

NLIS (Sheep and Goats): agistment requirements

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Systems, Intelligence and Traceability Unit, Orange

NLIS

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's scheme for the identification and tracing of livestock.

The NLIS (Sheep and Goats) is a mob based system that links animals with the properties on which they have run.

Properties are identified by a property identification code (PIC) and movements between PICs are recorded in the NLIS database.

The NLIS allows movements to be traced during a disease outbreak or food safety incident. The NLIS also helps NSW and Australia to maintain access to key export markets.

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

The NLIS relies on:

- tagging of sheep or goats before they leave the property on which they were born
- movement documents that accompany the sheep/goats when they move which record details such as date of movement, number and type of sheep/goats, PIC they have just left and the PIC on their ear tags
- recording each mobs' movement in the NLIS database.

The NLIS database provides information and reports which allow the rapid tracing of sheep and goats, i.e. what property they are currently on, the properties they have been on and the other sheep and goats they may have been in contact with.

All mob-based movements of sheep and goats must be recorded on the NLIS database.

Permanent identification of sheep and goats – NLIS ear tags

All sheep and goats must have NLIS ear tags attached before they are sent to an agistment property. The tags may be:

- breeder tags for sheep/goats born on your property, or
- the tags already attached if you purchased the sheep/goats, or
- your property's pink post-breeder tags if you want to retag bought in sheep/goats or if the bought in stock have lost their tags. Any original breeder tags must not be removed.

Any lambs/kids born on the agistment property must be tagged with breeder tags printed with the agistment property's PIC.

If it is not practical to tag lambs/kids on the agistment property the lambs/kids can be moved untagged with their mothers to another property using a permit from [Local Land Services](#).

When tagged on the other property they must be identified with either breeder tags with the agistment property's PIC, or post-breeder (pink) tags for the property on which they are being tagged.

Any sheep/goats that lose their tags while on the agistment property must be tagged with the agistment property's pink post-breeder tags.

Remember: it doesn't matter who owns the stock – the tags relate to the property, not the owner.

Property Identification Code (PIC)

Make sure you know the:

- PIC of your property, and
- PIC of the agistment property.

NLIS movement documents

Sheep and goats must be moved with either of the following correctly completed documents:

- National Vendor Declaration and Waybill (NVD), or a
- Transported Stock Statement.

Obtain NVDs from Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) and TSS from Local Land Services.

Movements of sheep and goats into NSW also require a [Sheep/Goat Health Declaration](#).

Recording the movement in the NLIS database

When you send sheep/goats on agistment the owner, or person in charge of the stock at the agistment property, is responsible for ensuring the movement to the agistment property is recorded in the NLIS database.

The stock owner and the agistor must agree who will record the movement of the stock to the agistment property. The movement must be recorded within 2 days of the stock arriving at the agistment property.

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

If you are unable to record the movement information you can arrange for a third party such as a stock agent or contractor to do the recording for you. However it is still up to you, as the owner of the sheep or goats, to ensure the movement is recorded in the NLIS database.

When the sheep/goats return from agistment to the property they came from, it is your responsibility as the stock owner to enter the movement on the NLIS database.

If stock moving from agistment don't go back to their original property, the person receiving the stock, i.e. the abattoir or saleyard operator, or the new owner, is responsible for entering this movement on the database.

For further information or assistance contact the NLIS Database Helpdesk on 1800 654 743 or nlis.support@mla.com.au

Buying sheep/goats to send to an agistment property

You must provide the saleyard or selling agent with the PIC of the agistment property the sheep/goats are moving to, not your own PIC.

Selling sheep/goats off an agistment property

The sheep must be accompanied by an NVD printed with the PIC of the agistment property.

Do not use your own property's NVD and PIC.

You must record all the different PICs on the ear tags of the sheep in the mob on the NVD in the 'Brand / Ear tag / PIC' column. Alternatively, you can tag all the sheep/goats with the pink post-breeder tag of the agistment property.

If the sheep/goats are sold via a saleyard or go to a feedlot or abattoir, the movement will be recorded on the NLIS data base for you.

If the sheep/goats are moved to another property the new owner of the sheep/goats should record the mob's movement to the new property on the NLIS database. However, it is a good idea to check the database to see if the movement has been recorded off your property.

Remember: The information required is about where the sheep or goats have been, not about who owns them.

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

NLIS movement documents such as an NVD must be kept for 7 years.

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

NLIS database service at www.nlis.com.au or 1800 654 743

Local Land Services: <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/>

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA): 1800 683 111 or email lpa@mla.com.au

For updates go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/factsheets

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