to be safely retagged, and
- f) the destination PIC provided by the buyer, or by the vendor if the sale lot was passed in or not accepted for sale.

S4.4**Veterinary chemical treatments****S4.5.1**

If cattle are treated with a veterinary chemical product whilst at a saleyard or in a holding paddock, the saleyard must generate a new movement document detailing the treatment that was administered, and provide it to the person responsible for livestock on the property to which the cattle are sent by no later than the time of their arrival at that property.



Part 5: Fixed and mobile scales

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to persons operating a fixed or mobile scale operation, and to persons who visit farms to collect bobby calves prior to transporting them to an abattoir or assembly point.

Note:

Fixed scale operations are locations where producers bring their cattle to be assessed and purchased by the operator, or by a person acting on behalf of a processor.

Mobile scale operators visit farms and assess and purchase cattle including bobby calves on the farm on which the cattle reside, typically on a weight and grade basis. In the case of bobby calves, they also include persons who collect bobby calves on-farm and transport them to an abattoir for slaughter, or assembly point where they are then assessed or grouped with other bobby calves.

Objective

To ensure that cattle traded at scales are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements are able to be rapidly tracked.

To ensure that bobby calves that are collected on-farm and transported to an abattoir or assembly point are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements are able to be rapidly tracked.

Standards

S5.1 Property identification

S5.1.1

A person operating or managing a mobile or fixed scale operation must obtain and hold a valid PIC and a linked eight character code commencing with 3SC and a 'EUSY' code assigned by Agriculture Victoria.

Note:

The EUSY code is used by saleyards and scales for NLIS database account and movement recording purposes. Use of this code signifies that a movement has involved a saleyard or scale.

S5.1.2

A fixed scale may not use the PIC assigned to its scale operation to also cover an adjoining holding paddock or paddocks. A separate PIC must be obtained from Agriculture Victoria for any adjoining holding paddock or paddocks.

S5.1.3

- (a) The operator of a fixed scale is responsible for ensuring that all cattle moved onto an adjoining holding paddock are scanned and transferred to the PIC assigned to that paddock (see S5.3.1).
- (b) Cattle must be transferred onto the PIC assigned to a holding paddock within 48 hours of them entering the paddock, or before they leave, whichever is sooner.
- (c) A new movement document must be provided by the scale operator responsible for a holding paddock and be provided to the person responsible for livestock on the property to which the cattle are sent by no later than the time of their arrival at that property.

S5.2 Cattle identification – fixed scales

S5.2.1

Orange NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder tags on which are printed the scale's PIC must be available for use on cattle that arrive for sale at a fixed scale and are found not to be identified with an electronically readable NLIS (Cattle) device.

S5.2.2

- a) When an NLIS (Cattle) device on one or more head of cattle presented for sale at a fixed scale is unable to be read electronically, unless unsafe to do so the unreadable NLIS (Cattle) device must be replaced with an NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder device before the animal is purchased or moved.
- b) The non-functioning NLIS device's visually readable number may be linked to the replacement NLIS (Cattle) device on the NLIS database.

Note:

Provided a replacement NLIS (Cattle) device is used to identify cattle with an unreadable device, the unreadable device does not need to be physically removed.

Note:

Fixed scale operators are not permitted to tag untagged cattle other than with NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices on which are printed the PIC that has been assigned to the scale.

S5.2.3

- a) The operator of a fixed scale must make an auditable record of the use of NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices to identify cattle that are untagged or that have an unreadable device. The record must link the:
 - i. NLIS number or transponder number of the device or devices used,
 - ii. date of use,
 - iii. person attaching the device/s,

- iv. PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched,
 - v. the PIC of the property to which the cattle have been or will be sent, and
 - vi. the reason why an NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder device needed to be used.
- b) Records relating to the use of NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices must be kept for two years and be retrievable within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer.

Note:

The responsibility of ensuring that NLIS (Cattle) devices are scanned, and that corrective action is taken where this is not possible, resides with the operator of the fixed scale.

S5.3 Movement file – fixed scale

S5.3.1

- a) The NLIS (Cattle) devices on bobby calves must be scanned by a fixed scale operator when calves arrive at the operator's scale.
- b) The operator of a fixed scale must upload to the NLIS database before cattle leave the scale a movement file containing:
 - i. the date of purchase
 - ii. the PIC of the property from which the cattle were dispatched
 - iii. the encoded transponder number of each electronically read NLIS (Cattle) device,
 - iv. the serial number on the accompanying movement document if a serial number is present,
 - v. the PIC of the property not being a depot to which the cattle will be taken, and
 - vi. where an NLIS (Cattle) device on a bobby calf has been scanned, the time the device was scanned.

S5.3.2

- a) The operator of a fixed scale must ensure that where cattle are found to have died in transit to the scale, or die at the scale, that the NLIS (Cattle) device on each dead animal is scanned before disposal of the animal's carcase.
- b) For cattle that are to be collected by a knackery, the device transponder number, and the scale 'take possession' and 'sell' files including the PIC from which the dead animal was consigned, must be uploaded to the NLIS database using the knackery PIC as the destination PIC ('TO PIC') by close of business on the next business day following the animal's death.
- c) For cattle that will not be collected by a knackery, the device transponder number, and the scale 'take possession' and 'sell' files including the PIC from which the dead animal was consigned, must be uploaded to the NLIS database using 'deceased' as the destination PIC ('TO PIC') by close of business on the next business day following the animal's death.

S5.4 Cattle identification and movement recording – mobile scales

S5.4.1

If a mobile scale operator arriving on a property finds that cattle presented for assessment or collection are not identified with an electronically readable NLIS (Cattle) device, they must not be purchased or moved.

S5.4.2

- a) The NLIS (Cattle) devices on bobby calves must be scanned by the mobile scale operator before the calves leave the property on which they are collected.
- b) The operator of a mobile scale that visits farms to purchase adult cattle, or purchase or take possession of bobby calves that will be delivered to an abattoir or to an assembly point, must upload to the NLIS database for each collected lot a movement file containing:
 - i. the date of purchase,
 - ii. the PIC of the property on which the cattle were purchased or collected,
 - iii. the encoded transponder number of each electronically read NLIS (Cattle) device,
 - iv. the serial number on the movement document provided by the vendor if a serial number is present,
 - v. the PIC of the property not being a depot to which the cattle will be taken, and
 - vi. where an NLIS (Cattle) device on a bobby calf has been scanned, the time the device was scanned.
- c) The operator of a mobile scale must upload to the NLIS database movement files specified in S5.4.2 relating to cattle that have been purchased or collected by no later than the time they leave the property on which they were acquired.

Note:

Wand readers with the ability to record the GPS coordinates of the location where an NLIS (Cattle) device was scanned have recently become commercially available. Agriculture Victoria anticipates that by no later than 1 January 2024, mobile scale operators will be required to also record and upload the GPS coordinates of the location where NLIS (Cattle) devices have been scanned along with the time of scanning. If GPS coordinates and a time stamp are provided, mobile scan operators will still be required to upload the PIC on which an animal was collected or scanned.



Part 6: Processors

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons owning, operating or managing a location where cattle are processed, including a licensed abattoir or knackery.

Note:

Mobile abattoirs that slaughter cattle on-farm and where all or part of an animal's carcass leaves the farm, are considered for the purposes of these Standards to be processors and are covered by Part 6 of these Standards.

Objective

To ensure that cattle that are presented for processing 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.

To ensure that all cattle that are identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device when processed have their device scanned and recorded as 'deceased' or 'processed' on the NLIS database.

Standards

S6.1 Property identification

S6.1.1

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

S6.1.2

All holding properties and depots used by a processor, if not adjoining the facility precinct and forming part of the precinct's PIC, must hold a separate PIC issued by Agriculture Victoria.

Note:

Abattoirs may use the PIC assigned to the processing facility to also cover an adjoining holding paddock or paddocks provided such paddocks are registered with Agriculture Victoria as being part of the land covered by the facility's PIC.

S6.2 Cattle identification

S6.2.1

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

S6.2.2

A processor must dispose of NLIS (Cattle) devices in a manner that prevents unauthorised recovery and reuse.

S6.2.3

Cattle must not be slaughtered or processed unless:

- a) they are identified with either an NLIS (Cattle) device, or a blue tail tag attached in accordance with S4.2.5 of these Standards,
- b) they are accompanied by a permit issued by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer,
- c) their last property of residence before arriving at the abattoir or knackery has been established and a record made and kept for two years of the number of head that were untagged, the PIC of the property from which they were sourced and the accompanying movement document or post-sale summary, or
- d) they need to be slaughtered to relieve unreasonable pain and suffering and a record is made and kept for two years of the number of head that were untagged and their last PIC of residence.

S6.2.4

Once an animal is slaughtered, its carcass must be identified in a manner that maintains correlation with its last PIC of residence and NLIS (Cattle) device or blue tail tag until the point at which:

- a) it has passed meat inspection and is deemed to comply with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption – AS 4696:2007 if destined for the human food chain, and all examinations and tests have been completed, or
- b) it has been inspected and deemed to comply with the PISC Technical Report 88 – Amended 2009 Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat, if destined for rendering or use as pet food, and all examinations and tests have been completed.

S6.3

Movement documentation

S6.3.1

- a) Except if S6.3.1(b) applies, an abattoir operator must not slaughter cattle unless the operator possesses:
 - i. an LPA NVD supplied by the consignor of the cattle
 - ii. an alternative approved movement document (see S1.3.2), or
 - iii. where the cattle were purchased at a saleyard, a post-sale summary or a copy of the consignor's or vendor's movement document supplied by the selling agent that records the PIC of the last property of residence of the cattle,
- b) An abattoir operator may slaughter cattle 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 from which they were sourced.

Note:

Processors should, as part of their quality assurance arrangements, have documented procedures for ensuring that incoming mobs are accompanied by correctly completed movement documents and that individual animals can be linked to their last property of residence.

S6.3.2

Processors must keep a physical or electronic copy of movement documents described in S6.3.1 for two years and be able to retrieve documents within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

S6.4

Scanning and movement recording

S6.4.1

- a) Processors slaughtering cattle for human consumption must generate a kill file containing a record for each head of cattle that they process. The kill file must accurately link the:
 - i. processing establishment identifier or PIC
 - ii. PIC from which the cattle were sourced
 - iii. date of slaughter/processing
 - iv. species
 - v. the unique body number assigned to each carcass, including for the carcasses of cattle that were not identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device at the time of slaughter
 - vi. the movement document serial number where a serial number is present
 - vii. the transponder number when an NLIS (Cattle) device was present that was read electronically
 - viii. except for bobby calves, the hot standard carcass weight or live weight of the animal at slaughter, and
 - ix. for a bobby calf processed at an abattoir, the time its NLIS (Cattle) device was scanned or the time when an animal's carcass is weighed immediately after slaughter.

S6.4.2

Kill files must be uploaded by processors to the NLIS database within two business days of the date of slaughter or processing of cattle.

S6.4.3

- a) Knackeries must generate a file containing a record for each cattle carcass that they collect. The file must accurately link the:
 - i. PIC of the property from which a cattle carcass was sourced (which may be the PIC of a saleyard or depot), or the GPS coordinates of the location where the carcass was collected and the time at which the NLIS (Cattle) device on a carcass was scanned,
 - ii. processing establishment identifier or PIC
 - iii. date of collection, and
 - iv. the electronic transponder number of the NLIS (Cattle) device on the carcass.
- b) Files containing a record of the PIC of collection must be uploaded by the knackery to the NLIS database within two business days of the date of collection of a carcass.
- c) Files containing GPS coordinates and time of NLIS device scanning must be sent by the knackery to the website address nominated by Agriculture Victoria within two business days of the date of collection of the carcass.

S6.4.4

At least weekly, processors and knackeries must monitor the numbers of NLIS (Cattle) devices linked to their PIC on the NLIS database and ensure the number of devices listed corresponds with the number of animals held in the lairage or recorded in kill files that are yet to be uploaded.

Note:

This clause requires that processors ensure that their 'current holdings', as recorded on the NLIS database, are consistent with the number of cattle present on the abattoir PIC along with cattle listed in kill files that are yet to be uploaded. It does not require processors to complete a precise reconciliation of 'current holdings' with devices yet to be uploaded and cattle yet to be processed.

S6.4.5

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

Note:

As part of their quality assurance arrangements, processors should have documented procedures for ensuring the actions outlined in S6.4.4 and S6.4.5 are completed.

S6.4.6

If cattle that have been transported to an abattoir are found to have died in transit, or are euthanised or die prior to processing, the operator must within 24 hours of their death ensure that any NLIS (Cattle) devices present on the dead cattle are scanned and reported to the NLIS database as 'deceased' using the abattoir PIC as the 'FROM PIC'.

S6.4.7

Where a processor is using a fixed panel reader to read NLIS (Cattle) devices, the processor must on a regular basis validate and verify that the reader is successfully reading at least 98 percent of electronically readable NLIS (Cattle) devices, and have a back-up plan if their panel reader is found to be not functioning reliably.

Note:

Processors should have a documented procedure for ensuring that their panel reader is operating reliably. Agriculture Victoria will assist processors in the preparation of an appropriate procedure. Processors should have a wand reader or similar back up equipment that they can use if their panel reader is found not to be reading devices reliably.



Part 7: Agricultural shows, rodeos and similar events

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to:

- persons organising or managing an agricultural show or other public event such as a rodeo or camp draft to which cattle will be taken for public display.

Objective

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

Standards

S7.1 Property identification

S7.1.1

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

S7.2 Cattle identification

S7.2.1

The person responsible for an agricultural show, exhibition, rodeo or similar event must ensure that only cattle that are identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device that is able to be read electronically are admitted to the event.

7.2.2

Orange NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices on which are printed the show, event or rodeo venue PIC may be used to identify cattle that arrive at the event that are found not to be identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device or that are identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device that cannot be read electronically.

S7.3 Movement recording

S7.3.1

The person responsible for an agricultural show, exhibition, rodeo or similar event, must ensure that cattle attending the show/event have their NLIS (Cattle) devices read and recorded against the showground/event location PIC on the NLIS database (known as a 'sighting') within two business days of their arrival at the show/event.

S7.3.2

- a) A person who sells one or more head of cattle at an agricultural show or similar event, either privately or by public auction, must provide the purchaser or the selling agent in the case of a public auction, with a movement document listing the PIC of the property on which the cattle resided immediately prior to their arrival at the agricultural show or event.
- b) A person who acquires cattle at an agricultural show or similar event, but not in the context of a public auction, must register the arrival of these cattle on their property on the NLIS database in accordance with S1.5 of these Standards using the PIC on the movement document supplied by the vendor as the 'FROM PIC'.

Note:

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.



Part 8: Depots

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to persons operating or using a depot.

A depot is:

- a transit depot, holding property or assembly point operated by a transport company or abattoir on which cattle other than bobby calves are kept for no more than seven days prior to moving to another location,
- a saleyard used other than in the context of a public auction for the handling of cattle that are not bobby calves.

Note:

Fixed scales, assembly points and saleyards involved in the trading or movement of bobby calves are not considered to be depots for the purposes of these Standards.

Note:

Farms on which cattle are kept or raised are not considered to be depots for the purposes of these Standards.

Objective

To ensure that cattle are identified in accordance with these Standards and that movements involving depots are adequately recorded on the NLIS database so that animals can be effectively and rapidly tracked.

Standards

S8.1 Property and cattle identification

S8.1.1

Depot operators and persons using depots must ensure that all locations where cattle are held or are to be held have a valid PIC issued by Agriculture Victoria.

S8.1.2

Depot operators and persons using depots must ensure that cattle are identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device before being dispatched from a depot.

S8.2 Movement recording – depots

S8.2.1

When cattle arrive at a depot and will remain at the depot for less than 7 days, the owner of the cattle, operator of the depot and the person responsible for the cattle, within 48 hours of their arrival or by no later than the day of their departure whichever is sooner, must:

- ensure that NLIS (Cattle) devices on the cattle are read and their presence recorded against the PIC of the depot on the NLIS database (known as a 'sighting'), or
- ensure that the movement is recorded on the NLIS database as per S1.5 of these Standards.

S8.2.2

When cattle arrive at a depot and will remain at the depot for more than 7 days, the owner of the cattle, operator of the depot and the person responsible for the cattle, within 48 hours of their arrival, must ensure that the movement is recorded on the NLIS database as per S1.5 of these Standards.

S8.3 Movement documents – depots

S8.4.1

The person responsible for dispatching cattle from a depot and the owner of the cattle are not required to provide the person receiving the cattle with a new movement document provided:

- a) the cattle have not been treated with a veterinary chemical product whilst at the depot,
- b) their presence at the depot has been recorded on the NLIS database either as a 'sighting' or complete movement (see S8.2.1), and
- c) the cattle have not been at the depot for longer than 7 days.

Note:

If cattle are present on a depot for more than 7 days, a new NVD or alternate movement document listing the depot's PIC as the FROM PIC must be provided to the person receiving the cattle.

S8.4.2

- a) Persons dispatching cattle from a depot accompanied by a new movement document must keep a physical or electronic copy of any movement document generated when the cattle leave for seven years.
- b) Persons dispatching cattle from a depot must be able to retrieve copies of movement documents within 2 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.



Part 9: Live export

Scope

This Part of these Standards applies to persons operating or involved in the live export of cattle.

Objective

To ensure that cattle are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements can be tracked effectively and rapidly.

S9.1 Movement recording – live export

S9.1.1

- a) When cattle leave Australia from a port or airport in Victoria, the exporter must ensure that all NLIS (Cattle) devices on the cattle are read and that the movement is recorded on the NLIS database within 48 hours of the time of export.
- b) The 'exported' PIC of 'EEEEEEEE' (also known as the '8Es') is to be used as the destination PIC, the export certificate number is to be used as the movement document number and the PIC assigned to the port at which the cattle embark is to be used as the FROM PIC.

S9.1.2

At least weekly, an exporter must monitor the number of NLIS (Cattle) devices linked to the PICs of properties in their live export supply chain on the NLIS database, and ensure that the number of devices listed corresponds with the number of cattle held on each property.

Acronyms and terms

Agent's PIC

An eight character code assigned by Agriculture Victoria to agents who buy livestock on behalf of clients. Used as the destination PIC when an agent is uncertain where the livestock he/she is buying will be taken.

Agriculture Victoria

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

Bobby calf

Calf less than 6 weeks of age not accompanied by its dam.

Business day

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

Cattle

Means any bull, cow, ox, steer, heifer, calf, bison or buffalo, and the intact carcasses of dead cattle.

Consignment

One or more cattle leaving a property.

Department

Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Depot

A depot is:

- a transit depot, holding property or assembly point operated by a transport company or abattoir on which cattle other than bobby calves are kept for no more than seven days prior to moving to another location,
- a saleyard used other than in the context of a public auction for the handling of cattle that are not bobby calves.

Exporter

Person or company responsible for acquiring, assembling, preparing for export and exporting cattle from Australia.

Farm

A location where cattle are kept or raised, and includes residential properties and feedlots.

FROM PIC

The PIC of the location from which cattle were dispatched.

Hot standard carcase weight (HSCW)

The weight within two hours of slaughter of a carcase following evisceration and standard trim.

Integrity Systems Company (formerly known as NLIS Limited)

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

Kill file

The electronic file generated by an abattoir or knackery and submitted to the NLIS database to register information about processed cattle and their movements.

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)

Livestock Production Assurance is the livestock industry's voluntary on-farm food safety and market assurance program.

Manager

The person who is responsible for the husbandry and management of cattle on a property.

MLA

Meat and Livestock Australia.

Mobile scale operator

Person who visits a farm and assesses and purchases cattle including bobby calves on the farm, typically on a weight and grade basis. It also includes a person who collects bobby calves on-farm and transports them to an abattoir for slaughter or to an assembly point where they are assessed or grouped with other bobby calves.

Movement

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

Movement document

The document completed by the person consigning or selling cattle and used to describe the cattle and record the locations where the movement commenced and ended. Movement documents include an LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and compliant post-sale summaries. Movement records may be created and kept in electronic form.

National Vendor Declaration (NVD)

Movement document completed by the person consigning or selling cattle and used to describe the cattle, document veterinary chemical treatments and record the locations where the movement commenced and ended.

NLIS database

National database operated by Integrity Systems Company (formerly NLIS Limited) that registers NLIS (Cattle) devices and cattle movements.

National Livestock Identification System (Cattle)

Known as the NLIS (Cattle), the national system operating throughout Australia for identifying and tracking cattle for biosecurity, food safety and market access purposes.

NLIS (Cattle) breeder tag/device

Device accredited by ISC as an NLIS (Cattle) breeder device. NLIS (Cattle) breeder devices are predominantly white and are used by a breeder to permanently identify cattle before they leave their property of birth.

NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder tag/device

Device accredited by ISC as an NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder device. NLIS (Cattle) post-breeder devices are predominantly orange and are used to permanently identify cattle that are no longer on their property of birth and that are not already identified with an NLIS (Cattle) device.

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 number

15 or 16 character visually readable number printed on NLIS (Cattle) devices and electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags. The first eight characters is the PIC of the property where the device is to be, or has been, used.

Offering for sale/sell

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

Person

Includes corporate entities and Local Government managed enterprises such as pounds and saleyards.

Producer

A person, organisation or business engaged in breeding, feeding or raising cattle. It includes feedlot, veterinary clinic and pound operators, farm or depot managers and persons keeping cattle 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, fixed scales, saleyards, holding depots, artificial breeding centres, veterinary clinics, export depots, knackereries, 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.

Property to property movement (often called a P2P movement)

A movement of cattle between farms including:

- following the private sale of cattle
- when cattle are taken to an agistment property or are lent, and
- when cattle are acquired on an online selling platform such as AuctionsPlus, Gumtree and Facebook.

Sale lot

One or more cattle offered for sale and for which bids are invited at a public auction.

'Sight', 'sighting' or 'sighted'

The recording on the NLIS database of the presence of an animal on a property (PIC) on a particular day. A 'sighting' record includes the date of the device scanning event, the PIC of the location where the animal's device was scanned and the device transponder number. The 'sighting' record is not required to include the PIC from which the animal was sourced, the PIC to which the animal will be sent or a movement document serial number.

Time

As a minimum, includes the date, hour and minute at which an event occurred.

TO PIC

The PIC of the location to which cattle are sent.

Veterinary chemical product

A veterinary chemical or medicine administered to or ingested by cattle that has a withholding period or export slaughter interval (ESI) other than nil.

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.

