

To the landholder

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) has been implemented throughout Australia by the cattle, sheep, goat and pig industries and State and Territory governments to ensure livestock are traceable for disease and residue management and emergency response and to underpin market access for livestock and their products.

The National Livestock Identification System for cattle (NLIS Cattle) allows all cattle movements to be traced from birth to slaughter. Unlike sheep NLIS Cattle is an individual, electronic identification system.

Within the system, beef and dairy cattle producers have two primary responsibilities

- Firstly, they must identify all cattle born on their home properties with an NLIS-approved device before they leave their property of birth.
- Secondly, in property-to-property transfers, they have the responsibilities of reporting animal movements between properties with different property identification codes (PICs) on the NLIS database.

Movements of cattle through saleyards are recorded for you in the NLIS database; however movements via private sale or property to property (with different PICs) are not. It is the owner's responsibility to record movements between properties and the purchaser's responsibility to record movements via private sale (including purchases via Auctions Plus) on the NLIS database within 7 days.

Non-compliance may incur a penalty notice fine of \$550.00, or be prosecuted for which the maximum penalty is \$11,000.

Attached to this letter is a factsheet that explains your obligations when moving livestock and also some frequently asked questions regarding buying, selling or moving livestock.

Further information is available on the DPI website

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/stock-movements or you can contact Local land Services on 1300 795 299.

Thank you for your assistance with maintaining and improving the NLIS system for cattle.

How do I record cattle movements on the NLIS Database?

Movements of livestock with electronic RFID tags are recorded using the Livestock moved onto/off my property function.

Whose responsibility is it to record livestock movements?

If livestock are bought, sold or moved through a saleyard, the livestock movement must be recorded by the saleyard.

For private sales (i.e. sales and movements that do not take place via a saleyard), the buyer/receiver of the livestock must record the livestock movement onto their property.

The vendor/sender of the livestock is not obligated to record the movement off their property, although they may do so.

Failure to record a movement may result in a fine being issued. Extreme cases of non-compliance may also lead to criminal prosecution.

How long do I have to record a livestock movement?

In NSW it is 7 days. For information on other states please contact the relevant State/Territory NLIS authority

I'm a small hobby farmer. Do I still have to record livestock movements?

Yes, you do. All livestock movements must be recorded on the NLIS Database, regardless of the size of your property or the number of animals on the property.

I didn't keep/receive a copy of a movement's documentation (such as an LPA NVD). Can I still record this movement?

For all cattle, you can record a livestock movement on the Database without an LPA NVD serial number. This is an optional field in the Livestock moved onto/off my property function.

Please note that, for EU-accredited cattle, failure to enter a European Union Vendor Declaration (EUVD) number will result in the animals losing their EU accreditation.

How can I record livestock movements using the visual tag number, or must I scan animals to record a livestock movement?

For cattle, you can use the Livestock moved onto/off my property function to record a movement using either the electronic RFID or visual NLISID.

Can I delete/correct a livestock movement I've incorrectly recorded?

You may be able to delete or correct an incorrectly recorded livestock movement depending on the circumstances of the movement. See the Transfer correction Tech Tip for more information.

EU-accredited properties must obtain approval from the European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS) before performing a transfer correction. Contact EUCAS on 1800 305 544 (Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm) for more information

I have ordered my NLIS devices and they have not arrived. Can I move cattle or sell?

If you can demonstrate you have placed an order for identifiers you may contact your Local Land Services to arrange for special identifiers.

Moving stock

Your responsibilities

Moving or selling sheep/goats:

The following eight steps are advised in order to move stock safely and legally:

1. Obtain your Property Identification Code (PIC) from your nearest Local Land Services office;
2. Register with the Livestock Production Assurance Program through the Meat & Livestock Australia website <http://www.mla.com.au/Meat-safety-and-traceability/Livestock-Production-Assurance>;
3. Order National Vendor Declarations (NVD's) through the above website;
4. Create an NLIS database account;
5. Purchase NLIS tags from your rural supplier;
6. Ensure all stock are tagged;
7. Complete the NVD; and
8. Complete the transfer on the NLIS database.
9. Sheep are a mob based transfer

Did you know?

A saleyard includes any place where livestock are sold by public auction. This includes public auctions on properties such as circuit, stud and clearing sales.

Moving or selling cattle:

The same guidelines as sheep/goats are recommended for moving or selling cattle. The only difference is that cattle ear tags are electronic and individual, and they are transferred singularly on the NLIS database, (whereas sheep are transferred via mob based movements).

A third party (stock agent or contractor) can record the movement on the NLIS database. However it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that this occurs.

The general rule is if stock are received on a property from anywhere other than directly from saleyards (the agent/saleyard operator is required to record mob movement) movement must be recorded by the receiver on the NLIS database within seven days of arrival.

When livestock are sent on agistment, it is the responsibility of the owner/manager of the livestock to ensure that the movement is recorded on the NLIS database (both onto the agistment property and off again).

In the instance that livestock do not return to their property of origin, the person receiving the stock i.e. new owner, abattoir or saleyard operator is responsible for recording the movement through the NLIS database.

What is the NLIS?

NLIS is Australia's national traceability system for cattle, sheep and goats.

The ability to trace livestock from property of birth to slaughter is crucial to the safety of red meat. Permanent identification benefits the livestock industries by:

- Improving livestock traceability to reduce the impact of livestock disease and residue incidents;
- Securing access to overseas markets;
- Maintaining consumer confidence in Australian meat/dairy products;
- Offering producers improved herd management options; and
- Providing better proof of ownership to reduce stock thefts.

Through the system, movements of cattle, sheep and goats (and in the future pigs) between properties (saleyards, abattoirs and agistment properties) with different PICs are recorded on a national database.

Participation is mandatory. All stock must be tagged with an approved NLIS identifier. NLIS tags/buttons can be ordered through local rural merchandisers and are different for each species.

NLIS database registration can be carried out by contacting Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) on 1800 654 743 or emailing support@nlis.com.au

Further information can be found on the website: www.mla.com.au

Tip:

When livestock are purchased from a saleyard or public auction its worthwhile checking the NLIS database to make sure the movement has been recorded.

Property Identification Code (PIC)

A PIC is a unique number, allocated to properties by Local Land Services. Producers/stock owners should have a registered PIC.

This 'marker' is used to identify the property-of-origin of stock in the event of a chemical residue trace-back or exotic disease outbreak.

PICs can be purchased from your nearest Local Land Services office or may already be assigned to your property. Check with your nearest LLS office.

Transported Stock Statement (TSS)

A TSS (or an NVD) must be completed when transporting cattle, sheep, goats, alpacas and horses anywhere in NSW. A TSS provides all the necessary information to satisfy regulations regarding stock ownership in transit, the carrier and the destination of the stock and to assist in the tracing of disease and stolen stock. TSS's are not to be used for stock going to sale or slaughter (see NVD)

A TSS is still required when moving stock by vehicle between properties, even if they hold the same PIC (horses going to shows, races or working horses are exempt).

A TSS can be purchased from Local Land Services for a small fee and must be kept with the vehicle transporting the stock. Failure to produce can result in a fine.

A copy must be kept by the owner for two years.

National animal health statements

These are voluntary statements signed by the seller/owner which include a nationally agreed declaration for a number of significant conditions including ovine johnes disease, footrot, ovine brucellosis and lice.

Third parties are not permitted to sign this statement.

National sheep/goat/cattle health statements can be downloaded from

<http://centralwest.lls.nsw.gov.au/livestock/moving-stock> and should be completed for all movements to sale or agistment. These are also available from your nearest Local Land Services office.

For some interstate movements this is a compulsory document. It is a recommendation of Regional

Biosecurity Areas for OJD that a sheep health statement is obtained by the purchaser, read to ensure compliance with the area's Regional Biosecurity Plan and a copy sent to the area's District Veterinarian.

National Vendor Declaration (NVD/Waybill)

The Livestock Production Assurance program (LPA) NVD/Waybill is the main document upholding Australia's meat and livestock food safety reputation, ensuring consumers can be confident in the safety and quality of their red meat. An NVD must accompany animals to sale or slaughter. Copies are kept by owners, transport companies and saleyards for audit purposes and must be given to the purchaser of stock. An NVD can also be used when moving stock from one property to another.

Ensure you are using the correct NVD version, this can be checked at www.mla.com.au

eDECs and Emergency NVD/Waybills

An eDEC is an electronic version of a NVD/Waybill which can be completed and printed online.

Emergency NVD/Waybills are the same as an eDEC however only available in emergency circumstances when a conventional document or eDEC are unavailable.

NVD/Waybill books, eDECs and Emergency NVD/Waybills can be purchased online at www.mla.com.au or by calling 1800 683 111.

Approval to move stock without identifiers

This is a permit that can be obtained from a Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer only in circumstances where applicants have a genuine reason for not being able to apply NLIS identifiers to stock prior to leaving the property to go to sale. The stock must be tagged with an approved NLIS identifier on arrival at the saleyards.

Emergency ear tags can be purchased from your nearest LLS office.

Reminder: It is an offence to move stock anywhere without an approved NLIS identifier.

Further information

To find out more, contact us on 1300 795 299 or call into your nearest Local Land Services office