



**Procedure**  
**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**  
**Biosecurity**  
 Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800

## NLIS PROCEDURES FOR PIGS VERSION 2

<b>Registration no.</b>	PRO 2007/03/2	<b>Version</b>	2
<b>Authorised by</b>	Principal Director Biosecurity		
<b>Authorised date</b>	10/01/2012	<b>Effective date</b>	01/01/2012
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Manager Biosecurity and Traceability Systems ian.bell@industry.nsw.gov.au 02 6391 3683		

### REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Amendments	
		Section	Details
1	30/03/2007		
2	10/01/2012	Various	As highlighted.

<b>Next review date:</b>	When national business rules are approved
--------------------------	---

## Application / Scope

This Procedure describes the minimum requirements for identification and movement of pigs under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Pork and the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*. Best-practice or market requirements may result in higher standards being adopted by industry.

This Procedure replaces *BC&MS PRO 2007/03 Stock identification – Procedures for the identification and movement of pigs*. The **key changes** are summarised below and highlighted in the text. Minor changes to wording and changes to section order are not highlighted.

Amended part	Nature of amendment
3.1	An approved form (PigPass NVD or TSS) must be provided whenever pigs are moved to another property, saleyard or abattoir
3.1.1	LHPAs may supply emergency NVDs for properties which are not registered with the PigPass system
4	Pigs must be branded if they are sold and moved to another property
6.3	Options for private kills are detailed
Appendix 1	Guidelines are provided for entering swine brands into FARMS to ensure the direct relationship between brands and PICs as required by the legislation is retained or regained
Appendix 2	Coding for special ('crown') brands has been modified to reflect the LHPA structure and provide a central list of district letters

Most sections start with a *summary of the key issues and requirements* in a different font, which is also included in the table of contents, to help provide a quick overview and ready reference.

This Procedure is relevant to all Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff working with or advising producers with pigs. When approved and issued as a Written Instrument by the Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) State Management Council, the procedure applies to inspectors and district registrars employed by LHPAs as indicated in the text of the document. The information contained in the document is also relevant to other LHPA staff.

## Abbreviations / Definitions

<i>Abattoir</i>	Any premises used for the slaughter of stock or for the processing of carcasses of stock, including knackerries.
<i>APL</i>	Australian Pork Limited
<i>AQIS</i>	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
<i>District code</i>	An identification code assigned to a Livestock Health and Pest Control District
<i>DPI</i>	Department of Primary Industries
<i>DV</i>	District Veterinarian or Senior District Veterinarian
<i>FARMS</i>	Financial and Rural Management System – the database used by LHPAs to record PICs and swine brands
<i>LHPA</i>	Livestock Health and Pest Authority
<i>Movement document</i>	A form approved by the Director-General on which is recorded the prescribed information that must be provided when pigs arrive at a property, saleyard or abattoir
<i>NLIS</i>	National Livestock Identification System
<i>NLIS database</i>	The national database which is used to record livestock movements and is managed by NLIS Limited. Under the Regulation and associated Orders, the authorised administrator is NLIS Ltd and the permanent identification register is the NLIS database.
<i>NVD</i>	National vendor declaration and waybill for pigs ('PigPass') issued by Australian Pork Limited
<i>PIC</i>	Property identification code
<i>PigPass</i>	National vendor declaration and waybill for pigs issued by Australian Pork Limited

<i>PigPass database</i>	The national database which may be used to record movements of pigs and is managed by Australian Pork Limited.
<i>Property</i>	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
<i>Regulation</i>	Stock Diseases Regulation 2009
<i>RVO</i>	Regional Veterinary Officer

### **Materials / Equipment**

Access to the NLIS and PigPass databases.

### **Warnings**

Nil

# PROCEDURE

## Contents

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS .....	6
<i>The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) links animals with the properties on which they have run. This is crucial to traceability for emergency disease response and market access. ....</i>	
1.1 Responsibilities .....	6
<i>Every person in the supply and regulatory chain has responsibilities to ensure that pigs are properly identified and that movements are recorded. ....</i>	
1.1.1 Producers / vendors .....	6
1.1.2 Stock and station agents .....	6
1.1.3 Buyers .....	7
1.1.4 Inspectors .....	7
1.1.5 District registrars .....	7
1.2 Property identification codes and swine brands .....	7
<i>Every swine brand must relate to the PIC of the property on which the pigs are branded and have the same six numbers. ....</i>	
1.3 Offences .....	7
2. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS .....	8
<b>2.1 Approved identifiers</b> .....	8
<i>Pigs must be identified with a swine brand for the property from which they are being consigned if the pigs weigh more than 25 kgs and are being sent to a saleyard or an abattoir, or to another property for sale. ....</i>	
2.1.1 Brands/tattoos .....	8
<b>2.1.2 Ear tags</b> .....	8
<b>2.1.3 Supply of identifiers</b> .....	8
2.1.4 Misuse of identifiers .....	8
2.2 Small pigs .....	9
2.3 Feral pigs .....	9
2.4 Interstate pigs .....	9
2.5 Special brands .....	10
<i>Special ('crown' or 'emergency') brands may be applied in specified circumstances .....</i>	
2.6 Other circumstances .....	11
3. MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS .....	11
<i>Information about the pigs and their property of origin must be provided in the form of an NVD or TSS whenever pigs are moved, and a record of the movement retained for 2 or 7 years. ....</i>	
<b>3.1 Approved forms</b> .....	11
<b>3.1.1 Obtaining a PigPass</b> .....	12
<b>3.2 Record keeping</b> .....	12
<b>3.3 Mob-based movement recording</b> .....	13
4. <b>PROPERTY TO PROPERTY MOVEMENTS</b> .....	13
<i>Pigs must be branded before movement to another property if they are being sold. A movement document must be provided on arrival at the property and kept by both the sender and recipient of the stock for 7 years. ....</i>	
<b>4.1 Movements between properties without change of ownership</b> .....	13
<b>4.2 Shows and exhibitions</b> .....	13
<b>4.3 Circuses, zoos</b> .....	14
<b>4.4 Live export</b> .....	14
<b>4.5 Carcasses</b> .....	14

4.6 Emergencies ..... 14

4.7 Solutions to problems ..... 14

    4.7.1 No brands..... 14

    4.7.2 No movement document..... 14

    4.7.3 PIC unknown or no PIC..... 14

5. SALEYARDS ..... 15

*All pigs over 25 kgs must be branded before moving to a saleyard. A movement document must be provided by the vendor to the selling agent when the stock arrive at the saleyard. The buyer must provide the destination PIC to the agent before the stock leave the saleyard. A copy of the movement document (or post sale summary with equivalent information) must be provided by the agent to the buyer within 7 days. Each party must keep these records for either 2 or 7 years.*..... 15

    5.1 Movement documents and records ..... 15

    5.2 Mob-based movement recording ..... 15

    5.3 Solutions to problems ..... 15

        5.3.1 No brands..... 16

        5.3.2 No or incomplete movement documentation..... 16

        5.3.3 PIC unknown or no PIC..... 16

6. ABATTOIRS AND KNACKERIES ..... 17

*All pigs must be branded before movement to an abattoir and be accompanied by a movement document which is provided to the abattoir operator when the stock arrives.* ..... 17

    6.1 Movement documents and records ..... 17

    6.2 Mob-based movement recording ..... 17

    6.3 Private kills..... 17

    6.4 Solutions to problems ..... 18

        6.4.1 No brands..... 18

        6.4.2 No or incomplete movement documentation..... 18

        6.4.3 PIC unknown or no PIC..... 18

APPENDICES..... 18

    Appendix 1 – Guidelines for recording swine brands in FARMS ..... 19

    Appendix 2 – Special brands – Specifications and suppliers..... 21

## 1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

*The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) links animals with the properties on which they have run. This is crucial to traceability for emergency disease response and market access.*

NLIS Pork is a mob-based tracing system. 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 has been in place for some decades and is focussed on tracing back to the previous property for acute disease (eg classical swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease) and product integrity (eg antibiotic residues) purposes. Enhancements currently under active consideration nationally are intended to provide better life-time traceability in order to meet the national traceability performance standards.

### 1.1 Responsibilities

*Every person in the supply and regulatory chain has responsibilities to ensure that pigs are properly identified and that movements are recorded.*

The following sections outline the key responsibilities of various parties. Details on how these responsibilities may be met are provided in subsequent sections of this Procedure.

#### 1.1.1 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 any person who sends or delivers pigs also has responsibilities. 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**.

#### 1.1.2 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. It is in an agent's business interests to ensure that their clients' stock are fit for sale and meet market requirements and to avoid circumstances that might expose themselves and their clients to prosecution.

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 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 or to contact their LHPA **for advice**.

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**.

### 1.1.3 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**.

### 1.1.4 Inspectors

Rangers in saleyards monitor compliance with stock identification requirements by vendors, agents and buyers, and take appropriate regulatory action where non-compliance is detected. They also apply special brands as required. Inspectors should also advise on and promote branding requirements and good branding practices, **and the need to provide a correctly completed NVD**.

DPI inspectors may assist LHPA inspectors with breach investigations and prosecutions on request.

Specific procedures for inspectors are provided in NLIS compliance procedure documents.

### 1.1.5 District registrars

District registrars assign property identification codes (PICs) and pig brand numbers and maintain district registers of PICs and brands. **They may also authorise persons to apply special brands**.

## 1.2 Property identification codes and swine brands

*Every swine brand must relate to the PIC of the property on which the pigs are branded and have the same six numbers.*

Property identification codes (PICs) are required to obtain NVDs and to otherwise meet the requirements of the 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, may apply to a district registrar for a PIC (clause 38(4)(b)).

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 inactivated or cancelled. However, a brand may be inactivated or 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.

## 1.3 Offences

For all offences, the penalty notice fine is \$550 and the maximum penalty is \$11,000.

## 2. IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 Approved identifiers

*Pigs must be identified with a swine brand for the property from which they are being consigned if the pigs weigh more than 25 kgs and are being sent to a saleyard or an abattoir, or to another property for sale.*

Pigs must be identified with an approved identifier before they leave the property on which they are kept (clause 20(a)), unless exempt as detailed in parts 2.2 and 4 below.

#### 2.1.1 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 property identification code (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 should 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 (*Order pursuant to clauses 18, 19 and 46 Approval and use of approved identifiers for pigs*).

The primary purpose of a brand is to identify the carcass after slaughter at an abattoir, or at post mortem examination if need be. Even correctly applied brands are usually illegible on live pigs.

Pigs may be consigned without a brand with the prior approval of an inspector to a saleyard or abattoir and identified with a special ('crown') brand before they are sold or slaughtered – see 2.2 below.

#### 2.1.2 Ear tags

Ear tags are used instead of brands in some jurisdictions on small pigs and in some other circumstances. A national standard for identification of pigs is under development by the NLIS Standards Committee. Once approved, this standard is likely to be adopted under the Regulation and the exemption for small pigs (see 2.2) revoked.

#### 2.1.3 Supply of identifiers

A pig branding device containing a pig brand may only be ordered by and sold or supplied to (clause 47):

- 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 inspector or a district registrar.

A person must not sell or supply a pig branding device unless the brand refers or relates to an active property identification code (clause 47(3)).

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.

#### 2.1.4 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 (clause 54). These clauses preclude a person supplying or using 'home-made' branding devices that do not conform with the prescribed specifications.

A person must not use a brand except in accordance with the Director-General's approval (clause 18(2)). A brand must not be attached incorrectly or for any wrongful purpose (clause 53). Misuse includes applying a brand to an animal that is not on the property to which the brand is assigned (unless permitted by an inspector). If a property is being sold, the branding device must remain

with the property; it cannot be sold or disposed, eg at a clearing sale, and cannot be taken by the original owner to and 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 (clause 48(2)). This does not preclude repair or modification recommended by the manufacturer.

An inspector may take possession of a branding device if the inspector believes on reasonable grounds that the device is being sold, supplied or used in contravention of the Regulation, or is in the possession of a person who is not entitled to have ordered the device, or has been abandoned (clause 56). 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 (*Order pursuant to clause 56(2) Manner of disposal of approved identifiers seized by inspectors*).

## 2.2 Small pigs

Pigs weighing less than 25 kg live weight do not have to be branded (*Order pursuant to clause 14 Exemptions from the requirement for pigs to be identified*). 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. Inspectors 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 may be removed if other identification options that are suitable for use on small pigs are approved under a national standard.**

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 Regulation. The Miniature Pig and Pet Pig Association of Australia (MPPPA – see <http://www.mpppaaustralia.com>) is seeking alternative forms of identification for their pigs, which may be addressed during the development of a national standard.

## 2.3 Feral pigs

**It is unlawful to keep feral pigs in captivity or to transport feral pigs (*Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* section 176(1), 178(3)). There should therefore be no circumstances in which feral pigs need to be identified or accompanied by a movement document in accordance with the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*. Feral pigs that are harvested and slaughtered as game in accordance with the *Food Act 2003* are outside the scope of the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*.**

## 2.4 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 and, once they cross the border, with NSW requirements.

Pigs entering NSW must be branded 'on arrival' in this State (clause 20(b)). This means in practice that the stock must be identified before coming into NSW. They do not have to re-branded if they were identified in accordance with an equivalent requirement in their State of origin (clause 13, definition of property identification code). An approved movement document must be provided on arrival at their destination.

## 2.5 Special brands

*Special ('crown' or 'emergency') brands may be applied in specified circumstances*

A special ('crown' or 'emergency') brand may be applied to pigs if an approved identifier for the property is not readily available or is unreadable (clause 46(3)). This might occur if:

- no PIC has 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.

Special brands may also be applied for compliance monitoring.

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

The special brand may be applied on a property, in a saleyard or an abattoir lairage, or at a convenient location en route.

A DV or Ranger may approve, or an inspector 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 in the inspector's files, or a written approval or permit may be sent to the person who wishes to move the stock and a copy retained by the inspector.
- If the movement is across district boundaries, the approval or permit may be given by either the DV/Ranger for the district of origin or destination, depending on whether the sender or recipient of the stock applies, but each DV/Ranger 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/Ranger for the district or RVO for the region in which the specified location is situated.
- Recommended forms of approval and permit and numbering systems are available to inspectors on the LHPA / I&I extranet.

A special brand may also be applied if 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). **Although special branding allows the pigs to be sold or slaughtered, it does not cancel out any breach of clause 20 and a breach investigation must be conducted.**

A special brand should be applied to either rump, rather than the shoulder, so that it does not obscure (or become obscured by) a brand applied on a property. A carbon-based ink must be used. The size of the brand and the characters are prescribed. (*Order pursuant to clauses 18, 19 and 46 Approval and use of approved identifiers for pigs*)

A special brand may be applied by an inspector, district registrar, or a person authorised by the district registrar (clause 46(2)). The latter provision allows a special branding device to be supplied or lent to an authorised person such as a stock agent, saleyard operator or abattoir operator. The district registrar must keep track of the brand and put in place measures to ensure that it is only used on specified pigs, that the brand is returned or accounted for after each use, and that appropriate records of use are kept.

LHPAs may charge for special brands and approvals in accordance with section 57 of the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*. Refer to any relevant State Council guidelines for further information.

Appendix 2 contains details of the specifications for special brands and how a special brand may be obtained.

*PRO 2006/05/2 NLIS Procedures for the supply of approved identifiers version 2* (under development) provides further information about the supply of special brands, authorised persons and records.

## 2.6 Other circumstances

Reasonable circumstances may arise which fall outside the rules and procedures detailed in this document. Inspectors may exercise with care some discretion in the use of special brands and permits, in consultation with the RVO, to deal with these situations on a case by case and one-off basis. The provision that the inspector 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.

## 3. MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

*Information about the pigs and their property of origin must be provided in the form of an NVD or TSS whenever pigs are moved, and a record of the movement retained for 2 or 7 years.*

Information about the pigs must be provided on arrival of the stock at a saleyard, abattoir or property (clauses 29(1), 30(1) and 31(1)). This information must be provided in an approved form of movement document (clause 16(2),(3)). 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. These requirements apply to all pigs even if exempt from branding and even if ownership doesn't change.

The required information is:

- the number and type of pigs
- the date the movement commenced
- the PIC of the property where the stock were last held (the previous property)
- the brand applied to the pigs (this is called the 'relevant identification particulars' in the Regulation)
- the unique serial number of the movement document.

It is an offence if any of this information is false or misleading in a material particular (*Stock Diseases Act 1923* section 20J(1)). Examples include an incorrect PIC or brand.

There is no requirement for a transported stock statement (TSS or waybill) for pigs under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*.

### 3.1 Approved forms

Pig producers have to meet a number of statutory requirements and industry standards when moving and selling stock:

- Providing information about the origin, type and identification of stock for tracing purposes in accordance with the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*. The approved forms for this purpose (*Order pursuant to 16(2) Forms to be used to provide information to persons other than the authorised administrator*) include:
  - National vendor declaration for pigs ('PigPass') that is approved from time to time by Australian Pork Limited (APL);
  - a permit issued under section 7(6) of the *Stock Diseases Act 1923*;
  - a stock permit issued under section 101 of the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*.

Other forms that are developed by industry and meet the requirements of the Regulation may be approved in future.

- Providing 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* in accordance with the *Food Act 2003*. A NSW Food Authority Circular and AQIS Meat Notice both require abattoirs to obtain a national vendor declaration or equivalent before stock are slaughtered. See [www.pigpass.com.au](http://www.pigpass.com.au) > Industry and government co-regulation > Additional information > Government circulars and notices
- Conforming with the Australian Pork Industry Quality (APIQ) program managed by Australian Pork Limited (APL), if the producer is registered with that program.

There are two approved forms which meet all or some of these requirements:

The PigPass has provision to record both the PIC and the brand. These numbers must correspond (that is, have the same 6 numbers).

- **‘PigPass’ National Vendor Declaration (NVD)** issued by APL.
  - This is the only approved form that meets all statutory requirements and industry standards.
- **Transported stock statement (TSS)** that is approved in accordance with Part 10A of the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*, including stand-alone forms of TSS, approved consignment notes, and an ACT stock permit.
  - ‘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’.
  - A TSS does not meet APIQ standards or provide information required by processors about conformance with food safety standards.

### 3.1.1 Obtaining a PigPass

Producers can obtain PigPass NVDs from Australian Pork Limited (APL) at <http://www.pigpass.com.au> > Producer > Registration On-line Application, or by phoning 1800 001 458. Guidelines on how to complete a PigPass can be found on the same web site under ‘About the PigPass System’ or by contacting the same number.

A producer who is already registered with the PigPass system can obtain an emergency PigPass from APL or a participating stock agent if the producer has run out of blank forms and needs a copy urgently.

LHPAs may, if they wish, provide an emergency PigPass to a producer who is *not* registered with the PigPass system. Section 6.3 provides an example of how this works in practice. Participation by LHPAs in this option is voluntary and those interested should contact APL on 1800 001458 for further information about registering for emergency PigPass.

### 3.2 Record keeping

A record of prescribed information must be made and kept for a specified period of time:

Person	Record	Time	Clauses
Vendor or person sending stock	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	7 years	29(4), 30(4), 31(2)
Selling agent	Copy of movement document plus PIC or address of the saleyard plus PIC of the property or abattoir to which the stock are consigned	2 years	29(4),(5)
Buyer or person receiving stock	Copy of movement document plus PIC or address of the saleyard	7 years	29(7), 31(2)
Abattoir	Copy of movement document	2 years	30(4)

Saleyard operator	Not applicable		
-------------------	----------------	--	--

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
- 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).

A recommendation by the NSW / VIC Department of Primary Industries Pig Veterinarian Liaison Group for the maximum document retention period to be reduced to 3 years may be incorporated in future amendments to the Regulation.

### 3.3 Mob-based movement recording

A proposal to require pig movements to be recorded as mobs on a national database is supported by APL and has been endorsed by the national Animal Health Committee. This functionality may be provided through the PigPass and/or NLIS databases. Once the proposal is endorsed by SAFEMEAT and the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC), the Regulation may be amended to include this requirement (possibly from 1 July 2010).

## 4. PROPERTY TO PROPERTY MOVEMENTS

*Pigs must be branded before movement to another property if they are being sold. A movement document must be provided on arrival at the property and kept by both the sender and recipient of the stock for 7 years.*

Pigs over 25 kg that are being sold and moved directly between properties must be branded with an approved identifier before they leave any property (clause 20(1)). Pigs being moved between properties without a change of ownership do not have to be branded (see 4.1).

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 (clause 31(1)). Both persons must keep a record of this information and the PIC of the current property for at least 7 years (clause 31(2)).

When stock are remaining in the same ownership after movement, the owner or person in charge might not see a need to provide this information in writing to themselves. However, they are still obliged to keep a record of this movement for the prescribed time.

All records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an inspector (clause 31(2)(b)).

### 4.1 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 (*Order pursuant to clause 14 Exemptions from the requirement for pigs to be identified*). 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 is still required.

### 4.2 Shows and exhibitions

Pigs sent to a show, exhibition or field day do not have to be branded provided they are not being sold by public auction. The pig owner must keep a record of the movement for 7 years. (*Order pursuant to clause 14 Exemptions from the requirement for pigs to be identified*).

### 4.3 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. Pigs in travelling exhibits are few in number and are already regulated and traceable (*Order pursuant to clause 14 Exemptions from the requirement for pigs to be identified*).

### 4.4 Live export

Live pigs for export must be branded before leaving the previous property and must otherwise comply with requirements stipulated by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

### 4.5 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 (*Order pursuant to clause 14 Exemptions from the requirement for pigs to be identified*).

### 4.6 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 (*Order pursuant to clause 14 Exemptions from the requirement for pigs to be identified*). Policy AI 2002/02 *Emergency movement of stock which are under regulatory movement restrictions* (<http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rlpb/animal-directory/stock-movements>) must be followed.

### 4.7 Solutions to problems

#### 4.7.1 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 a Ranger or DV. The pigs must subsequently be branded before they leave that property.

#### 4.7.2 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 7 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 a Ranger or DV.

#### 4.7.3 PIC unknown or no PIC

If the pigs have been branded with a swine brand, the corresponding PIC should be confirmed from a 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 Regulation, see 4.7.1 above.

## 5. SALEYARDS

All pigs over 25 kg must be branded before moving to a saleyard. A movement document must be provided by the vendor to the selling agent when the stock arrive at the saleyard. The buyer must provide the destination PIC to the agent before the stock leave the saleyard. A copy of the movement document (or post sale summary with equivalent information) must be provided by the agent to the buyer within 7 days. Each party must keep these records for either 2 or 7 years.

### 5.1 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 (clause 29(1)).
- 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 (clause 29(3)).
- The selling agent must provide a copy of the movement document and the PIC or address of the saleyard (or post-sale summary (PSS) with equivalent information) to the buyer within 7 days (clause 29(6)). 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 2 years (clause 29(4)).
- The vendor and buyer must keep a record of the movement document for at least 7 years (clause 29(4),(7)).

Records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an inspector (clauses 29(4)(b)).

It is an offence for an agent to sell pigs that are not correctly identified (clause 21(1)) or if a completed movement document has not been provided (clause 29(2)).

### 5.2 Mob-based movement recording

Recording the movement of mobs of pigs through saleyards on a national database is likely to be mandated in future (see 3.3). In the meantime, saleyards may optionally upload this information to the PigPass database at <http://www.pigpass.com.au/nlisreporting.asp>

### 5.3 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 inspector 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 inspector 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.

### 5.3.1 No brands

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

Pigs may be consigned to a saleyard without brands only if a Ranger or DV has given prior approval and the pigs are branded on arrival with a special brand (see 2.5).

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

The first option is that the pigs may be identified with a special brand. The brand must be applied pre-sale unless an inspector allows them to be applied post-sale but before the pigs leave the saleyard.

The second option is that the 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.

The third option is that 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.

The additional cost of special brands, additional yard or service fees, delayed sale and additional transport costs, as the case may be, should provide incentives to producers to only consign properly identified pigs.

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 a Ranger. 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 the first and second options may not be available and vendors who consign unidentified pigs will have to take them home again.

### 5.3.2 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. An emergency PigPass may be obtained from the agent or LHPA if they provide this service, or a TSS from the LHPA, for completion 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.

### 5.3.3 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 (clauses 29(1),(3)). The selling agent may look up any PIC through 'Search the PIC register' or 'QuickPIC' on their NLIS database account.

## 6. ABATTOIRS AND KNACKERIES

All pigs must be branded before movement to an abattoir and be accompanied by a movement document which is provided to the abattoir operator when the stock arrives.

### 6.1 Movement documents and records

There are specific requirements for the provision, transfer and retention of traceability information about pigs at an abattoir:

- An 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 (clause 30(1)). 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 7 years (clause 30(4)).
- The abattoir operator must keep a record of the required information for at least 2 years (clause 30(4)).

All records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an inspector (clauses 30(4)(b)).

It is an offence for an abattoir to slaughter pigs that are not correctly identified (clauses 21(1)) or if a completed movement document has not been provided (clause 30(2)). Nevertheless, an abattoir may slaughter such stock for humane reasons on the direction of an inspector, food inspector, animal welfare inspector or veterinary practitioner (clauses 21(3), 30(3)).

### 6.2 Mob-based movement recording

Recording the slaughter of mobs of pigs at abattoirs on a national database is likely to be mandated in future (see 3.3). In the meantime, abattoirs may optionally upload this information to the PigPass database at <http://www.pigpass.com.au/PigPassslaughterdata.htm>

### 6.3 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.

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:

- The prior approval of a DV or Ranger, or a permit issued by an inspector, is obtained to move the pig without branding (*Order pursuant to clause 14 – Pigs: Exemptions from the requirement for pigs to be identified, part 3 of the Schedule*). A block approval or permit may be granted to allow an abattoir to receive pigs over a defined period (such as 12 months) from any producer. Approval and permit forms are available on the LHPA/DPI Biosecurity Extranet [http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rlpb/animal\\_resources/nlis/legal-forms-and-templates](http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rlpb/animal_resources/nlis/legal-forms-and-templates)
- The LHPA issues an emergency PigPass or TSS which is completed by the pig owner and provided to the abattoir operator on arrival of the pig. The district code is entered as the PIC and the special brand number as the tattoo/brand on the PigPass. The name, address and contact details for the property and pig owner are recorded on the PigPass or TSS to provide traceability.
- 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.

Each LHPA may determine whether they wish to provide this service. AQIS or the NSW Food Authority may impose additional conditions to ensure that the *Australian Standard* is met, such as killing the pigs last to maintain segregation and condemning all offal that is not returned with the carcass to the pig's owner. 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 should be advised to obtain a PIC, branding device and PigPass for future use.

APL will monitor compliance with these arrangements and may choose in future to withdraw the option of allowing LHPAs to issue PigPass emergency NVDs.

## 6.4 Solutions to problems

### 6.4.1 No brands

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

### 6.4.2 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. An emergency PigPass or TSS may be obtained from the LHPA for completion by the vendor if the LHPA provides this service. If this is not practical, the stock may be slaughtered with the approval of an inspector, food safety officer, AQIS inspector or veterinary practitioner on humane grounds.

### 6.4.3 PIC unknown or no PIC

The pig owner or vendor must provide to the abattoir with the PIC of the property that the pigs were consigned from (clause 30(1)). The abattoir may look up any PIC through 'Search the PIC register' or 'QuickPIC' on their NLIS database account. A pig may be consigned for a private kill on an emergency PigPass on which is recorded the district code and special brand (see 6.3).

## APPENDICES

## 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 LHPA 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 Stock Diseases Regulation 2009 (and previous Regulations), 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 brand.
- A customer can be related to a number of holdings / PICs.
- A lot or holding can only be linked to one PIC.
- Thus a PIC can be recorded as having multiple brands, but this is inconsistent with the Regulation.

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. Some pig producers might not appreciate that this has changed in the last decade and are using a swine brand, assigned originally for use on one property, on a different property.
- 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 a brand based on the PIC
  - If no, assign a new PIC and then a brand based on the PIC

### Existing swine brand, no PIC

- Check whether the holding on which the brand is used is already linked to another PIC
  - 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 inspector. The producer must order a new branding device
  - 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).
- 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).

See also *Work instruction – Updating property identification codes* at [http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rlpb/animal\\_resources/nlis/nlis\\_database\\_instructions](http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rlpb/animal_resources/nlis/nlis_database_instructions)

## Appendix 2 – Special brands – Specifications and suppliers

### Specifications of special brands

The special brand must be able to distinguish pigs from different properties with a ‘serial number’.

The special brand that has been in use for many years comprises a crown symbol (a stylised ‘M’), followed by two numbers (each 1 to 5) and one letter. With the formation of LHPAs, this system has been revised. Special brands must now comprise:

- a district letter as specified in the table to the right
- two numbers each between 1 and 5 inclusive
- a number between 1 and 9 to signify the saleyard, abattoir or office at or from which the brand was used. A crown symbol may still be used instead of this number.

District	Letter
Central North	N
Central West	W
Cumberland	C
Darling	D
Hume	H
Lachlan	L
Mid-Coast	M
New England	E
North Coast	K
North West	F
Riverina	R
South East	S
Tablelands	T
Western	V

The district letter and final number may be interchanged between the left and right hand side of the brand to provide up to  $2 \times 5 \times 5 \times 9 = 450$  combinations (serial numbers) for each district.

For example:

- C241 is a crown brand applied to lot 24 at saleyard 1 in the Cumberland district
- 232E is a crown brand applied to lot 32 from LHPA office 2 in the New England district

The size of the brand and the characters are prescribed in the relevant Order.

*(Order pursuant to clauses 18, 19 and 46 Approval and use of approved identifiers for pigs).*

### Obtaining a special brand

Drovers A1 (<http://www.drovers.com.au/index.html>) can supply replaceable numbers and letters. A set of numbers would have to be carried by the inspector and changed manually.

Vaucluse Livestock Equipment (<http://www.vaucluse-aps.com.au/4130.htm>) can supply rotating numbers and replaceable letters.



Department of  
Primary Industries

# WRITTEN INSTRUMENT



BIOSECURITY DOCUMENT Ref: PRO 2007/03/2  
TRIM Ref: INT09/54343

SC Ref: 12/003/WI  
DV Ref: - / - / -

## ***NLIS PROCEDURES FOR PIGS VERSION 2***

The attached document is a **WRITTEN INSTRUMENT** issued with the concurrence of the Director-General of the Department of Primary Industries under Clause 8.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Director-General of the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the State Council of Livestock Health and Pest Authorities.

***[APPROVED]***

***[APPROVED]***

**BM CHRISTIE  
for R F SHELDRAKE  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

**T JOHNSTON  
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
STATE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND PEST AUTHORITIES**

**Date: 12/03/2010**

**Date: 10/01/2012**