

DPI Primefact

NLIS Cattle: agistment requirements

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Animal Biosecurity Unit, NSW DPI

This document outlines requirements in NSW for producers moving cattle temporarily from their property to an agistment property (moving cattle to another property where feed is available).

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](#).

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.

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.

NLIS responsibilities on the agistment property

An agreement with the owner or manager of the agistment property should be made prior to delivering the cattle to that property to ensure that the owner or manager will provide:

- NLIS white breeder devices for any calves born on the property, and
- NLIS orange post-breeder devices to replace any tags that are lost from adult cattle, and
- National Vendor Declaration (NVD) forms or access to electronic NVDs (eNVDs) for that PIC (a web based also printable version of the LPA NVD) for cattle moved or sold from the agistment property.

NLIS movement documents

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 \(LLS\)](#).

Recording the movement in the NLIS database

The owner of the cattle is responsible for ensuring that the movement of the cattle to the agistment property is recorded on the NLIS database (unless otherwise agreed by both parties).

This must be done within 2 days of the cattle arriving at the agistment property.

The agistment property owner or manager must provide the PIC of the property to the owner of the agisted stock to allow the NLIS database movement to be recorded.

Property to Property (P2P) transfers

There are two ways the NLIS database can be notified of a cattle movement to or from an agistment property.

1. Scanning the NLIS devices and 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.

Required information when recording the P2P movement in the NLIS database

- NLIS ID (visual number printed on the outside of the ear tag/device) or the RFID (electronic microchip number) of each animal being transferred
- Your PIC
- The PIC of the agistment property
- NVD serial number
- Date of livestock movement

Devices can be read using an NLIS electronic scanner, such as a wand or panel reader, or by putting the animal in the crush and reading the number on the outside of the ear tag/device.

Note: If you are tagging cattle just before they are being sent on agistment it's easier to visually read the number on the tag before it's put in the animal's ear.

Buying cattle at a saleyard and sending them to an agistment property

You must provide the saleyard operator or the stock and station agent with the PIC of the agistment property (not your own PIC) when sending cattle on agistment directly after their purchase from a saleyard.

This ensures that the destination property of the cattle is accurately recorded in the NLIS database.

Remember that the records in the NLIS database are important because they provide information about where cattle are located and where they have been.

Selling cattle straight off an agistment property

You must provide an NVD printed with the PIC of the agistment property. You cannot use your own property's NVD.

How long do I need to keep records of the movement?

All NLIS movement documents need to be kept for 7 years.

More information

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

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

NLIS database helpdesk: info@integritysystems.com.au or 1800 683 111

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA): [Livestock Production Assurance \(LPA\) | Integrity Systems](#)
or email info@integritysystems.com.au or 1800 683 111

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