

# BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

## Biosecurity Regulation 2017

### National Livestock Identification System

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) provides traceability of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs from property of birth to slaughter for biosecurity, food safety, product integrity and market access purposes. It is crucial that the integrity of the system is maintained so livestock are easily traced in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak.

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) repealed the *Stock Diseases Act 1923* and the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*. The Act, the *Biosecurity Regulation (the Regulation) 2017* and the *Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017 (NLIS Regulation)* now provide the legislative support for the NLIS. While the Act contains new legislative terms and powers, the requirements of the NLIS Regulation are very similar to those of the former *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*.

#### What stays the same?

- All owners of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs (identifiable stock) must ensure stock are identified before moving from their property of birth and subsequent properties.
- All movements of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs must be accompanied by an NLIS movement document (e.g., National Vendor Declaration or transport stock statement).
- All movements of cattle, sheep and goats must be recorded in the NLIS database.
- The cattle-tracing system is an individual electronic identification system.
- NLIS Sheep and Goats and NLIS Pigs are mob-based tracing systems.

#### What's new?

- The definition of cattle has been expanded to include American bison or buffalo and domestic water buffalo. These breeds are included in the NLIS as cattle, which means they must be properly identified with NLIS permanent identifiers. They are no longer subjects of a license or registration schemes.
- Some exemptions from NLIS requirements that were contained in separate orders published in the *Government Gazette* are now incorporated into the NLIS Regulation.
- A small number of livestock movements that were subject to exemptions will need permits under the new NLIS Regulation.
- Agents now only have two days, (not seven) to move cattle, sheep and goats off their agent property identification code (PIC) to the destination PIC.
- Property-to-property (P2P) movements must now be recorded by the owner of the stock in the NLIS database within two days, not seven.
- Stock event operators must record movements of stock to and from a show or other event in the NLIS database. Stock event operators can use 'sighted livestock' function on the NLIS database for cattle at events for less than three days.
- Operators of a goat depot must be registered and record in the NLIS database within two days of all movements of goats onto and off the depot to the destination PIC for goats sold at the depot, or otherwise moved from the depot.
- Cattle scale operators must record all movements of cattle coming into the scale and their movement to a saleyard, abattoir or other property within certain timeframes in the NLIS database.

#### For more information visit

W [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurityact) E [biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
1800 808 095

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- Special pig identifiers are no longer dealt with by an order. Information can be found in the Group Permit part of NSW DPI Biosecurity Legislation page.
- camelids
- deer
- equines
- small poultry (100 or more) and large poultry (10 or more).

### Responsibilities under the NLIS Regulation

- Authorised officers can assign, amend or change a PIC or device status on the NLIS database in respect of identifiable stock if they know or reasonably suspect that the stock is chemically affected, or the stock poses a biosecurity risk.
- Authorised officers can change this status when they are subsequently satisfied that the stock was not chemically affected or no longer poses a biosecurity risk.
- Authorised officers can give an individual direction to require an owner or person in charge of identifiable stock to properly identify the stock.
- The owner of any identifiable stock must ensure the stock is properly identified.
- The operator of any business which provides information to the NLIS database must ensure there are systems in place to ensure the information provided is accurate and that any inaccurate information is promptly corrected.

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services will continue to maintain the State and District registers respectively.

### Property Identification Codes

Property identification codes (PICs) are required for land where one or more of any of the following animals are kept in captivity.

- cattle
- sheep
- goats
- pigs

A PIC can be obtained from Local Land Services. It is the responsibility of the owner of the stock, and the owner or occupier of the property where stock is located, to ensure the property has a PIC.

Any changes to PIC information such as name, location of property, and name, address, postal address, email and phone details must be given to the district registrar by the relevant person (PIC manager) within 14 days.

### The general biosecurity duty and NLIS

The general biosecurity duty requires that anyone who deals with biosecurity matter, such as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, and who knows or reasonably should know of the associated biosecurity risks must take measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise those risks as far as is reasonably practicable.

For example, the owner of livestock should ensure that all stock sent to a saleyard is properly identified with approved NLIS tags or devices and are free of disease.

Your general biosecurity duty can be discharged by complying with the NLIS Regulation and by following industry standards, codes of practice, guidelines or other NLIS advisory material.

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