

PROCEDURE – BC & MS DIVISION

Ref: INT07/6246



**NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

BIOSECURITY, COMPLIANCE & MINE SAFETY
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Title:	NLIS PROCEDURES FOR KNACKERIES		
Procedure no:	BC&MS PRO 2007/006	Effective date:	31.05.2007
Authorised by:	Executive Director, Biosecurity, Compliance and Mine Safety	Authorisation date:	31.05.2007

1. OVERVIEW

This document describes procedures for knackeries to implement the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.

2. BACKGROUND

Knackeries are licensed by the NSW Food Authority to produce food that is not for human consumption but which may be fed to pets, greyhounds and other companion animals (*Food Regulation 2004*).

All cattle sent to abattoirs must be identified with an approved NLIS device. Relevant information about the movement of cattle to abattoirs must be recorded on the NLIS database (*Stock Diseases Regulation 2004*). Abattoirs include knackeries (*Stock Diseases Act 1923* section 3(1)) and cattle include carcasses of cattle (*Stock Diseases Regulation* clause 19(1)).

Sheep and goats born after 1 January 2006 must be identified with an approved NLIS tag before being consigned to an abattoir or knackery, unless they are slaughtered 'over the hooks (OTH)'. Relevant information about the movement of sheep and goats must be provided by the owner or person in charge of the stock in an approved form of movement document and kept by the abattoir operator for at least 2 years (*Stock Diseases Regulation 2004*). Knackeries are currently exempted from these provisions.

All pigs that are sent to an abattoir (including a knackery) must be identified with an approved swine brand (*Stock Diseases Regulation* clauses 14, 15 and 16).

A potential case of a serious or exotic disease such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or 'mad cow' disease) could be sent to a knackery as a poor-doing or downer animal. A case of BSE in North America was detected in an animal consigned to a knackery. Cases of anthrax have been detected in Victorian knackeries.

3. SCOPE

This Procedure is relevant to staff of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) who have responsibilities assigned by the Procedure. It also provides guidelines for staff of the NSW Food Authority in accordance with the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two agencies. The Procedure may be used by staff of both agencies or Rural Lands Protection Boards to provide advice to knackeries.

4. POLICY

The policy for the NLIS is to:

- Implement the national scheme in this State in collaboration with industry and in accordance with national standards and State legislation;

- Facilitate a consistent approach to implementation and enforcement throughout the State;
- Ensure appropriate access to and use of data for purposes consistent with legislation.

5. PROCEDURE

NLIS procedures for knackereries are attached in an annex.

6. DEFINITIONS

Food inspector: An authorised officer within the meaning of the *Food Act 2003*.

Over the hooks (OTH): An arrangement whereby the owner of stock is paid by an abattoir on the basis of carcass weight and grade.

PIC: Property identification code

7. RELATED LEGISLATION

- [Stock Diseases Regulation 2004](#)
- [Food Regulation 2004](#)

8. RELATED PROCEDURES

- Various procedures at www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/nlis-policy-legislation

9. RELATED DELEGATIONS

Nil.

10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat, Section 9 Identification, Traceability and Record Keeping <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/22/pid/5347.htm>

11. REVISION HISTORY

First issued	Date
Version 1	31.05.2007

12. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

1 July 2008.

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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NLIS Database Clerk

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Email olga.ozols@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Manager, Biosecurity and Traceability Systems (B&TS)

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STOCK IDENTIFICATION – PROCEDURES FOR KNACKERIES

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1 Responsibilities

1.1 Knackery operators

- Only slaughter and process the carcasses of cattle that have an NLIS device attached.
- Only slaughter and process pigs that have an approved brand.
- From 1 January 2009 (or sooner if officially advised to do so), only slaughter sheep and goats that have an NLIS tag attached.
- Obtain the property identification code (PIC) or address of the property that the stock have been consigned from.
- Keep the prescribed records.
- Send devices/tags together with the PIC/address weekly to DPI.

1.2 NLIS Database Clerk

- Advise knackeries about the required procedures.
- Determine PICs for properties that consign cattle to knackeries.
- Advise persons who despatch cattle to knackeries of the knackery PIC to which the devices should be transferred.
- Upload relevant information to the NLIS database.
- Monitor activity and provide reports to management as required.

1.3 Officer-in-Charge, Regional Veterinary Laboratory, Orange Agricultural Institute (OAI)

- Despatch device collection kits to knackeries.
- Receive and scan devices/tags returned by knackeries and record relevant information on a spreadsheet.
- Email spreadsheets to NLIS Database Clerk.
- Dispose NLIS devices and tags.

1.4 Manager Animal and Plant Regulatory Operations

- Coordinate inspections with the NSW Food Authority to provide procedural advice to knackery operators and to investigate breaches.

1.5 NSW Food Authority

- License and audit knackereries.
- Investigate breaches under the Food Regulation.
- Assist DPI inspectors with investigation of breaches under the Stock Diseases Regulation.

2 Australian Standard

The *Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat (Section 9 Identification, Traceability and Record Keeping)* requires pet meat processing establishments to have a documented system that provides for the accurate identification of, and the ability to trace and recall, pet meat produced at the premises. In particular, animals must only be processed if the State requirements for animal identification are complied with. The establishment must be able to identify the source of each animal, such as where it was produced or the saleyard from which it was obtained.

3 Procedures

The stock identification provisions of the *Stock Diseases Regulation* apply to cattle (including carcasses of cattle), identifiable sheep and identifiable goats (clause 19(1)), and pigs (clause 14(1)(b)). For the purposes of this Procedure document, 'stock' is defined as all cattle, all pigs and (from 1 January 2009) all sheep and goats.

The NLIS requirements for abattoirs with respect to recording or providing relevant information about the origin and movement of stock (*Stock Diseases Regulation clause 25A, 25G*) also apply to knackereries.

Knackereries must be licensed by the NSW Food Authority and meet prescribed operational standards in accordance with the Food Regulation and the Australian Standard. A list of currently licensed knackereries is attached to this Procedure.

3.1 Knackery procedures

Injured and sick stock that is consigned to a knackery must be identified with an approved identifier (NLIS device, NLIS tag or swine brand). Stock that is euthanased on a property must have an approved identifier attached before the carcass is taken to a knackery. Knackereries must ensure, by advising their clients, contractors, staff and carriers, that all stock received have been identified with an approved identifier (*Stock Diseases Regulation clause 23*).

It is not lawful to salvage meat from a dead animal that has not been examined before death by the knackery operator (*Food Regulation Schedule 4 clause 7*). This effectively means that the carcass of an animal that has died on a property cannot be processed by a NSW knackery, though the knackery may receive and dispose of the carcass. Carcasses may be sent to a knackery in Victoria for processing. In all circumstances, each carcass must be identified with an approved identifier before leaving the property.

Carcasses that are disposed of on the property on which the animal has died, or that are taken to an approved waste management facility for disposal, do not have to be identified.

The knackery must keep a record that details, for each animal slaughtered, the species, breed, colour, sex, approximate age of the animal; the property of origin (including PIC or swine brand); and any symptoms of disease or abnormality. The record must be retained for at least 6 months and made available to an authorised officer (food inspector) on request (*Food Regulation Schedule 4 clause 2*).

A general letter of advice to knackereries is attached to this Procedure.

3.1.1 Cattle

The knackery must obtain the PIC or address of the property from which cattle has been consigned, and the owner or person in charge of the animal is obliged to provide this information

(*Stock Diseases Regulation clause 25A(1), (1A)*). This information may be obtained from the transported stock statement (TSS) or stock permit that is required under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* to accompany all stock being moved by vehicle or on foot respectively.

A concession is provided to knackeries to allow them to fulfil their NLIS obligations for cattle under the *Stock Diseases Regulation* without having to communicate directly with the NLIS database (Director-General Order pursuant to clause 26 pertaining to cattle). The knackery must carry out the following procedures:

- The NLIS device must be removed from cattle after slaughter and placed in the plastic bag or container supplied by DPI. Devices from the same property that are slaughtered on the same day may be placed in the one bag, but separate bags must be used for stock from different properties.
- The date of slaughter and the PIC or name and address of the property that the animal has been sent from must be written with a permanent marker on the outside of the bag. If the animal has been sent from a saleyard or abattoir, the name of the saleyard or abattoir will suffice.
- If the origin of an animal is genuinely not known, the reason must be written on the bag. The only valid reason might be that the animal has been left at the knackery outside business hours and no payment is being made for acquiring or slaughtering the animal (if any payment is being made, then the owner must be known and hence the property of origin can be determined).
- The devices must be sent within 14 days to DPI's Orange Agricultural Institute (OAI) in the mailing tube provided.
- The knackery may also send the record required under the Food Regulation to DPI for keeping. A form that may be used is attached.

A knackery may, if they prefer, scan all cattle and upload the relevant information to the NLIS database themselves. Knackereries do not have to record or report carcass weight (clause 25A(3)).

3.1.2 Sheep and goats

Sheep and goats moved to a knackery are currently exempted from the provisions of the *Stock Diseases Regulation (Director-General order pursuant to clause 26 for sheep and goats)* consistent with the current OTH and age exemptions. The knackery exemption will cease on 1 January 2009 or at the same time the other exemptions are revoked.

From that date, the knackery must make and keep a record, for all sheep and goats slaughtered, of the number and type of stock, the date of slaughter, the PIC or address of the property where the stock was last held, and the PIC on the tag attached to the stock, and keep the record for at least 2 years (*Stock Diseases Regulation clause 25G*). The record may be in the same form as that required under the Food Regulation or as attached to this Procedure. Alternatively, the knackery may send the tags to DPI with the same information recorded on the bag and record form.

3.1.3 Pigs

There are no additional obligations on knackeries imposed by the *Stock Diseases Regulation*.

3.2 Department of Primary Industries procedures

OAI provides device/tag collection and mailing kits free of charge to knackeries. The kits include:

- Plastic zip-top bags printed with spaces for relevant information to be recorded.
- A postage pre-paid mailing tube addressed to OAI and including the knackery's name as the sender.

Additional bags and mailing tubes are sent to each knackery on request.

OAI scans cattle devices within 14 days of receipt from a knackery and records the RFID, knackery name, property PIC/name/address and date of slaughter on a spreadsheet. If any sheep or goat tags are received, the PIC on the tags, knackery name, property PIC/name/address and date of

slaughter are similarly recorded. If any slaughter record forms are received, the information provided is also recorded on the spreadsheet. The spreadsheets are emailed to the NLIS Database Clerk.

The cost of the kits and laboratory services may be charged to an account nominated by NLIS Executive Officer or Manager B&TS.

Within 14 days of receiving a file from OAI, the NLIS Database Clerk:

- matches the knackery and property names to PICs from PIC registers;
- transfers cattle devices from the property PIC to the knackery PIC on the NLIS database (if this has not already been done);
- transfers the devices from the knackery PIC to DECEASED;
- files the spreadsheet of sheep/goat tags.

The data is summarised by the NLIS Database Clerk on a spreadsheet for compliance monitoring and management reporting.

If no data is received for 3 consecutive months from a particular knackery, the NLIS Database Clerk contacts the knackery to remind them of their obligations, find out if they are experiencing any problems, and arrange for problems (eg run out of bags) to be resolved. If the issues cannot be resolved in this way, the NLIS Database Clerk advise Manager Animal and Plant Regulatory Operations, who arranges for a DPI or food inspector to visit the knackery.

3.3 Offences

A person must not sell, buy or send to any location any stock that is required to be identified, or cause or permit this to happen, unless the stock is identified in accordance with the *Stock Diseases Regulation* (clauses 23,16).

A person must not slaughter any cattle, sheep or goats that are required to be identified, or cause or permit this to happen, unless the stock is identified in accordance with the *Stock Diseases Regulation* (clause 23).

The owner or person in charge of a knackery must not sell, dispose of or process the carcass of any cattle, sheep or goat, or cause or permit this to happen, unless the person has obtained the PIC or address of the property where the stock were last held (*Stock Diseases Regulation* clause 25A, 25G).

The owner or person in charge of a knackery must provide the prescribed information for cattle to the NLIS database by the close of business on the day after slaughter, or to DPI within 14 days (*Stock Diseases Regulation* clause 25A, Director-General Order pursuant to clause 26 pertaining to cattle). That person must keep a record of the prescribed information for sheep and goats for at least 2 years (*Stock Diseases Regulation* clause 25G).

The penalty notice fine for offences under the *Stock Diseases Regulation* is \$550 and the maximum penalty is \$11,000.

A person must not slaughter or process an animal at a knackery unless the owner of the knackery maintains a system of records that detail the prescribed information, and retains that record for at least 6 months (*Food Regulation Schedule 4* clause 2).

3.4 Regulatory action

Regulatory action is undertaken by a stock diseases inspector or a food inspector if any breach of either Regulation is detected. Regulatory action may include warnings, penalty notices, or prosecution. Further information is available to inspectors and other DPI and Food Authority staff.

Attachments

- Letter to knackery operators
- Slaughter record form
- NSW knackeries



Letter to knackery owners

Dear Knackery Operator,

Date

I am writing to you to ensure that you are aware of your obligations under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). I understand that you have been contacted by staff of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) or the NSW Food Authority about this, and I wish to thank you for your cooperation to date.

The NLIS has been introduced across Australia to ensure that we are able to rapidly trace any livestock that may be carrying a significant disease or residue risk to public health, livestock production or trade. Significant threats include mad cow disease (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD) and anthrax. It is possible that the first cases of these diseases may be detected in animals or carcasses at a knackery.

The requirements detailed in this letter are prescribed under the Stock Diseases Regulation 2004 and the Food Regulation 2004. The maximum penalty for failure to comply with these requirements is \$11,000 under the Stock Diseases Regulation and even higher under the Food Regulation.

What you must do with cattle

You must ensure that all cattle that are processed at your knackery are recorded on the NLIS database. We have put in place arrangements to help you do this with minimum cost and inconvenience to you. We can supply you with tag collection bags and postage-paid mailing kits. Your obligations will be met provided you do the following things.

1. **All cattle sent to a knackery must have an approved NLIS tag in its ear.** These can be recognised from the NLIS logo (as shown at the top of this letter). This also applies to stock that you euthanase on the property before bringing the carcass to your knackery. It is an offence to send or deliver animals or carcasses to a knackery without an approved tag, and to buy, slaughter or process untagged animals or carcasses.
2. **You must find out the property identification code (PIC)** or the name and address of the property that the stock came from. This information may be obtained from the person you have bought the stock from or who is paying you to dispose of it, or from the transported stock statement that by law all carriers must have with them while transporting stock. If the animal has just come from a saleyard or abattoir, the name of that saleyard or abattoir will do. There should be very few situations where you don't know or can't find out where an animal has come from. It is an offence to process any stock or to sell or dispose of its carcass unless you have the PIC or address of the property where the animal was last held.
3. **You must make and keep a record that describes the stock being processed** (species, breed, colour, sex, age), the property of origin, and any symptoms of disease or abnormality. An example of a slaughter record form is attached. The record must be kept for at least 6 months to comply with the Food Regulation, but we recommend that you keep the record for 2 years. These records may be audited. If you prefer, you can send the record to DPI for keeping.
4. **Immediately after slaughter, remove the tag, clean it, and place it in a plastic bag** supplied by DPI. Tags from stock sent from the same property on the same day may be put in the one bag, but separate bags must be used for tags from different properties.
5. **Write the PIC or the name and address of the property** that the animal came from and the date it was slaughtered on the outside of the bag with a permanent marker. If the property is genuinely not known, write the reason why on the bag.

6. If a tag is lost from any stock while it is being transported and cannot be found, the PIC/address and date must be recorded on an empty plastic bag which is also sent to DPI.
7. If you wish to send us the record form (see 3 above) for keeping, fold and staple it to the bag with the matching tags.
8. **Mail the bags to DPI at least fortnightly** to the address shown on the mailing tube. Ensure that your knackery name is written as the sender on the mailing tube (otherwise we don't know which knackery the tags have come from).

Once the bags are received, DPI will scan cattle devices and record the information on the NLIS database and keep the required records (if provided) on your behalf.

If you wish, you can purchase your own scanner and computer and scan and upload cattle devices yourself to the NLIS database. This equipment will cost a few thousand dollars. Please contact us for further advice if you would prefer to do this instead.

What you must do with sheep and goats

NLIS for sheep and goats started on 1 January 2006 and is being phased in over a few years. There are a number of exemptions during this transitional period, including for knackeries. This exemption will be removed within the next 18 months and further information will be provided closer to that date. In the meantime:

1. **You must keep the record required under the Food Regulation** as detailed in paragraph 3 above. The PIC or address of the property that the animal came from is particularly important,
2. If any sheep or goat does have an NLIS tag, it would be good practice to also record the number on the tag.

What you must do with pigs

1. **All pigs cattle sent to a knackery must have an approved swine brand** on either a shoulder or rump. This is a 6 number tattoo which relates to the property identification code of the property of origin. This also applies to stock that you euthanase on the property before bringing the carcass to your knackery. It is an offence to send or deliver pigs or carcasses to a knackery without an approved swine brand, and to buy branded pigs or carcasses.
2. **You must keep the record required under the Food Regulation** as detailed in paragraph 3 above. The PIC or address of the property that the animal came from is particularly important.

Further information

Please contact DPI on 1300 720 405 for further information or advice, or to obtain plastic bags, mailing kits or slaughter record forms.

Thank you in anticipation of your ongoing assistance and compliance,

Yours faithfully,

**DIRECTOR
COMPLIANCE STANDARDS AND RURAL LANDS PROTECTION BOARD ALLIANCE**

Knackery Slaughter Record Form

Knackery name and postcode:

Name and address of the property the animal came from: PIC:

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Number of animals: Date slaughtered:

Type of animal (*tick one or more boxes*):

Dairy Beef Sheep Goat Pig

Young (eg calf) Castrate (eg steer) Adult female (eg cow) Adult male (eg bull)

Breed, colour:

Reason for slaughter (*tick one or more boxes*):

Downer Injured Old Other

Signs of disease or abnormality:

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Licensed Knackeries

Knackery Trading Name	PIC
Burns Pet Foods Pty Ltd (East Riverstone)	NH993713
Forest Glen P/L - Murrumbar Pet Meat (Brian Tink, Dubbo)	NJ992212
Edgeworth Knackery (Les Evans, Nemingha)	NK993612
Highland Pet Food (Guyra)	NG990211
Luddenham Pet Meats (Luddenham)	NC993714
Perryman's Knackery (Tocumwal)	NA991811
Kankool Pet Food (Willow Tree)	NB995013