

NLIS Cattle: agistment requirements

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NLIS

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) enables cattle movements to be traced from birth through to slaughter.

The NLIS database requires accurate information to be recorded about where cattle are currently located and where they have been.

It is crucial that all cattle movements to and from agistment properties are recorded in the NLIS database. The NLIS database contains important information on movements and the location of cattle, but not who owns the cattle.

Properties are identified by a property identification code (PIC) and the movement of cattle between PICs is what is recorded in the NLIS database.

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

Permanent Identification of cattle

All cattle, including calves and bulls, must have NLIS devices attached before being leaving a property and being sent to an agistment property.

Approved devices are either an NLIS Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) attached to the right ear, or a rumen bolus/ matching ear tag combination.

Other than rumen boluses (inserted into the rumen), breeder devices are white and post-breeder devices are orange.

Breeder devices are attached to cattle born on your property.

Post-breeder devices are attached to bought-in cattle that haven't been identified or for cattle that have lost their devices while on your property.

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

NLIS responsibilities on the agistment property

Arrangements should be made prior to delivering cattle to an agistment property to ensure that the owner or manager of the property 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 eDecs (a web based printable LPA NVD) for cattle moved or sold from the agistment property.

Note: NLIS devices must be printed with the PIC of the property on which the cattle were born (breeder device) or be printed with the PIC of the property on which the cattle are tagged (post-breeder device).

NLIS movement documents

Cattle must travel with a fully and correctly completed NLIS movement document such as an NVD or Transported Stock Statement (TSS), details of which are:

- Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) 'NVD and Waybill' and the LPA 'eDec' (available from <https://www.mla.com.au/lpa>), and
- LPA electronic NVD ('eNVD') (available at <https://lpa.nlis.com.au> or from licensed eNVD software providers)
- TSS are available from [Local Land Services](#)

Recording the movement in the NLIS database

The owner of the cattle, or the person in charge of the cattle at the agistment property (if this has been agreed), is responsible for ensuring that the movement of the cattle to the agistment property is recorded on the NLIS database.

This must be done within 2 days of the movement occurring.

The agistment property owner or manager must provide the PIC of the property to the owner of the agisted stock to allow the recording to be done.

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 information electronically. To do this, you need to have a database account: you can apply online at www.nlis.com.au

Note: it can take up to 7 days for your account details to be verified and your password to be issued.

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

Required information when recording the P2P movement in the NLIS database

NLIS ID (visual number printed on the outside of the ear device) or RFID electronic microchip number of each animal being transferred

- Your PIC
- The PIC of the agistment property
- National Vendor Declaration (NVD) serial number
- Date of livestock movement

Ear 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 off the outside of the ear 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 information in the NLIS database is important because it provides information about where cattle are 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 records need to be kept for 7 years.

Note: The Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017 requires that all movements of cattle to agistment or other properties are recorded in the NLIS database. Prior to moving you must ensure all cattle are properly identified with an NLIS device (ear device or rumen bolus) and that an NVD or TSS accompanies the cattle when they are moved.

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 service: www.nlis.com.au or 1800 654 743

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

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

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