Management of biosecurity risk
The purpose of this procedure is to describe the minimum requirements for the identification and movement of pigs under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Pigs in accordance with the Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017 (NLIS Regulation).

The NLIS links animals with the properties on which they have run. This is crucial to traceability for emergency disease response and market access.

Scope
This procedure applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their roles as authorised officers enforcing the Biosecurity Act 2015.

This procedure is relevant to all NSW DPI staff working with or advising producers with pigs. The information contained in the document is also relevant to other LLS staff.

Biosecurity legislation summary
The NLIS is Australia’s permanent whole-of-life identification system which aims to ensure individual cattle, sheep and goats, and pigs can be traced from property of birth to slaughter for biosecurity, food safety, product integrity and market access purposes.

The NLIS is underpinned by State/Territory legislation, which forms the regulatory framework for the system. In NSW this is the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation (the NLIS Regulation). The NLIS is endorsed and supported by all sectors of the cattle, sheep and goats and pig industries including producer, stock and station agent, saleyard, feedlot and processor peak industry bodies.

The NLIS Regulation prescribes mandatory identification and traceability requirements for pigs in NSW including:

- Part 2 - Property identification codes
- Part 3 - Permanent identification of pigs
- Part 4 - Information requirements for stock transactions (Division 1).

Any person who deals with pigs and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with pigs has a general biosecurity duty to take measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. The general biosecurity duty can be discharged by following the NLIS Regulation, Industry Standards or by following other advisory or education material.
The collection, use and disclosure of information in accordance with this procedure, including any internal or external discussion or distribution of information, must be in compliance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 or be exempted by the operation of section 387 of the Act.

Section 387 (2) of the Act provides authority for the disclosure of information about a person, without the consent of the person: to a public sector agency, or to any other person, but only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function.

Work health and safety
The Work Health and Safety Act 2011 places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI and LLS) as a person conducting a business or undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe Work Method Statements that support activities included in this procedure must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this procedure.

Users are reminded of the need to follow safe work practice when applying any techniques described in this publication. This includes identifying, assessing and managing any work health and safety risks.

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National Livestock Identification Scheme – Pigs

Introduction
NLIS Pigs is a mob-based tracing system. Until all pig movements are required to be recorded in a national database, traceability is provided by the combination of brands, movement documents and records:

- the pig brand indicates the property identification code (PIC) of the previous property
- the relevant information provided in an approved form when the pigs arrive at their destination also indicates their last property of residence
- a collation of movement documents may provide traceability back to previous properties and the property of birth.

The current pig identification and traceability system is focussed on tracing back to the previous property for acute disease (such as classical swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease) and product integrity (such as antibiotic residues) purposes.

1. Role and responsibilities
The following sections outline the key NLIS responsibilities of all parts of the pig supply chain. Details on how these responsibilities may be met are provided in subsequent sections of this Procedure.

1.1 NSW Department of Primary Industries
- provide training for authorised officers
- provide educational material to the pig industry and the community about their requirements in NSW under the NLIS for pigs.

1.2 Local Land Services
District registrars assign property identification codes (PICs) and pig brand numbers and maintain district registers of PICs and brands. They may also authorise other persons to apply permanent identifiers for pigs (special circumstances) i.e. special (crown) brands at a saleyard or abattoir.

1.3 Authorised Officers
Authorised officers/Biosecurity Officers in saleyards monitor compliance with stock identification requirements by vendors, agents and buyers, and take appropriate regulatory action where non-compliance is detected. Specific procedures for authorised officers are provided in NLIS compliance procedure documents.

Authorised officers:
- apply special (crown) brands as required
- advise on NLIS requirements and promote branding requirements and good branding practices, and the need to provide a correctly completed NVD.

NSW DPI authorised officers may assist LLS authorised officers with breach investigations and prosecutions on request.

1.4 Producers / vendors
Pig producers must ensure that their stock are correctly identified with a swine brand as required before the pigs are moved from a property for sale at a saleyard, slaughter at an abattoir, or movement for sale to another property

- the primary obligation is on the owner of the stock, though the owner or sender may delegate or pay another person to do the job for them, but remains responsible for ensuring that it is done.
• producers must provide relevant information about the stock and where they have come from in an approved form of movement document, either a national vendor declaration (NVD) for pigs (‘PigPass’) or a transported stock statement (TSS).

1.5 Stock and station agents
Stock agents must ensure that they do not sell pigs that are not correctly identified or that are not accompanied by an approved movement document and it is an offence to do so:
• when a producer books pigs in for sale, the agent should advise and confirm with the producer that the pigs are or will be correctly branded before consignment and that a movement document (PigPass NVD) will be provided
• if the pigs cannot be identified or a movement document obtained in time, the agent should advise the producer to defer the sale
• a selling agent should check before the sale starts that their client’s pigs have been branded and confirm that a movement document has been provided and completed. If not, the selling agent should determine, in consultation with the vendor, the most appropriate course of action, noting that the owner and sender might have already committed an offence and that the agent might be committing an offence if they sell unidentified pigs or if a movement document is not available.

1.6 Buyers
Buyers of pigs must ensure that they do not buy pigs that are not correctly identified and it is an offence to do so. The buyer should make pre-sale inquiries and checks to ensure that vendors are aware of the buyer’s requirements and instruct a buying agent to only purchase stock that appear to be branded and are accompanied by an NVD.

2. Property identification codes and swine brands
A property identification codes (PICs) is required to obtain an NVD and to otherwise meet the requirements of the NLIS Regulation. If a property does not have a PIC, the owner or occupier of a property, or the owner or person in charge of stock on a property, must apply to a district registrar for a PIC.

Every swine brand must relate to the PIC of the property on which the pigs are branded.

The pig/swine brand/tattoo number is a derivative of the PIC, having the same six numbers. For example, if the PIC is NA471234, the swine brand is 471234:
• an enterprise with a number of breeding or growing units may be assigned a separate PIC and brand for each unit
• a brand cannot be transferred to or used on a different property with a different PIC
• if a PIC is inactivated or cancelled, the brand is also cancelled. However, a brand may be cancelled while the PIC remains active (for example, if the property no longer carries pigs but has other livestock).

Guidelines for recording swine brands in FARMS are provided in Appendix 1.

3. Offences
Compliance action by NSW DPI under the NLIS Regulation may include warnings, penalty notices, or prosecution. For all offences, the penalty notice fine for failing to comply with a mandatory measure is $1000. The maximum penalty for a Category 2 offence is $220,000 for an individual or $1,110,000 of if the offence is committed negligently.
4. Identification Requirements

4.1 Approved identifiers

Pigs must be identified with an approved identifier (swine brand) for the property from which they are being kept/consigned if the pigs weigh more than 25 kg live weight and before they leave the property, unless exempt as detailed in Section 7 below.

4.1.1 Brands/tattoos

The approved form of identification for pigs is a tattoo or slap brand (swine brand) which contains the last six numbers of the PIC for the property they are being consigned from:

- the brand must be applied to one or both shoulders using a carbon-based ink
- if the pigs have been previously moved, the producer must check for existing brands and ensure that they apply their own brand on a different shoulder or just beside the existing brand so the brands do not obscure each other
- the size of the brand and the characters are prescribed in the NLIS Regulation and must be:
  - a maximum width of 53 mm
  - each character in the PIC (or truncated version of that code) is at least 20 mm high, and
  - the spacing between each character is between 2mm and 3 mm, and
  - the characters in the PIC (or truncated PIC) are set out in two rows and an equal number of characters in each row.
- the primary purpose of a brand is to identify the carcass after slaughter at an abattoir, or at post mortem examination
- pigs may be consigned without a brand with the prior approval of an authorised officer to a saleyard or abattoir and identified with a special (crown) brand before they are sold or slaughtered – see 4.5 below.

4.1.2 Ear tags

Ear tags are used instead of brands in some jurisdictions on small pigs and in some other circumstances.

The NLIS Pig Standards have been written and are waiting for Commonwealth approval. Once approved, the Standards will be adopted under the NLIS Regulation and the identification (branding) exemption for small pigs will be revoked. The requirement to use ear tags on small pigs (under 25 kg live weight) is included in the NLIS Pig Standards.

4.1.3 Supply of identifiers

A pig branding device containing a pig brand may only be ordered by and sold or supplied to:

- the owner or occupier of the property to which the PIC/brand is assigned
- the owner or person in charge of stock on the property to which the PIC/brand is assigned
- an authorised officer or a district registrar.

A person must not sell or supply a pig branding device unless the brand refers or relates to an active PIC:

- it is the responsibility of the person selling or supplying the branding device to confirm that the person ordering the device is entitled to do so and that the PIC/brand is active
- unless requested to do so by a manufacturer or supplier, orders for brands no longer need to be routinely approved by the district registrar.
4.1.4 Misuse of identifiers
A person must not make, sell, supply or use any thing that is not, but could reasonably be mistaken for, an approved identifier. These clauses preclude a person supplying or using ‘home-made’ branding devices that do not conform with the prescribed specifications.

A brand must not be attached incorrectly or for any wrongful purpose. Misuse includes applying a brand to an animal that is not on the property to which the brand is assigned (unless permitted by an authorised officer).

The branding device showing the swine brand for that property must remain with the property; it cannot be sold or disposed, such as at a clearing sale, and cannot be taken by the original owner to and be used on another property with a different PIC.

Brands must not be altered or defaced in a way that could adversely affect their function or compromise traceability. This does not preclude repair or modification recommended by the manufacturer.

An authorised officer may take possession of a branding device if the authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds that the device is being sold, supplied or used in contravention of the NLIS Regulation, or is in the possession of a person who is not entitled to have ordered the device, or has been abandoned. If the device has not been claimed by the owner or occupier of the property to which the PIC is assigned within three months, the device may be disposed by disassembling the branding device and disbanding the components so they cannot be reassembled, or by deep burial.

4.2 Small pigs
Pigs weighing less than 25 kg live weight do not have to be branded. This long-standing exemption is in place to avoid the stress that may be caused by branding a smaller pig.

The weight refers to live weight at the time of consignment, sale or slaughter. Authorised officers should use discretion when determining whether a pig is exempt from branding and may estimate the weight by eye or feel (if the pig can be lifted without difficulty, it should weigh less than 25 kg). If the weight is uncertain or in dispute and prosecution action may be taken, the pig should be weighed on a scale and the measurement recorded.

This exemption from identification will be removed once the other option outlined in the NLIS Pig Standards, of using an approved NLIS ear tag suitable for use on small pigs, is nationally approved.

Miniature and pet pigs are exempt from branding if they weigh less than 25 kg at the time of sale, otherwise they must be branded in accordance with the NLIS Regulation.

4.3 Feral pigs
It is unlawful to keep feral pigs in captivity or to transport feral pigs as prescribed in the Local Lands Services Act 2013.

There should be no circumstances in which feral pigs need to be identified or accompanied by a movement document in accordance with the NLIS Regulation.

Feral pigs that are harvested and slaughtered as game in accordance with the Food Act 2003 are outside the scope of the NLIS Regulation.

4.4 Interstate pigs
Pigs entering NSW from another State or Territory must comply with the requirements of their State of origin while travelling within that State. Once they move to a property in NSW they must comply with NSW requirements (before they move again).

Pigs entering NSW must be branded prior to entering NSW. They do not have to re-branded if they were identified in accordance with an equivalent requirement in their State of origin.

An approved movement document must be provided on arrival at their destination.
4.5 Permanent identifiers for pigs (special circumstances)

A permanent identifier for pigs (special circumstances) or special ('crown' or 'emergency') brand may be applied to pigs over 25 kg live weight if an approved identifier for the property is not readily available or is unreadable. This might occur if:

- a PIC has yet not been assigned to the property
- the property has been assigned a PIC, however only a few pigs are moved off the property and it is not cost-effective for the owner to have their own branding device
- a brand has been ordered but has not yet arrived, or has been damaged and has not yet been repaired, or
- the brand that has been applied to the pig is illegible.

The special brand may be applied on a property, in a saleyard or an abattoir lairage, or at a convenient location en route. A special brand may also be applied if an unbranded pigs turn up at a saleyard or abattoir. The alternative option is for the pigs to be returned to the property of origin (subject to the approval of the relevant food hygiene authority at the abattoir).

Special brands may also be applied for compliance monitoring.

Although special branding allows the pigs to be sold or slaughtered, it does not cancel out any breach of the NLIS Regulation and a breach investigation must be conducted.

Special brands should not be used routinely and a person who regularly sells pigs should obtain their own brand.

An LLS District Veterinarian (DV) or biosecurity officer may approve, or an authorised officer may permit, the movement of pigs without brands if it is not practical to brand the pigs on their property of origin. The pigs must be branded with a special brand before they are sold or slaughtered or move again:

- approval for the movement may be given verbally and a record kept by the authorised officer, or a written approval or permit may be sent to the person who wishes to move the stock and a copy retained by the authorised officer.
- if the movement is across district boundaries, the approval or permit may be given by either the DV/Biosecurity Officer for the LLS district of origin or destination, depending on whether the sender or recipient of the stock applies, but each DV/Biosecurity Officer should check with their counterpart in the other district to ensure they are aware of and concur with the movement and have not already rejected the application.

The approval or permit may cover multiple movements to a specified location such as a saleyard or abattoir. The approval or permit may be given by the DV/Biosecurity Officer for the district. Recommended forms of approval and permit and numbering systems are available to authorised officers on the Department of Industry Intranet.

The NLIS Procedure Permanent Identifier for Pigs (Special Circumstances) provides further information about the supply and application of special brands, approved persons and records.

4.6 Other circumstances

Reasonable circumstances may arise which fall outside the rules and procedures detailed in this document. Authorised officers may exercise with care some discretion in the use of special brands and permits, in consultation with the LLS Team Leader, NSW DPI Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, the NSW DPI Manager Biosecurity and Emergency Services or other LLS manager, to deal with these situations on a case by case and one-off basis.

The provision that the authorised officer allows must be consistent with existing approved provisions and not compromise traceability. The ‘exception’ must be provided fairly and equitably and must not become the ‘rule’.

The record of supply of the special identifier or the permit provides for paper-based tracing.
Except as approved in legislation or this procedure, pigs must not be allowed to move without any form of identification or movement document.

5. Movement documents and records

Information about the pigs and their property of origin must be provided in the form of a PigPass NVD whenever pigs are moved, and a record of the movement retained for two years for the selling agent or seven for the vendor or buyer.

Required information about the pigs must be provided on arrival of the stock at a saleyard, abattoir or another property.

Movements to another property include movements to a show, between properties as part of normal management or for growing out, for live export or for any other purpose.

The required information must be provided in an approved form of movement document and includes:

- name/trading name of owner of the pigs
- the number and type of pigs
- the date the pigs left the property where the stock were last held (previous property)
- the PIC and address of the previous property
- destination property address and PIC if known
- the brand applied to the pigs (this is called the ‘relevant identification particulars’ in the NLIS Regulation)
- the unique serial number of the movement document
- whether the pigs have been bred by the vendor
- name and signature details of the owner/consignor.

These requirements apply to all pigs even if exempt from branding and even if ownership doesn’t change.

It is an offence if any of this information is false or misleading.

There is no requirement for a transported stock statement (TSS or waybill) for pigs under the Local Land Services Act 2013.

5.1 Approved forms

Pig producers have to meet a number of statutory requirements and industry standards in regards to the movement of pigs. When moving and selling stock there are requirements to provide information about the origin, type and identification of stock for tracing purposes in accordance with the NLIS Regulation.

The approved forms for this purpose include:

- NVD for pigs (‘PigPass NVD’) that is approved periodically by Australian Pork Limited (APL) and is the preferred movement document for pigs
- TSS (available from LLS), this is accepted by PigPass
- a biosecurity permit granted under the Biosecurity Act 2015
- a stock permit (available from LLS)
- other forms that are developed by industry and meet the requirements of the NLIS Regulation may be approved in future.

Pig producers also provide information to a processor that the stock conforms with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transport of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption (AS4696:2007) in accordance with the Food Act 2003 and Food Regulation 2015.

Pig producers may also need to conform with the Australian Pork Industry Quality (APIQ) program managed by APL, if the producer is registered with that program.

‘PigPass’ NVD

The ‘PigPass’ NVD issued by APL and available from the PigPass database and is the only approved form that meets all statutory requirements and pig industry standards. The PigPass NVD has the provision to record both the PIC and the brand.

PigPass NVDs are available free of charge from PigPass.

It is compulsory for vendors sending pigs to NSW abattoirs for a PigPass NVD to be supplied with the pigs. This is the direction of the NSW Food Authority.

Obtaining a PigPass:

- producers can enquire about PigPass NVDs from Australian Pork Limited (APL) at http://www.pigpass.com.au, by emailing helpdesk@pigpass.com.au or by phoning 1800 001 458
- a producer who is registered with PigPass can complete free electronic PigPass NVDs online, and print them as needed. Alternatively a PigPass NVD book can be purchased from APL
- because of the ability to complete and print a PigPass NVD online, APL no longer refers to or supplies ‘emergency’ PigPass NVDs
- guidelines on how to complete a PigPass NVD can be found on the same web site or by contacting the same number.

Transported Stock Statement

A TSS that is approved in accordance with Part 9 of the Local Land Services Act 2013 and includes a stand-alone form of TSS and an Australian Capital Territory (ACT) stock permit which will be accepted by PigPass for the reporting of property to property movements. An image of the TSS must be uploaded to PigPass when reporting a movement with a TSS.

A TSS does not meet APIQ standards or provide information required by processors about conformance with food safety standards. It is not recognised by saleyards or abattoirs.

When using a TSS, ‘Pigs’ must be specified under the details of stock. If the TSS doesn’t contain provision for a PIC, this can be written next to ‘place of loading stock’.

5.2 Record keeping

A record of prescribed information must be made and kept for a specified period of time as outlined in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vendor or person sending stock</td>
<td>Copy of movement document plus either the PIC or address of the saleyard or abattoir, or the PIC of the property, to which the stock are consigned</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling agent</td>
<td>Copy of movement document plus PIC or address of the saleyard plus PIC of the property or abattoir to which the stock are consigned</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buyer or person receiving stock</td>
<td>Copy of movement document plus PIC or address of the saleyard</td>
<td>7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abattoir</td>
<td>Copy of movement document</td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saleyard operator</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This record may be retained in a number of ways:

- paper copy of the movement document provided by the vendor or sender of the stock
- electronic copy of the PigPass held on the PigPass database
- image of a TSS uploaded to the PigPass database
- record of special identifiers
- any other data management system that may be maintained by a business for commercial purposes (provided it contains all of the prescribed information).

The NLIS Pig Standards require that document retention period be set at three years. This may be incorporated in future amendments to the NLIS Regulation.

6. Property to property movements

Pigs over 25 kg live weight that are being sold, or change ownership by being given away, and moved directly between properties must be branded with an approved identifier before they leave any property.

An approved movement document must be provided by the owner or person in charge of the pigs on arrival at a property (the ‘current property’) to the person who will be the owner or person in charge of the stock at the current property. Both persons must keep a record of this information and the PIC of the current property for at least seven years.

All records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an authorised officer.

6.1 Movements between properties without change of ownership

Pigs do not have to be identified if they are moving directly from one property to another and the ownership of the pigs is not changing. This might occur when pigs are moved from breeding to growing to finishing units within an integrated operation, or to a contract grower. A movement document such as a PigPass NVD, or TSS, is still required.

6.2 Shows and exhibitions

Pigs sent to a show, exhibition or field day and return to their original property do not have to be branded provided they are not being sold by public auction and there is a change of ownership.

The pig owner must keep a record of the movement document such as a PigPass NVD or TSS for seven years.

6.3 Circuses, zoos

Pigs do not need to be branded if the animals are owned by a mobile exhibition or animal display establishment, including an animal nursery or petting zoo, which is licensed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986, and are not moved to a saleyard or abattoir.

6.4 Live export

Live pigs for export must be branded before leaving the previous property and must otherwise comply with requirements stipulated by the quarantine division of the DAWR.

6.5 Carcasses

Carcasses of pigs that are being disposed at a waste management facility, or being sent to an animal display establishment as food for carnivores, do not need to be branded.

6.6 Emergencies

Pigs may be moved without brands if they are located on a property that is affected by an emergency that necessitates the urgent movement of stock due to a flood, fire or other emergency.

The stock may subsequently be returned to the original property without brands, otherwise the stock must be identified with a brand assigned to the current property or with a special brand before being sold, slaughtered or moved elsewhere.
6.7 Solutions to problems

6.7.1 No brands
If pigs are sold and moved without brands to another property, the new owner or person in charge of the stock should notice this soon after arrival and report the incident to an LLS Biosecurity Officer or DV. Note that an offence may have been committed. The pigs must subsequently be branded before they leave that property.

6.7.2 No movement document
If the required information is not provided in an approved form on arrival of the pigs at a property, the owner or person in charge of the stock at the destination property should ask the vendor or person who sent the pigs to provide the form within seven days.

If the vendor is unable or refuses to do so, the owner / person in charge should make their own record of the prescribed information and report the incident to an LLS Biosecurity Officer or DV. Note that an offence may have been committed.

6.7.3 PIC unknown or no PIC
If the pigs have been branded with a swine brand, the corresponding PIC should be confirmed from the PIC register.

If the pigs have been branded with a special brand, it may be assumed that the relevant records have been kept by the person authorised to apply the special brand and a record of the brand number will suffice.

If the pigs have not been branded as required by the NLIS Regulation, see section 7.7.1 above.

7. Saleyards
All pigs over 25 kg live weight must be branded before moving to a saleyard.

7.1 Movement documents and records
There are specific requirements for the provision, transfer and retention of traceability information about pigs at a saleyard:

- a movement document must be provided by the owner or person in charge of the pigs to the selling agent on arrival of the stock at a saleyard
- the buyer must provide the PIC of the property to which the pigs are to be sent to the selling agent before the stock leave the saleyard
- the selling agent must provide a copy of the movement document and the PIC or address of the saleyard (or post-sale summary with equivalent information) to the buyer within seven days
- if the stock are bought for slaughter, the buyer will require the movement document to be sent with the pigs or faxed to the abattoir before the pigs are slaughtered
- the selling agent must keep a record of the movement document for at least two years
- the vendor and buyer must keep a record of the movement document for at least seven years
- records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an authorised officer
- it is an offence for an agent to sell pigs that are not correctly identified or if a completed movement document has not been provided.

7.2 Mob-based movement recording
Recording the movement of mobs of pigs through saleyards, abattoirs and between properties on a national database will be mandated in the future once the NLIS Pig Standards are nationally approved.
In the meantime, saleyards and abattoirs may optionally upload this information to the PigPass database.

Property to property movements may also be uploaded voluntarily to PigPass at the same web address.

7.3 Solutions to problems

If pigs in a saleyard are not correctly identified, there are a number of options which will improve traceability and allow the stock to be lawfully traded. This does not cancel out an offence that may have been committed by the owner and consignor by sending the unidentified stock to the saleyard.

An authorised officer may advise about the options that are available but must not enforce an option. In particular, the option of withdrawing stock from sale or taking them back home is the vendor’s choice – an authorised officer must not order unidentified pigs to be moved.

It is difficult to read a brand on a live pig. In addition, a previously applied brand may be partially visible. The presence of fresh ink on the skin of a pig may be taken to indicate that the pigs have been appropriately branded.

7.3.1 No brands

Unbranded pigs cannot lawfully be sold or bought at a saleyard.

Pigs may be consigned to a saleyard without brands only if an LLS Biosecurity Officer or DV has given prior approval and the pigs are branded on arrival with a special brand, see section 4.5.

There are three options that the vendor and stock agent may choose to redress the situation if unbranded pigs arrive at a saleyard without prior approval.

1. Pigs may be identified with a special brand which must be applied pre-sale unless an authorised officer allows them to be applied post-sale but before the pigs leave the saleyard.
2. Pigs may be withdrawn from that sale, held in the saleyard, identified with special brands on a non-sale day, and offered for sale again at the next sale. This might be a viable option if the facilities and pace of saleyard activities do not allow identification on the day of sale. Only special brands may be applied to stock being sold in a saleyard. The brand assigned to a property must not be used in a saleyard on a sale day.
3. The vendor may choose to withdraw the pigs from sale and return them to their property of origin. The pigs can be identified on the vendor’s property and re-consigned for sale on a later date.

It is up to the saleyard management committee to determine whether they wish to allow pigs to be identified with special brands in the saleyard. Special brands should be supplied by a person authorised by the District Registrar rather than an LLS Biosecurity Officer.

Agents and saleyards may charge for their services, in addition to the statutory fee for special brands. If the saleyard operator and agents choose not to be involved with special brands, then there is only one option available and vendors who consign unidentified pigs will have to take them home again.

7.3.2 No or incomplete movement documentation
Pigs cannot be lawfully sold at a saleyard without an approved movement document that has been fully and accurately completed

If a consignment of pigs is received without an approved movement document or with an incomplete document, the pigs should be held in the saleyard until a completed document is supplied by the vendor.

Alternatively, the vendor may choose to return the stock to the property that they came from. Note that the vendor may have committed an offence for failing to provide the required information in an approved form when the pigs arrived.

7.3.3 PIC unknown or no PIC
The vendor and buyer respectively must provide to the selling agent the PIC of the property that the pigs were consigned from and the property to which they are being sent. If either party does not have a PIC they should be advised to apply as soon as possible to LLS for a PIC and provide it to the agent.

The selling agent may look up any PIC through ‘Search the PIC register’ or ‘QuickPIC’ on their NLIS database account.

8. Abattoirs and Knackeries
All pigs over 25 kg live weight must be branded before movement to an abattoir and be accompanied by a movement document (PigPass NVD) which is provided to the abattoir operator when the stock arrives.

8.1 Movement documents and records
There are specific requirements for the provision, transfer and retention of traceability information about pigs at an abattoir.

A movement document must be provided by the owner or person in charge of the pigs to the abattoir operator on arrival of the stock at an abattoir. This person may be:

- the vendor (for direct consignments)
- a butcher or meat wholesaler (for service kills)
- a buyer on behalf of the abattoir, or
- the stock owner (for a private kill).

The person who consigned the stock to the abattoir must keep a record of the required information for at least seven years.

The abattoir operator must keep a record of the required information for at least two years:

- all records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an authorised officer
- it is an offence for an abattoir to slaughter pigs that are not correctly identified or if a completed movement document has not been provided. An abattoir may slaughter such stock for humane reasons on the direction of an authorised officer, food safety officer, animal welfare inspector or veterinary practitioner.

8.2 Mob-based movement recording
Recording the slaughter of mobs of pigs at abattoirs on a national database will be mandated in the near future. In the meantime, abattoirs may optionally upload this information to the PigPass database.

8.3 Private kills
A private kill is where a single pig is consigned to an abattoir for slaughter and the carcass is returned to the owner of the pig for their personal consumption or use.
All properties which run livestock, including one or more pigs, are required to have a PIC which is to be obtained by the owner of the land or arranged by the owner of the livestock on that land.

Despite this requirement, the property on which the pig has been raised might not have a PIC/brand and/or the owner might not have a branding device. A pig from such a property may be consigned to an abattoir for slaughter as a private kill subject to the following conditions:

- if the prior approval of an LLS DV or Biosecurity Officer, or a permit issued by an authorised officer, is obtained to move the pig without branding
- the pig is identified with a special brand before or on arrival at the abattoir and before it is mixed with other pigs awaiting slaughter to ensure that its carcass is traceable.
  The district registrar may supply a special branding device to the abattoir operator and authorise that person to apply the brand
- these conditions must be included in the authorisation or permit
- an abattoir operator may decide to impose additional conditions or to not handle private kills
- if they intend consigning additional pigs from time to time for private kill, the pig owner must be advised to obtain a PIC, branding device and PigPass for future use.

8.4 Solutions to problems

8.4.1 No brands

If a consignment of unbranded pigs is received, the abattoir should notify a Food Safety Officer or DAWR officer. If the property of origin cannot be determined, the abattoir must hold the stock in lairage until slaughter is approved by that officer. An authorised officer should also be notified.

8.4.2 No or incomplete movement documentation

If a consignment of pigs is received at an abattoir without an approved movement document or with an incomplete document, the pigs should be held in the lairage until a completed document is supplied by the vendor. If this is not practical, the stock may be slaughtered with the approval of an authorised officer, food safety officer, DAWR inspector or veterinary practitioner on humane grounds.

PigPass NVDs are available from PigPass free of charge so there should be no reason why an NVD is not supplied.

8.4.3 PIC unknown or no PIC

The pig owner or vendor must provide to the abattoir the PIC of the property that the pigs were consigned from. If the owner or vendor does not have a PIC for the property of consignment they should be advised to apply to LLS for a PIC as soon as possible, and supply this to the abattoir once received. The abattoir may look up any PIC through ‘Search the PIC register’ or ‘QuickPIC’ on their NLIS database account.

9. Definitions and Acronyms

| Abattoir | Any premises used for the slaughter of stock or for the processing of carcasses of stock, including knackeries. |
| APL     | Australian Pork Limited |
| DAWR    | Department of Agriculture and Water Resources |
| District code | A identification code assigned to a Local Land Services District |
| DPI     | NSW Department of Primary Industries |
| DV      | District Veterinarian |
| FARMS   | Financial and Rural Management System – the database used by LLSs to record PICs and swine brands |
| LLS     | Local Land Services |
Movement Document

An NLIS movement document

NVD

National Vendor Declaration and waybill for pigs (PigPass) issued by APL

PIC

Property Identification Code

PigPass NVD

The PigPass national vendor declaration that is approved by APL, being a form on which is recorded the prescribed information that must be provided when pigs arrive at a property, saleyard or abattoir

PigPass Database

A national tracking system which provides information on the movements of pigs

Property

An area of land (including an area comprising one or more parcels of land that are proximate) that is worked as a single property. A property has a PIC

TSS

Transported Stock Statement

10. Documentation

- Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017
- Biosecurity NLIS procedures
- PigPass database
- Policy: Biosecurity - Collection, use and disclosure of (INT17/82007)
- Procedure: Biosecurity - Collection, use and disclosure of information (INT17/83863)
- Policy: Records Management (IND-I-177)
- Policy: Information Security (IND-I-197)
- Policy: Classified Information (IND-I-196)
- Policy: Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)

11. Records

Not applicable

12. Revision History

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<th>Date issued</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>01/07/2017</td>
<td>Substantially updated to align with Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017</td>
<td>System, Intelligence and Traceability</td>
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Appendix 1 – Guidelines for recording swine brands in FARMS

It is essential that PICs and swine brands are correctly recorded and linked in FARMS for:

- Traceability, so a pig can be quickly and accurately traced back to the property it came from using either the tattoo or the PigPass.
- Integrity of branding devices: Manufacturers and suppliers of swine branding devices must confirm that the PIC is active and the person ordering the device is entitled to do so. The easiest way for them to do this is from the NLIS database PIC register.
- Integrity of movement documents: in future, applications for PigPass will be checked against the NLIS database PIC register, and any discrepancy between the brand, PIC and applicant details will result in the application being rejected and the issue referred back to the LLS for resolution (this is the same process used for NVDs for other species).
- Compliance monitoring: using a different brand to the PIC on a PigPass suggests a misuse of the identifier.

Under the *Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017*, a swine brand number is the same as the PIC less the first two letters, eg if the PIC is NA471234, the swine brand is 471234.

In FARMS, a PIC is linked to a holding whereas a swine brand is linked to a customer.
- A customer can have more than one swine brand where they have more than one holding.
- A customer can be related to a number of holdings / PICs.
- A lot or holding can only be linked to one PIC.

There are a number of reasons why a PIC and a brand might be (or appear to be) different:
- Swine brands (like PICs) used to be assigned to people rather than properties.
- They are now assigned to a customer and relate to a specific property. PICs are assigned to land at a Lot/DP holding level. Some pig producers might not appreciate that this has changed in the last decade and may think they are able to use a swine brand, assigned originally for use on one property, on a different property, when this is not the case.
- A number of swine brands have been assigned to different production units on a larger property. The whole property has one PIC which might or might not correspond with one of the brands.
- A producer is misquoting their brand number or PIC on a PigPass.

**New swine brand**

Check whether the property on which the pigs are located already has a PIC
- If yes, assign swine a brand based on the PIC
- If no, assign a new PIC and then a swine brand based on the PIC

**Existing swine brand, no PIC**

Check whether the holding on which the swine brand is used is already linked to another holding identified by a PIC:
- If the land has not been assigned a PIC, a new PIC needs to be issued and the customer will need to apply for a new swine brand (see *Existing swine brand, different PIC* for how to deal with branding device)
- If no, assign a PIC based on the brand to the holding
- If yes and the brand and the PIC coincide (same 6 numbers), link the holding to that PIC.
- If yes and the brand and PIC are different, see below.

**Existing swine brand, different PIC**

Determine the reason for the discrepancy
- If the swine brand was originally assigned to a different property, a new brand must be issued. The existing branding device should either be offered up by the producer or seized by an authorised officer. The producer must order a new branding device
o If the brand is correct and a different PIC is being used by the producer, assign the PIC (if not already in FARMS) and advise the producer of the correct PIC

Multiple brands on one holding or PIC (eg multiple production units on one property)

- If each unit is on a separate lot, create new holdings for each lot and assign a PIC based on the brand (assuming the brand is being correctly used). This needs to be referred to the DV for assessment and approval as usually multiple PICs are not allowed on a single property.
- If the units are on a common lot, create separate sub-lots / holdings for each unit in FARMS (though one can remain on the original holding) and assign a PIC based on the brand (assuming the brand is being correctly used). These sub lots will need to be mapped and GPS identified. Seek advice from the FARMS representatives as to how to create a sub lot to avoid errors.
- Any requests to create additional holdings, sub lots or applications for a PIC must be assessed and approved by the DV for that district to avoid impacts with disease or residue risks.