

NLIS (Sheep & Goats) Standards

2022 edition



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.

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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) (Sheep & Goats) in Victoria effective from 1 January 2022.

The expected outcome associated with the operation of the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) is that sheep and goats born in Victoria will be traceable in line with Australia's *National Livestock Traceability Performance Standards*.

These Standards list the obligations on industry participants that relate to the NLIS (Sheep & Goats). By conforming with these obligations, industry participants will be compliant with Victorian legislation relating to the identification and tracking of sheep and goats. 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 sheep and goats and the recording of their movements.

Scope

These Standards apply to:

1. all sheep and goats, including the intact carcasses of dead sheep and goats
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, feedlots, 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 particular responsible party, and contains the following information:

- **Scope** — specifies the parties to whom the section or part applies
- **Objective** — intended outcome(s) for each part 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 sheep and goat identification and traceability requirements can be found in Agriculture Victoria publications and on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

Reasons for sheep and goat traceability

Sheep and goats act as vectors in the spread of infectious diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, anthrax and other diseases that have potentially significant market access and human health impacts. It is essential that sheep and goats of interest can be quickly and accurately located so that disease outbreaks can be contained and food safety related emergencies, for example those associated with chemical contamination, can be addressed.

The ability to quickly and reliably establish the property of residence of a sheep or goat is critical to underpinning Victoria's quality brand, to protecting Victoria's sheepmeat, wool, goat, beef, dairy and pork industries, and to capitalising on emerging market opportunities associated with food safety and provenance.

Effective tracking enables authorities to impose preventive measures promptly that may shorten the life 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. Pinpointing likely sources of disease or contamination quickly improves response times 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 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, 'organic', as well as claims relating to food safety, product integrity and provenance.

Carcase tracking

Several Victorian sheep and goat processors are installing carcase tracking systems that, once commissioned, will link an animal's electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag to its carcase from the point of slaughter to the chiller or boning room. Processors can record carcase characteristics such as hot standard carcase weight and, in time, carcase defect information collected on the 'retain rail'. If they wish, processors can then provide this information linked to individual animals to producers through either the NLIS database or the Livestock Data Link system managed by Integrity Systems Company (ISC), or as part of feedback sheets sent directly to producers.

These Standards and Victorian legislation do not require abattoirs that process sheep and/or goats to install carcase tracking systems or to provide carcase feedback to producers.

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. The use of 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 locate their cohorts quickly, if necessary. These components, when linked together, form a traceability system that authorities can use to address biosecurity and food safety challenges.

The NLIS (Sheep & Goats) 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 sheep and goats has the following elements:

- a. A property registration system 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. Electronically readable NLIS (Sheep) ear tags to physically identify animals
- c. Defined movement documentation requirements
- d. an official secure database, the NLIS database, that registers tags 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

1. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) 2019, Terrestrial animal health code, Volume 1: general provisions, <https://www.oie.int/standard-setting> Codex Alimentarius 2006, Principles for traceability/product tracing as a tool within a food inspection and certification system, CAC/GL 60-2006, <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius>

- h. A query system that allows authorities to establish the history and whereabouts of individuals or groups and their cohorts easily, 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 sheep and goats, movement document requirements and NLIS database reporting.

Electronic sheep and goat identification

Electronic ear tags approved by ISC as part of the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) comply with Australia's *NLIS standard for radio-frequency identification tags*, as well as relevant Australian and international Standards, namely AS5018-2001 and AS5019-2001 and ISO11784 and ISO 11785, respectively. Electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags are stamped with the NLIS logo.

Information on procedures for accrediting electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags and a copy of the *NLIS standard for radio-frequency identification tags* can be found on the ISC website.

NLIS accredited electronic tags offer the best 'value for money' solution for tracking sheep and goats to achieve the objectives of Victoria's NLIS (Sheep & Goats).

There are no electronic NLIS ear tags accredited specifically for use in goats. This is because of the difficulty associated with arranging field trials with enough goats to be confident about the reliability of the tags being tested. Goat producers must use accredited NLIS (Sheep) tags and must specify when placing orders that the tags they are purchasing will be used to identify goats.

Electronic hock tags are currently being trialed on dairy goats and may be granted NLIS accreditation in the future.

Producers can purchase electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags [online](#). Tags will typically be delivered within 10 business days of the order being placed.

NLIS database

Australia's NLIS database registers electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags before manufacturers dispatch them to producers. The NLIS database receives, processes, stores and facilitates the prompt retrieval of information relating to sheep and goat movements through saleyards, to abattoirs, shows and similar events, and 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 on the NLIS [website](#). Through their database account, industry participants register movements involving sheep or goats between properties in accordance with their obligations under these Standards.

Further information about the operation of the NLIS database is available from the 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 National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form with all sheep and goat movements, including those between farms, or to a saleyard, abattoir, feedlot or live export depot.

Producers seeking information about LPA and procedures for accessing LPA NVDs should [click here](#) or phone the **LPA helpline** on **1800 683 111** during business hours.

Producers who are not LPA participants when moving sheep or goats must provide an electronic or paper declaration in the form found on the Agriculture Victoria website at [click here](#).



Part 1: Producers

Scope

This part of these Standards applies to:

- persons owning and/or managing a property on which sheep or goats are bred, agisted, reared, held or kept
- persons responsible for the husbandry of sheep or goats, and
- persons owning and/or managing sheep or goats moving off or onto a property at any point of their lives for any reason.

Note:

These Standards also apply to sheep and goats kept as pets, and to the carcasses of dead sheep and goats.

Objective

To ensure that sheep and goats, where appropriate, are permanently and uniquely identified with an accredited electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag, and to record their movements to facilitate tracking as required.

Standards

S1.1 Property identification

S1.1.1

- a. All persons owning a property, including a residential property, on which sheep or goats are or will be kept must obtain and hold a valid PIC assigned by Agriculture Victoria to that property.
- b. The person who is responsible for the husbandry and management of sheep or goats on a property (the manager) must ensure that a valid PIC assigned 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 sheep or goats, 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.

S1.1.3

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

S1.1.4

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

S1.2 Sheep and goat identification

S1.2.1

The only method of identification permitted on a Victorian property in respect to these Standards is through the attachment of an electronic NLIS (Sheep) accredited tag in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Note:

NLIS (Sheep) ear tags may be attached to either the right or left ear of sheep and goats.

S1.2.2

- a. All sheep and goats, regardless of their age, must be identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) breeder tag that was assigned for use on that property before they leave their property of birth, except for the exempt classes of sheep and goats specified in S1.2.3 and S1.2.4.
- b. All sheep and goats regardless of their age, must either be carrying an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag attached by an earlier owner or an electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tag that is assigned for use on the property from which they will be dispatched, before leaving a property that is not their property of birth, except for the exempt classes of sheep and goats specified in S1.2.3 and S1.2.4.

Note:

Electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags are used to identify both sheep and goats. There are no electronic NLIS (Goat) tags.

Note:

Sheep and goats must never carry more than one electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

S1.2.3

Identifying the following categories of sheep and goats with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag is voluntary:

- a. harvested rangeland (feral) goats introduced into Victoria in transit directly to an abattoir for immediate slaughter
- b. Saanen, British Alpine, Toggenburg, Anglo Nubian, Melaan, Australian Brown, Lamancha and Nigerian Dwarf dairy goat breeds
- c. miniature goat breeds
- d. the carcasses of deceased neonatal lambs (slink lambs) and kids that are being consigned directly to a knackery
- e. sheep and goats that are entering Victoria provided they are identified in accordance with the legal requirements in the jurisdiction from which they were dispatched, and a movement document is supplied to the receiver no later than at the time of their arrival that accurately lists the PICs present on any visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tags that have been used to identify animals in the consignment
- f. sheep and goats at a Victorian saleyard, depot or abattoir that were dispatched from an interstate location provided they are identified in accordance with the legal requirements in the jurisdiction from which they were transported
- g. sheep and goats at a Victorian depot that are to be dispatched directly to an abattoir or another depot.

Note:

The tagging of dairy goats is voluntary. Dairy goat breeds have vascular ears that may become infected when an ear tag is attached leading to welfare concerns and the potential for a high incidence of tag loss. The Lamancha dairy breed has only rudimentary ears that cannot easily be tagged.

Note:

Tags placed in the ears of miniature breeds, particularly kids, can catch leading to torn ears. The Elf breed has only rudimentary ears. The tagging of miniature goats is voluntary however owners must have a PIC for the property on which their goats reside. When miniature goats move, a movement document must be provided (see S1.3.2) and the receiver must record the movement of the goats on the NLIS database (see S1.5).

Note:

Sheep or goats entering Victoria are exempt from having to be identified by the consignor with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag provided they are identified at the time of their entry into Victoria in accordance with the legal requirements in the jurisdiction from which they were dispatched. The consignor must also provide a movement document to the receiver no later than at the time of their arrival that accurately lists the PICs present on the visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tags that have been used to identify animals in the consignment.

Note:

Slink lambs and kids that are to be processed by a knackery do not need to be identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag. Consignors must ensure that the carcasses of sheep and goats in other categories are identified with an electronic

- c. the goats are harvested rangeland (feral) goats that have been introduced into Victoria and are leaving a Victorian property accredited by LPA as a 'Goat Depot' and operating under a traceability plan approved in writing by Agriculture Victoria.

Note:

Unless an exemption applies (see S1.2.3 and S1.2.4), sheep and goats born in Victoria being dispatched from a Victorian farm or feedlot to a location with a different PIC in Victoria or elsewhere in Australia must be identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

S1.2.5

If a sheep or goat on a farm or feedlot loses its NLIS (Sheep) tag, the tag must be replaced according to S1.2.2 before the animal leaves the property on which it resided when the tag was lost.

S1.2.6

- a. Other than in the context of the slaughter of sheep or goats in an abattoir or the processing of carcasses in a knackery, visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tags must not be removed from a sheep or goat, or altered, damaged or disfigured in any way.
- b. Other than in the context of the processing of sheep or goats in an abattoir or knackery electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags must not be removed from a sheep or goat except where the tag is tested using an electronic tag reader and found to be not functioning (see S1.2.11).

S1.2.4

Sheep and goats may be dispatched from a property without an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag if:

- a. the person in charge has received permission in writing from an authorised Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer because their sheep or goats cannot be safely tagged on the property on which they reside before dispatch
- b. there is an extreme emergency such as an imminent threat from a bushfire or flood, in which instance the minimum information specified in S1.5 must be recorded and reported to the NLIS database within 14 days of the sheep and goats departure date, or

S1.2.7

Sheep and goats must be identified with only one electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag at any point in time, however purchasers may identify sheep and goats already identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag with a pink visually readable post-breeder tag on which is printed the PIC of the property onto which they have been introduced.

Note:

Producers who choose to attach a visually readable pink post-breeder tag to electronically identified sheep or goats that they have introduced directly from another property are still required to register the movement of the introduced animals on the NLIS database (see S1.5.1 and S1.5.2).

S1.2.8

- a. Sheep and goats must not be identified with an NLIS (Cattle) tag, or an NLIS (Cattle) or non-NLIS electronic bolus.
- b. NLIS (Sheep) tags must not be used to identify cattle, alpacas, llamas, pigs or deer.

S1.2.9

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

Note:

The PIC on which issued NLIS (Sheep) tags are to be used is printed on the tag. The PIC forms the first eight characters of the NLIS number on electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags. Arrangements for registering unused tags against a different PIC can be made by calling the Agriculture Victoria NLIS helpline on 1800 678 779 during business hours.

S1.2.10

Electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags must be used to identify the species—that is sheep or goats—against which they have been registered on the NLIS database.

Note:

When ordering electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags, producers must nominate whether the tags will be used to identify sheep or goats. Supplied tags are registered by the manufacturer on the NLIS database against the species on which they will be used. Electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags are issued by suppliers with packaging clearly designating whether they are intended to be used to identify sheep or goats.

S1.2.11

If the transponder in an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag on a sheep or goat located on a farm or feedlot cannot be read electronically:

- a. that NLIS tag must be removed and replaced in accordance with S1.2.2 before the sheep or goat leaves the farm or feedlot on which it resides, and
- b. the non-functioning NLIS device's visually readable number may be linked to the replacement NLIS (Sheep) tag on the NLIS database.

S1.2.12

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

S1.2.13

It is not permissible to change or substitute a component of an NLIS (Sheep) tag.

Note:

Changing NLIS (Sheep) tag components, for example by using a different pin, may compromise the retention and readability of the tag. Inserting colour rings also has the potential to impact on tag retention.

S1.3 Movement information and documentation

S1.3.1

A movement document must be generated by the person dispatching, or person authorising the dispatch of, sheep or goats from a farm, feedlot or residential property to a destination other than a knackery. The movement document must be accurate in respect to each animal in the mob and must include:

- a. the PIC of the property from which the sheep or goats are to be dispatched
- b. the date of dispatch of the sheep or goats
- c. the number and description of sheep or goats to be dispatched
- d. the name and signature of the person creating the document
- e. the date the document is made and signed
- f. whether the sheep or goats 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 animals have been on the property, and
- g. the intended destination of the sheep or goats, which may be the PIC of the destination property, the street address of the destination property, or the name of a saleyard or abattoir.

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 record uploaded to the NLIS database (see S1.5).

Note:

If a single movement document cannot accurately describe and record information about all animals in a mob, 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.

S1.3.2

The following are considered acceptable movement documents for the purposes of these Standards:

- a. NVD forms issued by Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) for use when sheep or goats move between properties, and
- b. A consignment declaration in the form found on the Agriculture Victoria website.

Note:

Many buyers will require as a condition of purchase that vendors supply a correctly completed current edition Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) NVD form.

S1.3.3

- a. The person responsible for dispatching sheep or goats must ensure that an accurately completed movement document is provided to the receiver of the sheep or goats by no later than the time of their arrival at the destination property.
- b. A person may consign sheep or goats to a veterinary clinic, 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.

S1.3.4

The person generating a movement document must keep of copy of the document for seven years. Copies of movement documents must be retrievable by the person generating the document within 24 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

The copy of a movement document can be stored electronically provided it can be retrieved within 24 hours, including as a Portable Document Format file (also known as a pdf) on the NLIS database.

S1.3.5

A person introducing sheep or goats 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 a post-sale summary (see S3.5) supplied by 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 livestock (which could be the name of the selling agent),
 - ii. date of acquisition,
 - iii. if known, the PIC of the property from which the livestock were received,
 - iv. the PIC of the property on which the livestock now reside prior to their dispatch, and
 - v. either the address or PIC of the property to which the livestock are to be sent.

S1.3.6

A person receiving a movement document relating to sheep or goats arriving on a property that they own or manage must keep the original, a paper copy or an electronic copy for seven years. Movement documents must be retrievable within 24 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

S1.4

Persons acquiring sheep or goats

S1.4.1

At the time of purchase other than at a public auction, or if no sale occurs at the point when possession changes, a person acquiring sheep or goats must provide the person dispatching or releasing the sheep or goats with the PIC of the property not being a depot to which they will be taken.

S1.4.2

A person acquiring sheep or goats 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 next property not being a depot to which the sheep or goats will be taken.

Note:

In the circumstances described in S1.4.1 and S1.4.2, if sheep or goats are to be taken initially to a depot before travelling to their next property of residence, the PIC of this property rather than the depot must be provided to the consignor or the selling agent as applicable.

S1.5

Movement recording of sheep and goats moving between farms and feedlots

S1.5.1

When a mob containing sheep or goats where one or more animals have been identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag arrive on a farm, feedlot or residential property directly from a Victorian farm, feedlot, depot or residential property, or from an interstate property or saleyard, the person receiving the sheep or goats and their owner are responsible for ensuring that the following information is registered on the NLIS database:

- a. the PIC of the location from which the sheep or goats were dispatched
- b. the date of arrival of the sheep or goats
- c. the total number of sheep or goats received including animals in the mob that are not identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag
- d. the electronic number encoded on the transponder in each electronically readable electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag present on the introduced sheep or goats, and
- e. when an LPA NVD has been supplied by the consignor, the NVD serial number.

S1.5.2

The information specified in S1.5.1 must be registered on the NLIS database within 48 hours of the sheep or goats' arrival or before they next move, whichever is the sooner.

Note:

If animals are arriving at a depot, see Part 7 of these Standards for information on the obligations on owners and depot operators.

Note:

S1.5.1 and S1.5.2 apply to persons acquiring store sheep or goats via internet based selling services, for example Auctions Plus, and stock acquired at an interstate saleyard. This is because, at present, interstate saleyards typically are not scanning electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags and reporting the movement of electronically tagged sheep and goats to the NLIS database.

Note:

A producer may engage a third party to scan electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags 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.

S1.5.3

When a mob containing sheep or goats where no animal in the mob is identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag arrives on a farm, feedlot, depot or residential property directly from a Victorian or interstate location that is not a saleyard, the person receiving the sheep or goats and their owner are responsible for ensuring that the following information is registered on the NLIS database:

- a. the PIC of the location from which the sheep or goats were dispatched
- b. the date of arrival of the sheep or goats
- c. the total number of sheep or goats received
- d. when an LPA NVD has been supplied by the consignor, the NVD serial number, and
- e. the additional PICs recorded on the accompanying movement document or present on visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tags in the consignment.

S1.5.4

The information specified in S1.5.3 must be registered on the NLIS database within 48 hours of the sheep or goats' arrival or before they next move, whichever is the sooner.

Note:

Producers are required to record mob-based movements on the NLIS database when sheep or goats that are untagged or are all identified with visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tags arrive on a Victorian property from a location which is not a saleyard. This obligation does not apply when sheep and goats are acquired from a saleyard because saleyards throughout Australia are required to register mob-based movements on behalf of purchasers.

S1.5.5

A producer who uses electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags to identify introduced sheep or goats may register on the NLIS database the PIC from which the animals were sourced against the tags used.

Note:

Producers who identify introduced sheep or goats with electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags because they were not electronically tagged, are able to register on the NLIS database the PIC from which each animal was sourced against the electronic tags used. Use of this database function will improve the traceability of introduced sheep and goats by linking the electronic tags used with the previous property of residence of the introduced animals.



Part 2: Transporters

Scope

This part of these Standards applies to:

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

Objective

To ensure that sheep and goats are identified in accordance with these Standards before dispatch so that they can be successfully traced should the need arise.

Standards

S2.1

Transportation of sheep and goats

S2.1.1

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

S2.2

Movement document

S2.2.1

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



Part 3: Livestock agents

Scope

This part of these Standards applies to:

- persons involved in the sale of sheep or goats 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 sheep and goats, or to the trading of sheep and goats on the internet on websites such as Auctions Plus.

Objective

To ensure that sheep and goats are identified in accordance with these Standards and that they can be reliably tracked on arrival at, and after they are traded through, a saleyard should the need arise.

Standards

S3.1 Sheep and goat identification

S3.1.1

The selling agent must ensure that before sheep and goats are offered for sale:

- they are correctly identified in accordance with these Standards (see S1.2)
- they can be reliably linked to the PIC of the property from which they were consigned, and
- a movement document (see S1.3.2) supplied and completed by the consignor has been received.

Note:

While the owners of sheep and goats must ensure that, before they are dispatched to a saleyard, the sheep and goats are correctly identified in accordance with these Standards (see S1.2), persons facilitating their sale are also required to ensure that animals are correctly identified and traceable before they are sold.

Note:

The circumstances when an agent must take corrective action when sheep and goats have not been correctly identified by a vendor are outlined in S3.2.

S3.1.2

NLIS (Sheep) tags are issued for use on a specific property (PIC) and must not be applied to sheep or goats on a property with a different PIC.

Note:

Vendors and their agents are not permitted to bring NLIS (Sheep) tags to a saleyard or auction venue for the purposes of tagging sheep or goats.

S3.1.3

When an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag on a sheep or goat is unable to be read electronically at a saleyard or public auction:

- that NLIS tag may be removed by the selling agent and replaced with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tag issued for use at the saleyard before the animal is offered for sale, and
- the non-functioning NLIS device number may be aligned/linked with the new NLIS tag on the NLIS database.

Note:

Agents may need to replace tags that are unable to be read if the action level for the sale lot has not been exceeded (see S3.2.2 and S3.2.3).

S3.2 Electronic reading of tags on animals offered for sale

S3.2.1

- a. When a selling agent takes possession of sheep or goats that were consigned from a Victorian property, all animals must be scanned using a functioning electronic tag reader and encoded transponder numbers recorded.
- b. If the percentage of successfully scanned electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags has not reached the designated action level advised by Agriculture Victoria then the remedial action specified in S3.2.2 must be taken before animals are offered for sale. If the consignment is split prior to sale, the action level applies to each sale lot drafted from the consignment.

Note:

The action level is the trigger point for remedial action associated with the presence in a sale lot of an unacceptable number of untagged animals or animals with electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags that have not been, or cannot be, read electronically. From 31 March 2022, the action level for the scanning of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags in Victorian saleyards is 98 per cent. The action level will be reviewed periodically and may change in the future.

S3.2.2

When the percentage of animals in a sale lot containing sheep or goats that were consigned from a Victorian property that are successfully scanned does not exceed the action level, the selling agent must take the following remedial action:

- a. rescan the sale lot until the action level is exceeded (see S3.2.1), or
- b. examine each sheep or goat in the sale lot and replace any missing or non-functioning electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags using electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags issued for use at the saleyard and then rescan the sale lot, or
- c. return either the consignment, or all animals in the consignment that are not identified as required by these Standards, to the vendor.

Note:

Where a consignment or animals within a consignment are returned to the vendor, the movement must be registered on the NLIS database on a mob basis (see S3.3.1).

S3.2.3

At the time of scanning, selling agents must make a record of sale lots containing sheep or goats that were consigned from a Victorian property where the number of head that were read electronically did not exceed the action level, along with the remedial action taken. Selling agents must retain and be able to retrieve this record for one year.

Note:

From 31 March 2022, the action level for the scanning of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags on sheep consigned from a Victorian property in saleyards will be 98 per cent.

S3.2.4

Electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags on sheep and goats that were consigned from a Victorian property must be scanned and any remedial action (when required) completed before the sheep or goats are auctioned.

S3.2.5

- a. When a selling agent takes possession of a consignment of sheep or goats that were dispatched from an interstate location and one or more animals are identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag, the selling agent must ensure that:
 - i. all animals in the consignment are scanned prior to sale using a functioning electronic tag reader, and
 - ii. encoded tag transponder number/s are recorded.
- b. If sheep or goats in a sale lot of animals that were dispatched from an interstate location do not have either an electronic or visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tag, untagged animals must be tagged using saleyard issued electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags before the sheep or goats are offered for sale. The electronic

NLIS (Sheep) tags that were used must then be scanned and reported in the movement file uploaded to the NLIS database relating to the sale lot.

- c. A selling agent must not sell sheep or goats that were dispatched from an interstate location until the vendor's movement document has been received. In relation to animals identified only with visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tags, the movement document must be checked to ensure that it accurately lists the PICs present on the tags that have been used to identify animals in the consignment.

S3.3 Records regarding the sale of sheep or goats

S3.3.1

- a. The selling agent must provide the following information for each sale lot of sheep or goats to the saleyard operator before the sheep or goats leave the saleyard or sooner if required to do so by the operator:
 - i. date of sale
 - ii. sale lot number
 - iii. species
 - iv. number of head in the sale lot
 - v. PIC from which the sheep or goats were dispatched
 - vi. electronic transponder number for each NLIS (Sheep) tag successfully scanned
 - vii. whether the vendor's movement document states that the sheep or goats were bred on the property from which they were dispatched
 - viii. if the sheep or goats were not born on the property from which they were dispatched, the length of time that the sheep or goats have been on this property
 - ix. the serial number on the accompanying movement document if a serial number is present.
 - x. 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.

S3.3.2

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.

S3.4 Post-sale documentation storage

S3.4.1

The selling agent must keep a copy of the movement document supplied by each vendor for two years from the date of the sale and be able to retrieve the document within 24 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Agents that upload pdf files of movement documents to the NLIS database in conjunction with movement records, or maintain retrievable electronic copies of movement documents, are satisfying this storage requirement.

S3.5 Provision of documentation to buyers

S3.5.1

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 NVDs supplied by vendors, to the operator of the abattoir by midnight on the day of sale.

S3.5.2

A post-sale summary provided by a selling agent to the operator of 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. serial number, if present, associated with the vendor's movement document
- f. the PICs present on the electronic NLIS (Sheep) and visually readable NLIS (Sheep) tags present on the sheep or goats in the lot
- g. destination PIC provided by the purchaser, and
- h. whether the sheep and goats in each sale lot were bred on the property from which they 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 and to that consignor's movement document. If the need arises, processors will then have sufficient information to draft a sale lot from the consolidated mob.

S3.5.3

When the destination PIC provided by a buyer does not relate to an abattoir, the selling agent must dispatch a copy of the NVD supplied by the vendor to the purchaser within two business days of the sale.

S3.6 Purchasing of sheep or goats by an agent

S3.6.1

When the buyer of sheep or goats at a public auction is a livestock agent or agent acting on behalf of a processor and he/she is uncertain of the destination PIC of the 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 to which they were taken within two business days of the date of the sale.

Note:

When an agent acting on behalf of a processor provides an Agent's PIC and the purchased sheep or goats are processed within two business days and electronic tags read and recorded on the NLIS database as 'deceased', the agent will be deemed to have completed the transfer of the animals. The agent is responsible for ensuring this has occurred.

S3.7 Auctions on farms and at public events

S3.7.1

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 S4.4.1 to the NLIS database.



Part 4: Saleyards

Scope

This part of these Standards applies to:

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

Objective

To ensure that sheep and goats are identified in accordance with these Standards and that they can be reliably tracked on arrival at, and after they are traded through, a saleyard should the need arise.

Standards

S4.1 Property identification

S4.1.1

- Persons operating a saleyard must obtain and hold a current PIC relating to their premises issued by Agriculture Victoria.
- Holding paddocks that adjoin a saleyard may form part of the parcel of land covered by the saleyard's PIC provided these paddocks have been reported by the saleyard to Agriculture Victoria as being part of the saleyard premises.

S4.2 Sheep and goat identification

S4.2.1

The saleyard operator must have a supply of pink electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags on which is printed the saleyard's PIC that can be used to identify sheep that arrive from a Victorian property that are not identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag, or from an interstate location and that are not identified with either a visually readable or electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

S4.2.2

The saleyard operator or their authorised representative (which may be a selling agent) must make an auditable record of the use of electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags to identify animals that were found not to be identified in accordance with these Standards, at the time these tags are used. The record must link the:

- NLIS number or transponder number of the tag or tags used
- date of use
- person attaching the tag/s
- PIC of origin of the sheep or goats, and
- the destination PIC provided by the buyer.

S4.2.3

The saleyard operator or their authorised representative must keep a record regarding electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tag use, including the information specified in S4.2.2, and be able to retrieve it within 24 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

S4.3 Scanning equipment and software

S4.3.1

The saleyard operator must ensure functioning equipment and software is available to scan all incoming consignments of sheep and goats for electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags, and link scanned tags with the information specified in S4.4.1.

S4.4 Movement file

S4.4.1

- The saleyard operator or their authorised representative must upload to the NLIS database before sheep or goats leave the saleyard, a movement file for each sale lot containing:
 - the date of sale
 - number of head in each sale lot
 - species
 - the PIC of the property from which the sheep or goats were dispatched

- v. the encoded transponder number of each successfully scanned electronically read NLIS (Sheep) tag
 - vi. the serial number on the movement document if a serial number is present,
 - vii. whether the vendor's movement document states that the sheep or goats were bred on the property from which they were dispatched, and
 - viii. if the sheep or goats were not born on the property from which they were dispatched, the length of time that the sheep or goats have been on this property
- b. The PIC of the property to which the sheep or goats 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 sheep or goats are moved after they are passed in or sold into an adjoining paddock that has a separate PIC from the saleyard PIC, then the saleyard can either transfer the sheep or goats onto the paddock PIC (see S4.4.1(a)) or 'sight' the sheep or goats on the NLIS database against the paddock PIC. The movement or 'sighting' must be completed by close of business on the next business day following the sale, or before the sheep or goats leave the paddock, whichever is sooner.

S4.4.2

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 S4.4.1, to the NLIS database. The selling agent must create and upload movement files within two business days of the sale.

S4.4.3

The saleyard operator must ensure that where sheep or goats are found to have died in transit to the saleyard, or die at the saleyard, that the electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag on each dead animal is scanned. The NLIS (Sheep) device transponder number, the saleyard PIC and the PIC from which a dead animal was consigned (FROM PIC), if known, 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. If the PIC from which a dead animal was consigned is not known, the saleyard PIC can be used as the FROM PIC.

S4.4.4

The saleyard operator is responsible for ensuring that where the saleyard receives sheep or goats other than for public auction, ie where the saleyard is being used as a depot, that these movements are recorded in accordance with S7.3 and S7.4 of these standards.



Part 5: Processors

Scope

This part of these Standards applies to:

- persons owning, operating, or employed in processing of sheep or goats and their carcasses, including Primesafe licensed abattoirs and knackeries.

Note:

Mobile abattoirs that slaughter sheep or goats 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 5 of these Standards.

Objectives

To ensure that sheep and goats are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their last property of residence prior to arriving at the abattoir or knackery can be quickly established.

To ensure that all sheep and goats that are identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag when processed have their tag scanned and recorded as 'deceased' on the NLIS database.

Note:

The intent of these objectives is to ensure prompt traceback of sheep and goats to the last farm, feedlot or depot of residence should the need arise. It is recognised that there will be situations, for example when an occasional untagged sheep or goat arrives for processing in a boxed line from a saleyard, where traceback beyond the saleyard will not be possible.

Standards

S5.1 Property identification

S5.1.1

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

Note:

Processors 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.

S5.1.2

Processors with holding properties and depots that do not adjoin the processing plant must obtain a separate PIC for each parcel of land issued by Agriculture Victoria.

S5.2 Sheep and goat identification

S5.2.1

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

S5.2.2

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

S5.3 Movement documentation

S5.3.1

- a. Except where S5.3.1 (b) applies, a processor must not slaughter sheep or goats unless the processor in relation to the animals possesses:
 - i. an LPA NVD
 - ii. an alternative approved movement document (see S1.3.2), or
 - iii. for sheep and goats purchased at a saleyard, a post-sale summary or a copy of the vendor's NVD provided by the selling agent that records the PIC or PICs of the last location of residence of the sheep or goats prior to arriving at the saleyard.
- b. An abattoir operator may slaughter sheep or goats 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 mobs are accompanied by correctly completed movement documents and that individual animals can be linked to their last farm, depot, feedlot or saleyard 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 24 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Documents can be stored in hardcopy, in a retrievable electronic format, or as an electronic copy linked to a kill file and submitted to the NLIS database.

S5.4 Sheep and goat identification

S5.4.1

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

- a. where sheep or goats have arrived untagged under a permit issued by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer, or
- 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 untagged, 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 sheep and goat's carcass must be identified in a manner that maintains correlation with the PIC of the property from which it was sourced (which may be a saleyard) 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 (PISC88), if destined for rendering or use as pet food.

S5.5 Scanning and movement recording

S5.5.1

- a. Processors must generate a kill file containing a record for each sheep or goat that they process. The kill file must accurately link the:
 - i. PIC from which a sheep or goat was sourced (which may be the PIC of a saleyard or depot)
 - ii. processing establishment identifier or PIC
 - iii. date of slaughter/processing
 - iv. species
 - v. the movement document serial number, where present, for sheep or goats consigned directly from a farm or feedlot
 - vi. the electronic transponder number when an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag is present that has been read electronically, and
 - vii. the unique body number assigned to each processed sheep or goat carcass.
- b. Where mobs have been combined (boxed) at a depot or in a lairage and the PIC from which the sheep or goats was sourced cannot be determined, the default FROM PIC of ZZZZZZZZ (8Zs) may be used by the processor. A processor using 8Zs as the FROM PIC for a consignment is responsible for demonstrating, if questioned by an authorised Agriculture Victoria officer, that the use of 8Zs was warranted
- c. Kill files must be uploaded to the NLIS database within two business days of the date of slaughter or processing of a sheep or goat.

Note:

The use of the default 8Zs FROM PIC will be monitored by Agriculture Victoria, and processors may be asked to explain why they have used this PIC.

S5.5.2

- a. Knackeries must generate a file containing a record for each sheep or goat carcass, other than carcasses of slink lambs or kids, that they collect. The file must accurately link the:
 - i. PIC from which a sheep or goat 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 electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag on the sheep or goat was scanned,
 - ii. processing establishment identifier or PIC
 - iii. date of collection, and
 - iv. the electronic transponder number when an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag is present that has been read electronically.
- b. 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 sheep or goat carcass.
- c. Knackeries must keep the following records for two years in relation to the carcasses of slink lamb or kids that they process:
 - i. the name of the producer who delivered the carcasses or from whom the carcasses were collected
 - ii. the PIC or address of the property from which the carcasses were sourced
 - iii. date of receipt or collection, and
 - iv. the number of carcasses received or collected.
- d. Any electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags present on slink lambs or kids must be scanned and reported to the NLIS database as 'deceased'. If the consignor's PIC is not known, the PIC of the knackery at which the carcasses were received can be used as the FROM PIC.

S5.5.3

At least weekly, a processor must monitor the number of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags linked to their PIC on the NLIS database and ensure the number of tags listed corresponds with the number of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tagged 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 animals physically located on their premises along with animals listed in kill files that are yet to be uploaded. It does not require processors to complete a precise reconciliation of 'current holdings' with tags yet to be uploaded.

S5.5.4

A processor 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 S5.5.3 and S5.5.4 are completed.

S5.5.5

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

S5.5.6

Where a processor is using a panel reader to read electronic NLIS (Sheep) ear tags, the processor must on at least a monthly basis validate and verify that the reader is performing reliably.

Note:

Processors should have a documented procedure for ensuring that their panel readers are operating reliably. Agriculture Victoria will assist processors in the preparation of appropriate procedures. 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 electronic tags reliably.



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 sheep or goats are taken for public display including shows, exhibitions and sheep dog trials.

Objective

To ensure that sheep and goats are identified in accordance with these Standards and that their movements to and from the show/event can be tracked should the need arise.

Standards

S6.1

Property identification

S6.1.1

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

S6.2

Sheep and goat identification

S6.2.1

Sheep and goats admitted to an agricultural show or other similar event from a Victorian property must be identified in accordance with these Standards (see S1.2).

S6.2.2

Sheep and goats (except for exempt goat breeds see S1.2) entering Victoria for exhibiting at a show or similar event must be identified at the time of their entry into Victoria with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

Note:

To simplify the process of registering the presence of sheep and goats at a show, exhibition or similar event on the NLIS database, all sheep and goats (except for exempt breeds) entering Victoria for exhibiting at the event must be identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

S6.3 Movement recording

S6.3.1

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

- sheep and goats attending the show/event have their electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags read and recorded against the showground/event location PIC on the NLIS database (known as a 'sighted movement') within two business days of their arrival at the show/event.

S6.3.2

A person who acquires a sheep or goat at an agricultural show or similar event, but not in the context of a public auction, must register the arrival of the sheep or goat on their property on the NLIS database in accordance with S1.5.1 and S1.5.2 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, as specified in S4.4, to the NLIS database. The selling agent must create and upload movement files within two business days of the auction.



Part 7: Depot operators

Scope

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

A depot is:

- a location registered by the Commonwealth that is involved in the assembling of consignments of sheep or goats for the live export trade,
- a transit depot, holding property or assembly point operated by a transport company on which animals are kept for no more than seven days prior to moving to a location which is not an abattoir,
- a transit depot or holding property on which sheep or goats are held prior to moving to an abattoir, or
- a saleyard used other than in the context of handling sheep or goats for public auction.

Objective

To ensure that sheep and goats 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 should the need arise.

Standards

S7.1 Property identification

S7.1.1

Persons using a depot must ensure that the depot has a current PIC issued by Agriculture Victoria.

S7.2 Livestock identification and movement recording — live export

S7.2.1

When sheep or goats leave Australia from a port or airport in Victoria, the exporter must ensure that all electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags on the sheep and goats are read and the movement is recorded on the NLIS database within two business days of the date of export. The 'exported' PIC of 'EEEEEEEEE' (also known as the '8Es') is to be used as the destination PIC, and the PIC assigned to the port at which the sheep or goats embark is to be used as the 'FROM PIC'.

S7.2.2

At least weekly, the exporter must monitor the numbers of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags linked to PICs in the live export supply chain on the NLIS database and ensure that the number of tags listed corresponds with the number of electronic NLIS (Sheep) tagged animals held at each location (PIC).

S7.2.3

Before sheep or goats are dispatched from an export depot to a saleyard, or to a farm or feedlot where some or all of the animals in the consignment will no longer be part of the live export supply chain, the exporter and depot manager must ensure that each sheep and non-exempt goat in the consignment is identified at the time of their dispatch with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag (see S1.2).

S7.3

Movement recording — depots

S7.3.1

When sheep or goats arrive at a depot, the owner of the animals, operator of the depot and the person responsible for the animals must within two business days of their arrival, or by no later than the day of their departure, whichever is sooner, ensure that:

- a. all electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags on the sheep and goats are read and recorded against the PIC of the depot on the NLIS database (known as a 'sighted movement'), or
- b. the movement is recorded on the NLIS database as per S1.5.1.

S7.3.2

When a mob of sheep or goats where no animal is identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag arrives at a depot, the owner of the animals, operator of the depot and the person responsible for the animals must ensure that within two business days of their arrival, or by no later than the day of their departure, whichever is sooner, a mob based movement in relation to the mob is recorded on the NLIS database as per S1.5.3.

Note:

The person receiving sheep or goats from a depot may use either the depot PIC or PIC of the location on which the livestock resided immediately before arriving at the depot as the 'FROM PIC' for movement recording purposes. If mobs received from a depot have been boxed at the depot, the depot PIC must be used.

Note:

Saleyards receiving sheep or goats other than for public auction are considered depots and those responsible for the sheep or goats must meet the requirements specified in S7.3.

S7.4

Movement documents — depots

S7.4.1

- a. When sheep or goats leave a depot and have been treated with a veterinary chemical product whilst at the depot, the person responsible for dispatching the animals must generate a new movement document. The new movement document must be provided to the person to whom the livestock are sent by no later than at the time of their delivery.
- b. A new movement document must be completed by the person responsible for dispatching sheep or goats from a depot to a saleyard. The depot PIC must be used as the FROM PIC on the new movement document and the new movement document must be provided to the agent to whom the livestock are sent by no later than at the time of their delivery.
- c. The person responsible for dispatching sheep or goats from a depot must also provide the person receiving the animals with the movement document/s, if any, supplied by the original consignor by no later than the time of their delivery to the receiver, and if requested must also provide the receiver with the PIC of the depot.
- d. The person generating a new movement document relating to sheep or goats leaving a depot must keep a copy of the document for seven years. Copies of movement documents must be retrievable by the person generating the document within 24 hours of being requested to do so by an Agriculture Victoria animal health or veterinary officer.

Note:

Saleyards receiving sheep or goats other than for public auction are considered depots and those responsible for the sheep or goats must comply with the requirements specified in S7.3 and S7.4.

Acronyms and terms

Agriculture Victoria

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

Consignment

One or more sheep or goats leaving a property.

Department

Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

Depot

A depot is:

- a location registered by the Commonwealth that is involved in the assembling of consignments of sheep or goats for the live export trade,
- a transit depot, holding property or assembly point operated by a transport company on which animals are kept for no more than seven days prior to moving to a location which is not an abattoir,
- a transit depot or holding property on which sheep or goats are held prior to moving to an abattoir, or
- a saleyard used other than in the context of handling sheep or goats for public auction.

Exporter

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

Farm

A location where sheep or goats are raised and includes residential properties and feedlots

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 mobile abattoir and submitted to the NLIS database to register movements of sheep or goats and their processing.

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)

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

Mobile abattoirs

Person who slaughters sheep or goats on-farm and where all or part of an animal's carcass leaves the farm.

Movement

Any movement involving one or more sheep or goats between two locations with different PICs.

Movement document

The document completed by the person consigning or selling sheep or goats and used to describe the sheep and goats and record the locations where the movement commenced and ended. Movement documents include the Victorian Consignment Declaration for sheep and goats, the LPA National Vendor Declaration and compliant post-sale summaries.

NLIS database

National database operated by Integrity Systems Company (formerly NLIS Limited) that registers electronic NLIS (Sheep) tags and sheep, goat and cattle movements.

National Livestock Identification System (Sheep & Goats)

Known as the NLIS (Sheep & Goats), the national system operating across Australia for identifying and tracking sheep and goats.

National Vendor Declaration (NVD)

Movement document completed by the person consigning or selling sheep or goats and used to describe the sheep and goats 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 (Sheep) breeder tag
— electronic**

Electronic NLIS (Sheep) breeder tags are either yellow or coloured in accordance with the national 'year of birth' colour system and are used by a breeder to permanently identify sheep or goats before they leave their property of birth.

**NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tag
— electronic**

Electronic NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags are pink and can be used to permanently identify introduced sheep or goats that are not already identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) breeder or post-breeder tag, and sheep or goats that have lost their NLIS (Sheep) tag.

**NLIS (Sheep) breeder tag
— visually readable**

Visually readable NLIS (Sheep) breeder tags coloured in accordance with the national 'year of birth' colour system that were used by Victorian breeders before the introduction of mandatory electronic tagging to permanently identify sheep or goats before they left their property of birth.

**NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tag
— visually readable**

Visually readable NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder tags are pink and can be used to permanently identify introduced sheep or goats provided the sheep or goats have already been identified with an electronic NLIS (Sheep) tag.

Offering for sale/sell

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

Over the hooks

Where sheep and goats are sent directly to an abattoir and paid for on a weight and grade basis post-slaughter.

Processor

Includes abattoir and knackery operators, and persons licensed by Primesafe to process sheep or goats on-farm where all or part of their carcasses will be sold for human consumption (mobile abattoirs).

Producer

A person, organisation or business engaged in breeding, feeding or raising sheep or goats. It includes feedlot operators, depot managers and persons keeping sheep or goats 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.

Slink lamb or kid

Dead neonatal lamb or kid

Veterinary chemical product

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

Vendor

A person, organisation or company offering livestock for sale.

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