

# NLIS Cattle: identification and movements

July 2017, Primefact 1575, first edition  
Systems, Intelligence and Traceability Unit, Orange

## The NLIS

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's scheme for the identification and tracing of livestock. The NLIS protects and enhance Australia's reputation as a producer of quality beef that is free of chemical residues and exotic diseases.

The NLIS uses approved ear devices or rumen boluses and requires the reporting of all movements of cattle in the NLIS database. This enables cattle to be traced from birth to slaughter.

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

## Producers' NLIS responsibilities:

1. Identifying all cattle with an NLIS approved permanent identifier before they leave their property of birth.
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 (P2P movements).
4. Keeping records of all cattle movements for a period of 7 years.

## Identifying all cattle with an NLIS approved permanent identifier

Each animal must be properly identified with a permanent identifier prior to leaving its property of birth or any subsequent property.

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.

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.

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 have two numbers:

1. Printed on the outside of the device is the NLIS ID number, including 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 the 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 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:

- LPA National Vendor declaration (NVD) and Waybill, or eDec (web based printable version of the LPA NVD),
- electronic or eNVD (available from the LPA Service Centre <https://lpa.nlis.com.au>) or through licensed eNVD software providers, or
- A transported stock statement (TSS).

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 involves identifying each of the cattle being moved, scanning or reading the RFID or NLIS number and recording the movement between different PICs in NLIS the database.

Cattle property to property movements must be recorded in the NLIS database and include:

- 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

- movements to and from a show or other sporting event

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 show the organiser of the show or campdraft or rodeo or other 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

### How to record property-to-property (P2P) movements?

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](http://www.nlis.com.au)
2. Authorising a third party contractor to transfer on your behalf. The nominated third party will require an NLIS database user account.

P2P movements must be recorded in the NLIS database within two days of the movement to the next property.

### Keeping records of livestock movements

Buyers and sellers of cattle must retain NVDs for 7 years, agents 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 entity.

While amalgamating 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:  
<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](http://www.nlis.com.au) or 1800 654 743

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

For updates go to  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/factsheets](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/factsheets)

---

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development, 2017. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2017). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent advisor.

ISSN 1832 6668

PUB17/451