

NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATIONS

National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) are an important tool for the traceability of livestock. Traceability is critical for disease control, food safety, animal welfare purposes, and for providing confidence to consumers in domestic and overseas markets that Victorian-produced livestock products are safe.

Why are NVDs required?

Livestock producers use the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) to declare necessary and valuable information about the food safety status of livestock being sold. It contains a declaration from the owner that all information is correct.

When buying livestock, the NVD provides confirmation of the ownership, residence, life history and health information of the livestock to the purchaser.

Livestock processors rely on information within the NVD to confirm the food entering the food chain is safe.

Any false or misleading information on an NVD may lead to prosecution and/or attract civil action by the purchaser.

When are NVDs required?

Consignors must provide an NVD when sending cattle, sheep, goats or pigs of any age to an abattoir or saleyard, or when moving them to another property (with a different Property Identification Code, (PIC)).

NVDs are also required when cattle, sheep, goats and pigs are being given away or sold as pets.

An NVD must be provided to the person receiving the stock by no later than the time of their arrival.

NVDs are not required when dead livestock are being collected for processing in a knackery.

NVDs are not required for livestock being consigned to an agricultural show or exhibition provided the livestock will be returned to the exhibitor's property immediately after the event.

How can I obtain NVD forms?

The NVD form for cattle, sheep and goats are supplied by the red meat industry's farm assurance program known as Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) and for pigs by Australian Pork Limited through the PigPass program.

LPA and PigPass are voluntary on-farm quality assurance programs. Producers seeking LPA or PigPass accreditation must agree to abide by basic animal production and record keeping requirements focusing on food safety issues. LPA and PigPass conduct independent audits of accredited producers to ensure that the program's integrity is maintained.

Further information on the respective audit programs is available on the LPA and PigPass websites.

NVD forms can be obtained by contacting the LPA Helpline on 1800 683 111, or by visiting www.mla.com.au.

To register to use PigPass NVDs visit www.pigpass.com.au or call the PigPass helpline on 1800 001 458.

To obtain NVDs you will need a PIC

You will need a PIC before ordering NVD forms. Applying for a PIC is simple and there is no cost involved.

To apply for a PIC you can:

- Apply online at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic You can also use the online service to update your existing PIC details if they have changed.
- Download an application form by visiting www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/pic, or
- Contact Agriculture Victoria's NLIS Helpline during office hours on 1800 678 779 to have a form mailed or emailed to you.

Is an LPA or PigPass NVD the only option?

Some Victorian abattoirs and scales operators supply NVDs to their cattle and sheep clients.

The Victorian Vendor Declaration (VVD) for sheep and goats is also available to assist producers who are not part of the LPA program and therefore do not use LPA NVDs.

Some buyers may require as a condition of purchase that vendors supply a correctly completed current edition of the LPA NVD form. The VVD for sheep and goats is not one of these. Check with the person receiving your sheep or goats on whether a VVD in this format will be acceptable to them or not.

VVD's are available through the Agriculture Victoria website or by calling 1800 678 779.

Which NVD/PigPass edition do I need to use?

Many buyers are only interested in purchasing livestock accompanied by a current LPA NVD or PigPass NVD. It is important that livestock producers check the expectations and requirements of buyers when trading livestock.

Am I required to obtain an NVD from the seller or their agent when I buy livestock?

Yes, it is crucial to obtain the information provided on movement documentation such as an NVD as it contains a declaration of the health and food safety status of the animals.

Stock agents are required to provide a copy of the consignor's NVD or alternatively a post-sale summary within two working days of the purchase of store and breeding stock.

The information that must be recorded on a post-sale summary includes:

- the PIC of the property from which the animals were dispatched,
- the destination PIC,
- the date of the movement,
- the number and type of animals,
- the serial number on the NVD,
- if the animals are vendor bred or not,
- for sheep and goats, the PICs printed on all the NLIS (Sheep and goat) tags attached to animals in the consignment.

NVDs for purchased livestock must be retained for seven years for cattle, sheep and goats and two years for pigs to facilitate tracking of animals should the need arise. Sellers must also keep a copy of the NVD forms that they provide for seven years.

Contacts and more information

LPA (NVD) Helpline

Phone: 1800 683 111

Website: www.mla.com.au

PigPass Helpline

Phone: 1800 001 458

Website: www.pigpass.com.au

Agriculture Victoria NLIS helpline

Phone: 1800 678 779

Email: nlis.victoria@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Website: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/nlis

Traceability: your livestock, your industry, our future.