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Stock Diseases Regulation 2009 - Pigs

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Introduction

In NSW the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* provides the legislative basis for the control of stock diseases. The *Stock Diseases Regulation* supports the Act through provisions which control disease testing, vaccination and the movement of stock. It also prescribes systems for the identification and tracing of stock, permits for moving stock out of quarantine areas, prohibits the feeding of certain substances to pigs and ruminants, and identifying penalty notice offences.

The *Stock Diseases Regulation 2004* was repealed on 1 September 2009 and has been replaced with the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*. Some clauses of the regulations are supported by a set of Director General Orders which provide more specific detail for those clauses. These are printed in the NSW Government Gazette. This Primefact explains the sections of the regulation and associated Orders that apply to pigs.

Web links for the complete Stock Diseases Regulation 2009 and to the Orders contained in the 2009 NSW Government Gazette no 131 are listed at the end of this document.

Identification of pigs

Under the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009* pigs are classified as *identifiable stock* and it is mandatory for pigs (and their carcasses) to be identified with the *relevant identification particulars (Part 3, Division 2, Subdivision 1, and Clause 17)*

Relevant identification particulars means:

- In relation to pigs, the property identification code (PIC) of each property or a truncated version of the PIC assigned to the property by the local Livestock Health and Pest Authority.

Permanent identifiers for pigs

In NSW the permanent identifier for pigs is the registered swine (tattoo) brand. This is a truncated version of the PIC. For example if the PIC is NA471234, then the swine brand is 471234. Details of the brand are outlined in the 2009 NSW Government Gazette No.131 Schedule 1 (5147).

A brand that complies with the following specifications is approved as a permanent identifier for pigs.

- The brand is a maximum width of 53 mm.
- Brand characters correspond to the property identification code or a truncated version of that code.
- Each character is at least 20 mm high and the spacing between each character is 2–3 mm.
- Brand characters are set out in 2 rows with an equal number of characters in each row.

Use of permanent identifiers for pigs

The 2009 NSW Government Gazette No 131 Schedule 2 (5148) lists the 'Manner of attachment and use of permanent identifiers for pigs'.

In brief the swine brand must be applied and used as follows:

- by using a carbon based ink or paste
- so that the brand characters penetrate the skin over one or both shoulders
- so that all brand characters are clearly visible
- the brand is only applied to pigs from a property to which the brand is registered.

Exemptions from the need to identify pigs

Exemptions from the requirement to permanently identify pigs are listed in 2009 NSW Government Gazette No 131 (5142). These exemptions include:

- pigs that weigh less than 25 kg
- where pigs are moved from one property to another but there is no change of ownership
- where facilities are unsuitable for branding and approval has been obtained from a Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) inspector to brand pigs upon arrival at other property, saleyard or abattoir.
- where pigs are sent directly to an agricultural show and return to the home property within 14 days.
- where pigs are exhibited at an animal display that is licensed under the Exhibited Animals Protection Act
- emergency situations that necessitate urgent movement of the pigs to another place.
- carcasses being disposed of at a waste management facility that is authorised to take animal carcasses.

Note: When a national industry standard is developed for the identification of pigs that weigh less than 25 kg, the exemption from the requirement to identify these pigs will be removed.

Pigs at saleyards

Information in relation to pigs at saleyards is contained in Part 3, Division 2, Subdivision 4, Clause 29 of the Stock Diseases Regulation 2009.

Primary responsibility for the correct identification of pigs at saleyards and for the provision of the correct information in relation to those pigs rests with the owner of the pigs.

Pigs to be sold through the saleyards should be branded with a registered swine brand and accompanied by a PigPass NVD with a unique serial number that lists:

- the number and type of pigs
- the date the pigs left the property before being sent to the saleyard
- the PIC of the previous property
- the swine brand on the pigs.

This PigPass NVD should be presented to the stock and station agent upon arrival of the pigs at the saleyard.

It is an offence for a stock and station agent to sell pigs that are not correctly identified, or that are not accompanied by an original PigPass NVD.

Pig owners who do not comply should be referred to their local LHPA ranger, who may apply the crown brand to the pigs for that sale and provide an emergency PigPass NVD.

Before any sold or unsold pigs leave the saleyard, the person who has bought or taken possession of the pigs must provide a destination property identification code to the agent.

Copies of the PigPass NVD should be kept by the vendor and purchaser for 7 years and by the agent for 2 years, and produced for inspection by an inspector if requested.

Pigs at abattoirs

Information in relation to pigs at abattoirs is contained in Part 3, Division 2, Subdivision 4, Clause 30 of the Stock Diseases Regulation 2009.

Primary responsibility for the correct identification of pigs at abattoirs and for the provision of the correct information in relation to those pigs rests with the owner of the pigs.

Pigs to be sold to the abattoirs should be branded with a registered swine brand and accompanied by a PigPass NVD with a unique serial number that lists:

- the number and type of pigs
- the date the pigs left the property before being sent to the abattoir
- the PIC of the previous property
- the swine brand on the pigs.

It is an offence for an abattoir owner or manager to slaughter pigs that are not correctly identified or that are not accompanied by an original PigPass NVD.

Pig owners who do not comply should be referred to their local LHPA ranger, who may apply the crown brand to the pigs for slaughter and provide an emergency PigPass NVD.

Copies of the PigPass NVD should be kept by the vendor for 7 years and by the abattoir for 2 years, and produced for inspection by inspector if requested.

Pigs arriving at a property

Information in relation to pigs arriving at a property is contained in Part 3, Division 2, Subdivision 4, Clause 31 of the Stock Diseases Regulation 2009.

This clause refers to situations where pigs are transported to another property and there is a change of ownership of the pigs.

Primary responsibility for the correct identification of the pigs and provision of the correct information in relation to those pigs rests with the owner of the pigs.

Pigs to be sold and transported to another property should be branded with a registered swine brand and accompanied by a PigPass NVD with unique serial number that lists:

- the number and type of pigs
- the date the pigs left the property before being sent to the saleyard
- the PIC of the previous property
- the swine brand on the pigs.

This PigPass NVD should be presented to the new owner of the pigs upon arrival of the pigs at the current property.

Copies of the PigPass NVD should be kept by the vendor and the new owner for 7 years, and produced for inspection by an inspector if requested.

*Note: Where pigs are transferred to another property as part of normal farm management and there is **no** change of ownership they do not have to be branded but they must be accompanied by a PigPass NVD.*

Feeding of prohibited substances to pigs

Information in relation to the feeding of prohibited substances to pigs is contained in Part 6, Clause 71 of the Stock Diseases Regulation 2009.

The following substances are prescribed as prohibited substances in relation to pigs.

- Any carcase or part of a carcase (including meat, offal, tissue, blood or bone) of any bird or mammal. However, provision has been made for situations where, under veterinary supervision, the practice of feedback of certain carcase material to pigs has a role in developing herd immunity to some diseases. This material must originate on the farm in question and farmers are advised to have written documentation from their veterinarian (to confirm they are acting under instructions).
- The excreta of any bird or mammal (other than that of a domestic pig born on the property on which the pigs are to be fed are held). Provision has been made for situations where, under veterinary supervision, the practice of feedback of excreta for disease control is allowed. The excreta must originate on the farm in question and farmers are advised to have written documentation from their veterinarian (to confirm they are acting under instructions).
- Any household, commercial or industrial waste (including garbage or surplus foodstuffs) that contains meat or meat products. Exemptions to this section include non-meat bakery waste; fruit, vegetable or legume waste; vegetable oil or oilseed waste.

- Any substance that has come into contact with a prohibited substance through storage in, collection or transport in, or being fed from, a container that contains or has held a prohibited substance.

In brief it is an offence to feed meat or meat products or anything that contains meat or has been in contact with meat to pigs.

The only exemptions to this are:

- tallow or gelatine.
- manufactured dry dog or dry cat food
- dry meal derived from meat, blood, bone or feathers; that have been produced in compliance with AS 5008-2007, *Hygienic rendering of animal products*.

Note: Tallow refers to rendered fats and oils from any animal, or may consist of used cooking oil that has been filtered or otherwise treated to remove visible particulate matter, and complies with a specification of 2% maximum moisture plus insoluble impurities as measured with the official measuring methods of the American Oil Chemists' Society (Clause 70).

Further information

The complete Stock Diseases Regulation 2009 and the associated orders from the NSW Government Gazette can be found at:

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/about/legislation-acts/stock-diseases>

The official measuring methods of the American Oil Chemists' Society are available from their website:

<http://www.aocs.org>

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