Procedure

Biosecurity - National Livestock Identification System - Cattle Abattoirs and Knackeries

NUMBER:	INT17/31579	VERSION:	1.0
AUTHORISED BY:	Group Director, Emergency Operations, Intelligence and Programs	AUTHORISED DATE:	02/06/2017
ISSUED BY:	Biosecurity & Food Safety	EFFECTIVE DATE:	01/07/2017
CATEGORY:	Operations and Industry	REVIEW DATE	01/07/2018

Management of biosecurity risk

The purpose of this procedure is to inform the NSW Government on their roles for ensuring compliance with NLIS requirements in cattle abattoirs and knackeries as prescribed under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act), Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017 (NLIS Regulation) and with the *Food Act 2003* and Food Regulation 2015 (Food Regulation)*.*

It details the measures that should be adopted by abattoirs and knackeries in NSW to effectively implement the NLIS for cattle in accordance with State legislation and red meat standards, and by meat safety inspectors when monitoring and enforcing compliance by those establishments.

Scope

The Act promotes biosecurity as a shared responsibility between government, industry and communities. This procedure is a State Priority for NSW and applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their roles in administrating and enforcing the Act.

The procedure refers to some roles of LLS approved under other procedures. Employees of LLS do not directly have responsibilities or jurisdiction for compliance matters at abattoirs or knackeries under this procedure. This procedure also applies to on-plant staff employed by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR).

Unless otherwise specified, the term 'abattoir' includes knackeries, consistent with the definition of an abattoir including any premise used for the slaughter of stock or for the processing of carcasses of stock.

The owner or person in charge of an abattoir, as referred to in the NLIS Regulation, is collectively referred to in this procedure as the 'abattoir operator'.

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. 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.

Any person who deals with all sectors mentioned above ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with these livestock 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 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 policy must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

The agency 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 occupational health and safety risks.

Safe Work Method Statements that refer to activities included in this procedure must be used in assessing and managing risks. All persons working in or visiting abattoirs must comply with all safe work practices determined by abattoir management.

Data about animals killed and processed in an abattoir is commercially sensitive and confidential and use of the information within the NLIS database is subject to the *Terms of Use for the National Livestock Identification System database* as approved from time to time by SAFEMEAT and published by NLIS Ltd.

Contents

NLIS - Cattle Abattoirs and Knackeries procedure

1. Roles and responsibilities

The NLIS Regulation places obligations on a number of people. If the cattle are not correctly identified by the owner, other people may subsequently commit an offence if the stock is sold to, bought by, delivered to and slaughtered at an abattoir.

1.1 NSW Department of Primary Industries

NSW DPI authorised officers may conduct on-site audits of abattoir conformance with NLIS requirements in collaboration with on-plant staff (OPS) or supervisors (DAWR). NSW DPI authorised officers investigate alleged breaches of the NLIS Regulation 2017 by abattoir operators, based on information obtained from the NLIS database or provided by OPS or Food Safety Officers (FSO), and take appropriate regulatory action.

NSW DPI licences all abattoirs and regulates food safety schemes in domestic abattoirs and knackeries. The DAWR performs similar functions with respect to export abattoirs and there is a formal arrangement between NSW DPI and DAWR covering these arrangements:

- the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NSW DPI and the Food Authority, clause 2.2 of Schedule 9, says "The Food Authority assists with the implementation of stock identification schemes in abattoirs by including requirements for stock identification, record keeping and notification of registers in auditable food safety plans. DPI is advised of relevant non-conformities for further investigation under its legislation"
- FSOs are employed by the NSW Food Authority, a part of NSW DPI, and are appointed as authorised officers under the *Food Act 2003*. They are called food inspectors in the Food Regulation 2015.

FSOs audit domestic abattoirs every six to twelve months, check for compliance with stock identification requirements and issue corrective action requests where non-conformities are detected (together with their other functions under the Food Act 2003). FSOs also undertake routine inspections at knackeries.

- compliance action is undertaken in accordance with the NSW DPI enforcement policy
- as FSOs are not authorised officers under the NLIS Regulation, any significant breach (critical non-conformity) is referred to NSW DPI for further investigation and regulatory action.

1.2 Department of Agriculture, Water and Resources Officers

The responsibilities of DAWR OPS under the relevant DAWR Meat Notice include:
- verifying the establishment's approved arrangement adequately address the identification and traceability of cattle.
- notifying the State/Territory authority of any non-compliance (breach of legislation) and assist State/Territory inspectors with the investigation of breaches.

Area technical managers verify that the identification and traceability section of the approved arrangements and the DAWR on-plant system meet the requirements detailed in the AQIS Meat Notice and are being complied with.

OPS confirm on a weekly basis that the number of cattle uploaded to the NLIS database equates to the number slaughtered, and discuss any discrepancies with abattoir management with a view to prompt corrective action.

1.3 Local Land Services

District registrars arrange the authorisation and supply of special identifiers to abattoirs on request by an abattoir operator in accordance with procedures for the supply of approved identifiers:

- District Veterinarians and authorised officers investigate alleged breaches by livestock producers, stock agents, saleyard operators, buyers and carriers, based on information provided by abattoir operators, OPS, FSOs or NSW DPI, and take regulatory action in accordance with approved compliance procedures.

1.4 Livestock producers

Stock owners must ensure that their cattle are properly identified with an NLIS device before leaving the property on which they are kept, whether they send the cattle from their property for sale or directly to an abattoir:

On arrival of cattle at an abattoir, the person in charge of the stock must provide the abattoir operator with an approved form of movement document (usually a national vendor declaration (NVD)) which includes the delivery information in relation to the stock.

1.5 Buyers of prime stock

Buyers of cattle destined for slaughter must ensure that they do not buy cattle that are not correctly identified, and that an NVD or equivalent document with the required delivery information for the animals is available.

1.6 Abattoir and knackery operators

The owner or person in charge of the abattoir (the 'abattoir operator') ensures that:
- all cattle slaughtered in the abattoir are identified
- they know the Property identification code (PIC) of the property on which the cattle were last held
- prescribed information about the cattle is uploaded to the NLIS database in time.

Abattoir operators (other than knackeries) also determine, prior to or at slaughter, whether any animals have a status that requires testing or other action.

The responsibilities of export abattoirs under the relevant DAWR Meat Notice are to ensure that:

- the establishment's approved arrangement contains procedures that guarantee compliance with the identification and traceability of cattle
- procedures are in place to identify and address any non-compliance with identification and traceability requirements
- contingency measures are in place in the event NLIS devices are unreadable and/or the associated technology fails.

The responsibilities for domestic abattoirs under NSW DPI are to ensure that:

- NLIS procedures are included in the abattoirs food safety program including ensuring compliance with AS4696:2007
- animals admitted for slaughter are sourced from holdings where the management of the animals ensures the wholesomeness of the meat
- abattoirs maintain records of the place of production (farm, saleyard)
- the food safety program includes procedures for traceability and assessing the residue status of animals for slaughter, as detailed below.

The responsibilities for knackeries under the Food Regulation are to ensure that:
- animals for slaughter or processing for pet meat are identified in accordance with State legislation. This includes animals that are euthanised or cadavers of animals that have otherwise died on a property. Due to the risk of anthrax, approval must be granted by NSW DPI prior to processing these animals
- if the identification requirements are not met, the animal cannot be processed as pet meat
- a system is in place to facilitate identification of the source of each animal processed. The source of the animal processed is considered to be the place of production of each animal, or the saleyard from which each animal is obtained. Obtaining an NVD or Transport Stock Statement (TSS) on which the PIC is recorded meets this requirement
- if a knackery is receiving an animal euthanised on another property, or (under an approved arrangement for fallen stock) processes the cadaver of an animal that has died from other causes on another property, the carcass must still be identified with an NLIS device before transport and processing. The definition of identifiable stock means cattle, pigs, goats and sheep and includes a carcass of any such animal.

2. Legislation and standards

2.1 NSW Government Regulation

Mandatory requirements for the NLIS in NSW are prescribed under the NLIS Regulation. In particular, the NLIS Regulation prescribes that:
- all cattle (including bobby calves) must be identified with an approved NLIS device before the animal, or its carcass, leaves any property or is transported, sold or slaughtered
- on arrival of any cattle at an abattoir, the person in charge of the stock must provide the person in charge of the abattoir with the delivery information in relation to the stock
- the person in charge of the abattoir must provide the delivery information in relation to the stock to the owner of the abattoir
- the person in charge of an abattoir who has not obtained the delivery information in respect of identifiable stock must ensure the stock are not slaughtered unless the stock are required to be slaughtered on humane grounds
- the abattoir operator must upload slaughter details of any identifiable stock and movement of any living identifiable stock from the abattoir to the NLIS database by the close of business on the next working day following the day on which the reportable transaction occurs
- knackeries have seven days to notify the NLIS database of the dead/slaughtered animal details under *Part 9* of the Food Regulation and the NLIS Regulation
- the owner of the stock immediately before the stock arrived at the abattoir must keep a record of the delivery information for seven years. The owner of the abattoir must keep the delivery information for two years.

Delivery information is defined under Part 4, Clause 32 of the NLIS Regulation and includes:
(a) the type of stock and the number of each type of stock
(b) the date the stock left the previous property
(c) the property identification code of the previous property
(d) the unique serial number of any permit or NLIS movement document created in relation to the delivery of the stock

(e) in the case of pigs, sheep or goats:

    (i) the relevant identification particulars of the pigs, sheep or goats, and

    (ii) whether the pigs, sheep or goats were bred on the previous property.

(f) a completed delivery declaration that includes the following:

    (i) the name and signature of the person preparing the declaration

    (ii) the date on which the declaration is made

    (iii) the property identification code of the property to which the stock are to be delivered (or if the code is not known or readily available, the name and address of the person to whom the stock are to be delivered).

2.2 Australian Standards

Traceability standards for **red meat production** are prescribed in the *Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption* (AS 4696:2007). The Standard emphasises the importance of knowing the place of production of each animal slaughtered:

- "Interpretation 1.3 … place of production … means the place of husbandry for the animal immediately before it arrives at the (abattoir)"
- "Source of supply 6.2 Animals … are sourced only from a holding that has a system in place that is capable of : (b) … identifying: (i) the place of production of each animal"
- "Identification and handling of animals 6.13 There is a system in place for the identification and handling of animals to be slaughtered so that until the post-mortem disposition is applied to the carcass of each animal and each of its carcass parts: (a) the ability to identify the place of production of the animal is retained …"
- "Ante-mortem disposition 8.10 An animal … is passed for slaughter only if the meat safety inspector knows: (a) the place of production of the animal"
- "Slaughter and dressing 16.3 The following can be ascertained in relation to animals slaughtered by a meat business: … (b) (i) the place of production of each animal".

Traceability standards for **pet meat production** are prescribed in the *Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat, PISC Technical Report 88* (see References):

- pet meat processing establishments must 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, and the establishment must be able to identify the source of each animal, such as the property where it was produced or the saleyard from which it was obtained (section 9)
- the Standard provides for the processing of fallen stock (being the body of a farm animal that has died for reasons other than slaughter) under an approved arrangement with the controlling authority
- NSW DPI allows knackeries to source downer or emergency slaughter animals from farms, abattoirs and feedlots provided there are no biosecurity implications.

NSW DPI Requirements

The NSW DPI licences, under the Food Regulation:
- abattoirs to slaughter animals for human consumption, and
- knackeries to slaughter animals for use as animal food as defined in the Food Regulation.

The NLIS Regulation prescribes standards with which these establishments must comply:

- red meat abattoirs with the *Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption* (AS 4696:2007)
- knackeries with the *Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat: PISC Technical Report 88.*

In NSW, the processing of fallen stock (carcasses or cadavers) is strongly discouraged due to the risk of anthrax and there are no approved arrangements between any knackeries and the NSW DPI. Businesses wanting to process fallen stock must document food safety and disease controls and submit them to NSW DPI for approval.

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Requirements

AQIS Meat Notice 2007/11 (see References) sets out the responsibilities of all export registered beef establishments and DAWR plant inspection staff regarding the NLIS. In particular:

- "5.1 Cattle presented for slaughter must be identified with an NLIS device as required by State/Territory legislation"
- "5.2 Cattle must be accompanied by a completed and signed NVD or equivalent"
- "5.10 Every animal's NLIS/RFID number must be recorded and correlated with its carcase number. The correlation must be maintained and the carcass number and system must enable the animal to be traced to its PIC of consignment"
- "5.11 By close of business on the next working day … establishment management must upload the required information to the NLIS database".

2.3   Terms of Use for the NLIS Database – Property and Device Statuses

Properties (PICs) and cattle (devices) may be assigned one or more statuses that indicate a risk to an animal's suitability for marketing or for human consumption. Collectively these statuses are referred to by the term 'extended residue program' (ERP):

- these statuses are generally set by State animal health authorities and historically related to chemical residues (organochlorines, endosulfan and antibacterials)
- this status now includes other concerns such as BSE (imported animals, animals exposed to restricted animal material), other animal diseases (anthrax, Cysticercus bovis (beef measles), Johne's disease, bovine tuberculosis), poisonings (lead), and stolen animals.

Abattoirs conduct ERP checks on all cattle prior to or at slaughter through their NLIS database account or the abattoir's software program which interfaces with the NLIS database:

- the software displays messages about testing requirements, the beast's suitability for human consumption, or contacting other authorities.

Abattoirs may use an 'Early warning' (EW) system to check the PICs of the properties of origin of cattle that are scheduled for slaughter to determine whether any consignments *may* have any risk animals:

- this allows the abattoir to segregate that mob and schedule the animals' slaughter so that any risk can be more readily managed, or scan each animal in that consignment before slaughter and do an ERP check to identify and segregate any risk animals.

An EW status indicates that there are animals on that PIC with a risk status; it does not prove that any animals in that consignment are in fact of risk, nor the nature of the risk and action required:

- if the PIC has an EW status, the abattoir must do an ERP check on each animal consigned from that PIC to determine whether there are any risk animals in the mob, what that risk is and what corrective action they need to undertake

- if an ERP check shows no status (the status field is blank) or displays 'Clear no test', the EW status can be ignored as the ERP check has confirmed that there are no risk animals in that consignment.

Use of the EW system is optional:

- if it used, then ERP checks need only be done on animals from a consignment with an EW status
- if it is not used, then ERP checks must be done on every beast
- if an abattoir has ERP systems in place that are working to their satisfaction, then there is no need to adopt the EW system.

Abattoirs may also enquire, through the NLIS database, about eligibility for the European market, Livestock Production Assurance and lifetime traceability status for marketing and quality assurance purposes:

- PIC and device statuses are summarised in the Tech Tip 'PIC and device status codes' and detailed in Appendix 14.9 of the 'NLIS Terms of Use' document. Information about EW PIC system and ERP checks is available in the NLIS fact sheets and Tech Tips.

3. NLIS Requirements for Abattoirs

3.1   Acquiring stock for slaughter

It is an offence to sell or otherwise dispose, buy or otherwise acquire, and to send or transport any stock that is not identified with an NLIS device as prescribed in the NLIS Regulation. The owner at that time may be:

- the vendor (if the stock has been consigned for slaughter over the hooks)
- a commissioned buyer
- the abattoir that has bought the stock.

Vendors, sellers, buyers and carriers of stock destined for slaughter should all check that the cattle they intend selling, buying or transporting are correctly tagged.

3.2   Movement documents

On arrival of any cattle at an abattoir, the owner or person in charge of the cattle must provide the abattoir operator with the delivery information in relation to the stock for:

- an abattoir producing food for human consumption, this must be a place of production (such as not a saleyard or another abattoir)
- knackeries, a saleyard PIC is acceptable.

The delivery information must be provided in an approved form. The approved forms are:

- Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) national vendor declaration and waybill including the eDEC, or an electronic national vendor declaration obtained from the LPA website, the NLIS website or an eNVD licensed provider as specified by Meat and Livestock Australia
- TSS on which the PIC has been recorded (older versions of the TSS and approved consignment notes on which the PIC has not been recorded are not acceptable)
- permit issued by an authorised officer.

The abattoir operator must not slaughter the cattle unless they have received this information, unless the stock are required to be slaughtered for humane reasons on the direction of an authorised officer, food inspector, animal welfare inspector or a veterinary practitioner.

3.3 Uploading information to the NLIS database

The person in charge of an abattoir is responsible under the NLIS Regulation for uploading prescribed information about reportable transactions at an abattoir which includes:

- the slaughter of any identifiable stock at the abattoir, and
- the movement of any living identifiable stock from the abattoir.

The information that must be provided to the NLIS administrator is:

- particulars of identification of the cattle (RFID or NLIS number)
- PIC of the abattoir (this is 'automatically' uploaded when the abattoir logs onto the NLIS database through an account to which the PIC is linked)
- PIC of the property where the stock was last held
- date of slaughter
- carcass weight (optional) except knackeries).

The NLIS Regulation also requires the NVD serial number to be uploaded. Commercial software in use in abattoirs only includes this data when devices are transferred to the abattoir PIC, such as for saleyard but not necessarily direct consignments. Provided the PIC is uploaded, the NVD number is deemed to be optional for compliance purposes:

- if any cattle are not slaughtered but are moved alive to another property or abattoir, then the PIC of the destination property must be uploaded.

3.3.1 Upload methods

Abattoirs can use a variety of commercial kill-floor systems (eg Cedar Creek, Sastek and Triton) or in-house software to collate and upload data in a format acceptable to the NLIS database. This format is referred to as a carcass feedback (CFB) file. NLIS Ltd can provide free software called 'EasyCheck' or 'NLIS Connect' which can either be used on its own or interfaced with commercial software.

There are a number of options available for knackeries, depending on how many cattle they process:

- if processing only a few animals, read the NLIS ID numbers on eartags and write them down. Open an NLIS database 'Abattoir/Processor' account and type in the NLIS tag numbers and other required information using one of the following functions on the account:
- "Killed animals with PIC of consignment" function on the account (requires the knackery establishment number – a 6 character number starting with NK)
- "Killed animals" (to upload a file which lists all killed animals) or
- "Livestock moved off my property" with code 'DECEASED' as the destination PIC
- if processing a large number of animals, it is recommended to purchase a RFID reader to scan the devices electronically, install NLIS software, and upload all slaughtered devices directly from the scanner via a computer to the NLIS database
- arrange with a local scanning contractor, stock and station agent, or LLS to read and upload the devices on a fee for service basis.

3.4 Body number

Each carcass is assigned a body number. The number of bodies uploaded to the NLIS database must equal the number of cattle slaughtered:

- the person in charge at an abattoir must make a record, by the close of business on each working day, of the number of cattle slaughtered that day and the number held alive at the abattoir at the end of that day
- this record must be kept for at least two years and provided on request to an inspector.

3.5 RFID number

Each animal must be scanned and the RFID number uploaded for each body. Scanning may be done either pre- or post-slaughter, depending on the facilities at the abattoir:

- abattoirs must ensure that all cattle are correctly identified with an NLIS device before slaughter. It is an offence to slaughter stock that is not identified as required by the NLIS Regulation.

Buyers for abattoirs should be instructed to only bid on cattle that appear to be tagged, and to insist that the saleyard replaces any lost or non-reading devices before the cattle leave the saleyard. All saleyards must have facilities and procedures in place to do this:

- vendors who are consigning cattle directly to the abattoir should be instructed to check and confirm that every animal is identified with a working NLIS device before loading
- if an RFID cannot be scanned due to device or scanner fault, the NLIS ID can be manually read from the tag and entered against the body record via the kill-floor system.

If any cattle have lost their NLIS device in transit or the lairage, a special identifier (special or 'emergency' NLIS device) can be linked to the animal. Special identifiers may be ordered through the LLS, who may authorise a person at the abattoir to supply special identifiers for use on a day to day basis in the abattoir:

- the special identifier should have the abattoir PIC or, if unavailable, the district code (if the latter, the identifiers must be transferred to the abattoir PIC (TAGTRANS) by the LLS before they are used
- LLSs charge a fee for the supply of special identifiers to cover the cost of the identifiers and administration. An abattoir may incur additional costs in their use. The abattoir may recoup these fees and costs from the supplier of the cattle as a commercial arrangement
- the special identifier does not have to be physically attached to the animal but must be linked to the carcass and then disposed in accordance with the NLIS Regulation.

The NLIS Regulation requires a record of the supply of a special identifier to be made and kept. This record is deemed to have been made and kept for compliance purposes if the CFB data associated with the special identifier is uploaded to the NLIS database as prescribed.

If a whole consignment of cattle that do not have NLIS devices is received, and this is detected in time, the cattle should not be unloaded but returned to the property of origin:

- if the cattle have been unloaded into lairages, and the abattoir does not have sufficient special identifiers, the abattoir must notify the OPS or FSO immediately
- the PIC of the property from which the cattle were consigned must be determined from the movement document, and normal food safety checks on that PIC carried out

- the cattle may be held until sufficient special identifiers can be obtained, or may be slaughtered on the direction of an OPS or FSO on humane grounds. NLIS devices for the property cannot be supplied by the vendor for use in the abattoir
- if the cattle are slaughtered without NLIS devices, all other mandatory data must still be uploaded to the NLIS database
- the abattoir operator should notify an inspector at the relevant LLS of the consignment details for investigation of the breaches allegedly committed by the stock owner and others involved in the transaction.

Approval to move a beast which is too large or dangerous to safely tag without an NLIS device to the abattoir must be obtained *before* the movement commences from the local LLS:

- such cattle may be slaughtered without an NLIS device provided they are identified with a property tail tag with the consigning property PIC, or a special tail tag supplied by an LLS, and all other relevant information is uploaded to the NLIS database
- an abattoir may choose not to accept exempt stock.

3.6   Property PIC

The PIC of the property or place where the animal was last held (PIC of consignment) must be uploaded for each body. If the animal was taken directly from a saleyard to a knackery, the saleyard PIC may be uploaded. This is essential for traceability, compliance with the NLIS Regulation, and demonstrable compliance with the Australian standards:

- for consignments from saleyards, the PIC is 'automatically' entered by the abattoir software if the saleyard has transferred the stock to the abattoir PIC before slaughter (saleyards are required to upload cattle to abattoir PICs by the close of business on the sale day. Otherwise, the abattoir must manually enter the PIC from the NVD or post sale summary, or scan the devices in lairage and conduct a property to property transfer onto the abattoir PIC
- for direct consignments from properties, the abattoir must enter the PIC from the NVD or require the vendor to transfer the cattle to the abattoir PIC before the cattle are slaughtered (ie on the day of consignment), or scan the devices in lairage and conduct a property to property transfer onto the abattoir PIC
- if a PIC is not entered, some abattoir software programs insert a default PIC of ZZZZZ999 or ZZZZZZZZ. The database is programmed to also accept an 'administrator assigned PIC' of 8As (AAAAAAAA). These are NOT valid PICs and do not comply with the NLIS Regulation. If an abattoir has submitted a file containing a default PIC for a body record but knows what the correct PIC should have been, EasyCheck / NLIS Connect users can update the original body record with the correct PIC using the 'Edit Kill' functionality. Users of other systems can send a modified carcass feedback record to the NLIS database, including the correct PIC with the original body record. Contact NLIS Ltd for further information on the format of the modified body record
- if an abattoir records a device as slaughtered from a PIC, the database records a P2P movement from that PIC to the abattoir's PIC then to deceased. If a default PIC is used, the P2P movement does not take place, only the slaughter details are recorded. If the animal was last registered to a PIC and a slaughter record for the device was uploaded with a default PIC, the current PIC on a life history would be the original PIC but the device is no longer active.

3.7 Carcass weight

The carcass weight of each body may be uploaded, except for cattle processed at a knackery. Carcass weight is the weight of each carcass before chilling and after bleeding, skinning, evisceration and trimming, which is equivalent to the hot standard carcass weight under AUS-MEAT carcass standards:

- if the abattoir has uploaded the carcass weight and related information to the NLIS database, producers can look up the carcass weight of cattle they have sold for slaughter through their NLIS database account using the 'Carcass feedback query' report
- for compliance monitoring purposes, carcass weight uploads are not checked for establishments that only process small numbers of service kills.

3.8 Current holdings over 7 days

This refers to cattle which, according to the NLIS database, have been on the abattoir PIC for more than seven days. This may be because:

- cattle may not all slaughtered within seven days due to kill agendas
- cattle have been slaughtered but have not been uploaded as deceased:
  - cattle have not been scanned in the abattoir due to lost or faulty NLIS devices or faulty scanning equipment
  - upload has not been attempted or has failed in part or in full.
- cattle have been mistakenly transferred to the abattoir PIC:
  - buyer has quoted the wrong PIC or the wrong PIC is linked to the buyer's account.
  - saleyard or vendor has incorrectly transferred cattle to the abattoir PIC.
- cattle have been held in holding paddocks for more than a week:
  - holding paddocks should have a separate PIC, and the cattle should be transferred to the holding paddock PIC initially, then to the abattoir PIC shortly before slaughter.
- cattle have not been slaughtered:
  - the cattle have been deemed unsuitable for slaughter at that time and have been returned to pasture or a feedlot or have been resold without being transferred to the destination property PIC as required. (Note it is very rare for abattoirs to return cattle unslaughtered or on-sell such cattle. This action should be documented in the abattoir's food safety program if it is likely to occur).

3.9 Cattle that die whilst at an abattoir/knackery

Any cattle that die (other than by being slaughtered) while at an abattoir are to be recorded on the NLIS database by the abattoir operator by the close of business on the next working day after the death:

- dead cattle may recorded through the abattoir's NLIS database account 'Livestock moved off my property' function and entering 'DECEASED' as the destination PIC. This function must not be used for slaughtered cattle as it does not capture all of the other essential data, nor to clear current holdings as the cattle might not in fact be dead.

3.10 Timeliness of uploads

The NLIS Regulation requires all relevant information to be uploaded to the NLIS database by the close of business on the next working day. However, knackeries processing only small numbers of cattle are allowed by this Procedure up to seven days so they only have to submit the required information once a week:

- cattle that are held at the abattoir for a few days prior to slaughter do not have to be recorded on the database until they are slaughtered.

- cattle to be held for more than seven days should first be transferred to a separate holding property PIC and then to the abattoir PIC the day before slaughter.

3.11 Data Correction

Abattoir operators must check for error messages from the NLIS database daily and take prompt corrective action:

- an error message indicates that some or all data has not been successfully uploaded to the database
- the easiest way to check if the data has been uploaded and processed successfully is to log into their abattoir account on the NLIS database and select 'View my transaction history' from the drop down on the home page
- this will list all carcass feedback uploads and a status of 'complete' if successful or 'error', 'incomplete', 'bad format' or similar message if further action is required. Click the status to view the corresponding error messages
- to comply with the NLIS Regulation, the error must be corrected and the data re-uploaded by the close of business on the next working day after the cattle were slaughtered.

From time to time, a data error may be reported by a producer or detected by NSW DPI or DAWR, abattoir operators should respond promptly and positively to requests from a producer or regulatory agency to correct data.

Technical advice on error correction is available from NLIS Ltd, and the abattoir operator should contact NLIS Ltd promptly if they cannot determine the cause of or fix a data upload error themselves.

3.12   Disposal of used devices

NLIS devices removed from slaughter animals must be disposed in accordance with the NLIS Regulation to prevent their unlawful reuse:

- they must be disposed of in a manner that ensures the identifier is unable to be used or attached to identifiable stock.
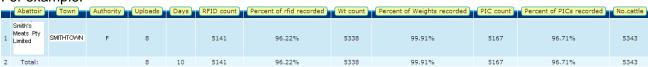
4. Compliance monitoring and enforcement

4.1   Monitoring

4.1.1   Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

OPS can monitor abattoir uploads weekly using an 'AQIS Plant' account:

- an account can be opened online and takes a couple of days to be authorised
- to run the required report, select View/generate all reports > Go > Abattoir Upload Monitoring > Go > Enter the establishment number and date range > Go

For example:

	Abattoir	Town	Authority	Uploads	Days	RFID count	Percent of rfid recorded	Wt count	Percent of Weights recorded	PIC count	Percent of PICs recorded	No.cattle
1	Smith's Meats Pty Limited	SMITHTOWN	F	8		5141	96.22%	5338	99.91%	5167	96.71%	5343
2	Total:			8	10	5141	96.22%	5338	99.91%	5167	96.71%	5343

- this report is sufficient for monitoring abattoir activity
- the 'No. cattle' (number of cattle uploaded) figure should be compared to the actual kill figures for that week, obtained from abattoir management, to ensure that all bodies have been uploaded

- compliance figures less than the compliance target should be discussed with the abattoir management with a view to immediate correction of the previous week's data and prompt action to prevent future discrepancies.

4.1.2   NSW Department of Primary Industries

NSW DPI monitors the performance of all cattle abattoirs quarterly from the NLIS database and provides a report to each abattoir, the NSW Food Safety, DAWR and relevant NSW DPI staff and management. Pooled data is also provided to state and national NLIS committees to monitor the overall performance of the NLIS.

The monitoring data assesses how well abattoirs are complying with the requirements of the NLIS and whether the system at each abattoir is continuously improving. On a State-wide basis, it provides an overall measure of traceability and whether the NLIS as a whole is working.

An overall performance measure and rank is calculated based on:

- devices uploaded (as a percentage of bodies uploaded)
- carcass weights uploaded (as a percentage of bodies uploaded)
- active PICs uploaded (as a percentage of bodies uploaded)
- timeliness of uploads (within seven days of kill)
- current holdings (as a measure of late or failed uploads).

Appendix 1 describes the key performance parameters, how to interpret the data, and corrective action that should be taken to continuously improve performance.

NSW DPI food safety officers verify the NLIS system as a part of ongoing food safety audits at domestic abattoirs and knackeries.

4.2   Enforcement

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.

Action may also be taken by the NSW DPI Food Safety section under the *Food Act 2003* and in accordance with the Authority's Compliance and Enforcement Policy, or by DAWR under the *Export Control Act 1982*. This action could result in the abattoir's operating or export licence being suspended or revoked in serious cases.

5. Definitions and acronyms

DAWR   Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

CFB   Carcass feedback (data or file)

ERP   Extended Residue Program

EW   Early Warning

FSO   Food Safety Officer

DPI   NSW Department of Primary Industries

LLS   Local Land Services

NVD   National Vendor Declaration

NLIS   National Livestock Identification System

NLIS Ltd   NLIS Limited, a subsidiary of Meat and Livestock Australia

NSW DPI	New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
OPS	On-plant staff or supervisor (DAWR)
OPV	On-plant veterinarian (DAWR)
PIC	Property identification code
RFID	Radio frequency identification device
TSS	Transported stock statement

6. Documentation

- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017
- *Food Act 2003*
- Food Regulation 2015
- *Export Control Act 1982*
- Procedure – Stock Identification - Managing statuses, errors and data transfers on the NLIS database
- NLIS Procedures for the supply of approved identifiers
- NLIS Compliance monitoring and enforcement procedures
- NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
- 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)
- Procedure - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
- Australian standard for the hygienic production and transportation of meat and meat products for human consumption, AS 4696:2007 www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5553.htm
- Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat: PISC Technical Report 88 www.publish.csiro.au/pid/6180.htm
- DAWR Meat Notice 2007/11 Identification and traceability of cattle at export abattoirs www.daff.gov.au/doAWR/export/meat/elmer-3/notices/2007
- NSW Biosecurity and Food Safety General Circulars www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/news%2Dpublications%2Dand%2Dhelp/general%2Dcirculars/
- NLIS database accounts www.nlis.mla.com.au
- Tech Tips and other NLIS publications: www.nlis.mla.com.au > PDF Help tools
- Terms of Use for the National Livestock Identification System Database www.nlis.mla.com.au > Terms of use

7. Records

Not applicable.

8. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	Substantially updated to align with Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017	Systems, Intelligence and Traceability

9. Contacts

Leader Traceability
Phone 02 6391 3212, mob: 0438 447 286
Email: lisa.burrows@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Biosecurity Intelligence Support
Phone 02 6391 3511
Email olga.ozols@dpi.nsw.gov.au

NSW DPI NLIS Helpline
Phone 1300 720 405
Email enquiries.nlis@dpi.nsw.gov.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/nlis

NLIS Helpdesk
Phone 1800 654 743
Email support@nlis.com.au
www.nlis.com.au

Regulatory requirements:
NSW DPI Regulatory Specialist, Animals, email dean.whitehead@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Compliance monitoring:
NSW DPI, email enquiries.nlis@industry.nsw.gov.au, phone 6391 3511

Appendix 1 – Compliance and Performance Monitoring

The following sections describe key performance parameters, how to interpret monitoring data, and corrective action that should be taken to continuously improve performance.

Overall score and rank
These figures provide an overall estimate of how well abattoir operators are complying with the NLIS and the NLIS Regulation and providing data that allows effective tracing.

The percentage figure is an average of the five performance measures detailed below, namely 'Devices uploaded', 'PICs uploaded', 'Carcass weights uploaded', 'Uploads within 2 days' and 'Current holdings over 7 days'. Over 99.5% (rounded up to 100%) is satisfactory and achievable. Between 96% and 99.5% indicates that improvement is required. Under 96% means that the NLIS is failing, the NLIS Regulation is not being complied with, and prompt corrective action is essential.

The rank lists each abattoir out of the 20 or so active cattle abattoirs in NSW. The lower the figure (1 = 1st) the better.

Kill days
This is the total number of days for which kill data was uploaded during the monitoring period.

This figure should be compared with actual operating days. For example, if the abattoir operates 5 days a week, with 1 day off for maintenance each month and no public holidays, then there should be 62 kills days each quarter. A lower 'kill days' figure suggests that some kills days were not uploaded. This is for guidance only and is not included in the overall measure of performance.

Bodies uploaded
This is the total number of bodies uploaded during the monitoring period. This figure should be compared with and exactly match kill data.

A lower number suggests that some bodies were not uploaded to the NLIS database, perhaps due to a failed upload with uncorrected errors. The status of all uploads should be checked daily by logging into your NLIS database account, running the report 'View my transaction history', clicking on any statuses that indicate an incomplete upload, error or bad format, then promptly correcting the error and re-uploading the data. Please contact NLIS Ltd for assistance with data correction.

Devices uploaded
This is the total number of RFIDs uploaded during the monitoring period. This figure should be the same as bodies uploaded (i.e. each body has a device), providing a performance measure of 100%.

A lower number suggests that some cattle did not have an RFID, or that some were not successfully scanned. Action must be taken to ensure that in future all cattle have a device which is recorded and uploaded.

Traceable PICs uploaded
This measures whether a PIC has been uploaded which allows the property of origin to be traced. It is a combination of the following parameters: [Active + Inactive From PICs] + [District codes / 2] + [Agent codes / 2].

This performance measure should be greater than 99.5%. A lower figure may be due to:
- not confirming that a valid PIC has been entered against each body. EasyCheck / NLIS Connect automatically insert the PIC against the RFID for cattle that have been transferred to the abattoir PIC by a saleyard (as a saleyard out transfer) or by the vendor of a direct or over

the hooks consignment (as a property to property transfer). However, the PIC has to be manually entered for directly consigned cattle that have not first been transferred from the property to the abattoir PIC. If a PIC is not entered, the software inserts a default (invalid) PIC of ZZZZZ999 or ZZZZZZZZ. The correct PIC may be subsequently uploaded as a modified PIC

- uploading devices manually to 'deceased' without including the consigning property PIC
- using disbanded (cancelled) PICs, blocked PICs or 8As which are unlawful and negate traceability
- excessive use of district codes or agent codes. Although these codes are allowable, they compromise traceability and their use should be discouraged, hence their value as a performance measure of the tracing system is discounted 50%.

Carcass weights uploaded

This measures whether a carcass weight has been uploaded against each body.
This performance measure should be 100%. A lower figure may be due to faulty scales, a defective link between the scales and software, or failure to manually enter carcass weights.

An abattoir that kills bobby calves and does not upload their weight will have a lower carcass weight percentage. While this is lawful, it will lower that abattoir's overall performance measure.

Uploads within 2 days

This is a measure of timeliness of uploads. The NLIS Regulation requires kill data to be uploaded by the close of business on the next working day after the sale,

This figure should always be 100%. A lower figure suggests that one or more uploads have been very late.

Current holdings

This measures devices which have been transferred to the abattoir PIC but have not been uploaded as killed or deceased within 7 days.
This figure should always be 100%, indicating that there are not current holdings over 7 days. A lower figure suggests that:

- some uploads have failed
- cattle have been consigned to the abattoir PIC but not slaughtered within 7 days. Cattle sent to holding paddocks for more than a week should be transferred to the holding paddock PIC
- cattle transferred incorrectly to the abattoir by a saleyard have not been rolled back or uploaded as killed by another abattoir. If a roll back on these devices is not possible, then the devices should be assigned an inactive status.

Each abattoir receives an automated email daily from the NLIS database listing all active devices which have been on the abattoir PIC (and any other PIC linked to the processor's database account) for more than 7 days.

LT status

This measures the proportion of cattle that have life-time traceable (LT) status at the time of slaughter and hence are traceable for their whole lives. This is for information only and is not included in the overall performance measure. Cattle lose LT status for a number of reasons, including use of post-breeder (orange) tags and system transfers (indicating a gap in traceability).

Limitations

Monitoring reports from the NLIS database do not take into account:

- number of cattle actually killed
- whether body numbers and RFIDs align (providing the correct PIC and carcass weight for each body).

Whether direct consignment PICs are for the correct prop