

DPI Primefact

NLIS Cattle: Property-to-property transfers

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Animal Biosecurity Unit, NSW DPI

This document outlines requirements in NSW for transferring cattle between properties with different Property Identification Codes (PICs).

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 printed with a Property Identification Code (PIC) are required to be attached to all livestock; for cattle the device contains a unique electronic chip. All properties with livestock must have a PIC.

In NSW the NLIS is supported by the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017.

Permanent Identification of cattle

Each animal leaving a property must be properly identified with a permanent identifier. Approved permanent identifiers are devices 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.

The identification device will be attached to a NLIS ID number unique to each animal and recorded on the NLIS database.

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.

What is a property-to-property (P2P) transfer?

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.

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

Note: Producers with more than one property may combine 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.

Who records the P2P transfer?

Generally, it is the **responsibility of the new owner or recipient of the cattle to record P2P movements in the NLIS database within 2 days.**

For example, when cattle are bought through an online facility such as Auctions Plus, it is the owner's responsibility to record the arrival of the cattle onto their property in the NLIS database.

It is the **responsibility of the owner of the cattle to record the movement to and from an agistment property in the NLIS database, unless otherwise arranged.**

Movements of cattle to and from a saleyard, cattle scale, stock event (such as a show) and to an abattoir, are treated differently; these movements are recorded by the operators of the saleyard, cattle scale, stock event and abattoir.

What information is required for the NLIS database?

The following information is required to record the P2P transfer:

- NLIS ID or Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) tag or bolus number of each animal being transferred
- PIC of the property the animals moved from
- PIC of the property the animals moved to
- The serial number of an NLIS movement document such as a Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) National Vendor Declaration (NVD), an LPA electronic NVD (see [National Vendor Declaration | Integrity Systems](#)), or Transported Stock Statement (available from [Local Land Services](#)).
- Date the movement occurred

The NLIS database will notify both PIC owners by email when a P2P transfer has been recorded.

How can transfers be reported to the database?

Several options are available for recording transfers to the NLIS database, depending on the facilities and equipment available to each producer.

1. Sending the information electronically using an NLIS database account (apply online at www.nlis.com.au), or

2. Authorising a third party to conduct an electronic transfer. This could be a stock and station agent, scanning contractor or LLS officer. The nominated third party will require an NLIS database account.

Recording transfers in a NLIS database account

Information can be entered into the NLIS database in the form of:

- NLIS ID numbers recorded visually and entered manually on the database
- manual selection of NLIS numbers from a list of numbers provided by the database
- a transfer file of RFIDs recorded electronically with a reader and downloaded to a computer.

Many brands of hand-held and yard panel readers, scales and associated computer software are available. Producers can check the data collecting and transferring capability and compatibility of equipment by contacting manufacturers directly.

Authorising a third party to conduct the electronic transfer

Third-party access forms can be accessed from the NLIS website or database service phone: 1800 683 111 or email: info@integritysystems.com.au

The third party will require an NLIS user account and will have access to the PICs specified in the application for authorisation.

What happens if a transfer is not reported to the database?

Cattle moved to a PIC without this being recorded on the NLIS database are flagged when the next transfer is recorded.

The database produces what is called a 'system transfer' (XXXXXXXX) which represents an automated movement between unknown PICs, which highlights a gap in traceability, loss of life-time traceability of the cattle and possible contravention of the NLIS requirements.

The NLIS database sends an automatic email to all related parties (i.e., the uploader of the transfer, the consigner (From PIC) and the PIC the animal was registered to and moved off).

PICs that create system transfers are monitored by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance Unit and followed up by LLS who remind producers of their NLIS responsibilities.

Further non-recording of P2P transfers may lead to compliance action including the issue of a penalty notice.

More information:

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

NSW DPI NLIS 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 \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) or 1300 795 299

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

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