

DPI Primefact

NLIS Cattle: identification and movements

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Animal Biosecurity Unit, NSW DPI

This document outlines general requirements for identifying cattle in NSW, particularly when moving them from one property to another.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) underpins access of Australian livestock products to international markets. NLIS allows for traceability of livestock through a combination of permanent identifiers, movement documents and database records.

The NLIS database holds information on cattle movements from birth to slaughter, to protect and enhance Australia's reputation as a producer of animal products that are free of chemical residues and exotic diseases.

NLIS devices with a Property Identification Code (PIC) are required to be attached to all livestock and all properties with livestock should have a PIC.

In NSW the NLIS is supported by the [Biosecurity \(NLIS\) Regulation 2017](#).

Producers' NLIS responsibilities

Cattle producers are responsible for identifying their livestock and recording movements between properties. These are explained in detail below and include:

1. Before leaving their property of birth, identifying all cattle with an NLIS approved permanent identifier..
2. Providing the required delivery information at the time of the cattle movement.
3. Reporting cattle movements between properties with different property identification codes (PICs) on the NLIS database.
4. Keeping records of all cattle movements for a period of 7 years.

Permanent identification of cattle

Each animal leaving a property must be properly identified with a permanent identifier. Approved devices are either an NLIS Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) attached to the right ear of the cattle, or a rumen bolus/ matching ear tag combination.

The type of device depends on where the cattle was born. If the animal is leaving its property of birth, it will require a white breeder device. If it is leaving any subsequent property, and the

breeder device has been lost or was never attached, then an orange post-breeder device must be attached.

Any purchased cattle should already be identified with an NLIS device. Do not attach a second NLIS device or remove the existing device.

Both breeder and post breeder devices can be ordered from your local rural merchandiser or directly from the tag manufacturer. Place your order at least 14 days before you need them.

Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFIDs)

RFIDs have two numbers:

1. The NLIS ID number, which is printed on the outside of the device and includes the PIC, tag manufacturer and year of manufacture, plus a five digit serial number.
2. The encoded RFID number is separate but also unique for that device.

The RFID number is a microchip number read by electronic scanners and is linked to each animal's NLIS ID number on the database.



Figure 1. White 'Breeder' ear tag and orange 'post-breeder' ear tags (left) and rumen boluses with corresponding ear tags

Cattle producers can use either the NLIS number or the RFID number to report cattle movements to the NLIS database.

Animals with a rumen bolus must be identified with a corresponding ear tag that displays the NLIS ID number linked to the RFID in the rumen bolus. The ear tag indicates that a bolus is present.

Required delivery information

When cattle move from a property, they must be accompanied by a correctly completed NLIS movement document.

This may be either an:

- Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and Waybill,
- Electronic or eNVD (see [National Vendor Declaration | Integrity System](#), or available through licensed eNVD software providers), or
- A Transported Stock Statement (TSS) available from [Local Land Services \(LLS\)](#).

The required delivery information must include:

- Name and address of the owner of the cattle
- PIC the cattle are moving from
- Name and address of the property the animals are consigned to
- The destination of the cattle if this is different
- NVD serial number

- Number and description of the cattle
- Number of NLIS devices used
- Date the movement occurred

Recording cattle movements between different PICs on the NLIS database

Recording movements of cattle between properties with different PICs (known as property to property or P2P movement) involves scanning or reading the RFID or NLIS ID number and recording the movement to a different PIC in the NLIS database.

Recording P2P cattle movements in the NLIS database can be done in the following ways:

1. Scanning the NLIS devices and sending information electronically. To do this, you need to have a database account. Apply online at www.nlis.com.au
2. Authorising a third-party contractor to do the transfer on your behalf. The nominated third party will require an NLIS database user account.

The following must be recorded:

- movements between your own properties if they have different PICs
- movements of cattle bought privately onto your property
- movements to and from a leased property
- movements to and from agistment properties

It is the **responsibility of the owner of the cattle to record these movements within 2 days.**

Where livestock are exhibited or moved to a stock event, the organiser of the show or camp draft, or rodeo, or other stock event, must record:

- the movement of those cattle to and from the stock event in the NLIS database, or
- the presence of the cattle at the event using the 'Sighted livestock' function

Keeping records of livestock movements

Buyers and sellers of cattle must retain NVDs for 7 years, agents, saleyards and abattoirs must retain NVDs for 2 years.

Can properties be combined under a single PIC?

Producers with more than one property may amalgamate those properties under a single PIC if the properties are managed as a 'single property'.

While combining properties may eliminate the need to notify the NLIS database of P2P movements, it may result in quarantine for all properties in the event of a disease or residue incident.

Consult your [Local Land Services](#) office for further information regarding potential risks and benefits of the amalgamation of PICs.

More information

NSW DPI website at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nlis>

NSW DPI NLIS questions: enquiries.nlis@dpi.nsw.gov.au or 1300 720 405

Integrity Systems Company website information, tools and resources at: [National Livestock Identification System | Integrity Systems](#)

Local Land Services: [Home - Local Land Services \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au) or 1300 795 299

NLIS database help desk service at: info@integritysystems.com.au or 1800 683 111

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