

National Livestock Identification System - Procedure for Pigs

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Scope:

This procedure applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office within the Department of Regional NSW, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their roles as authorised officers enforcing the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

This procedure is relevant to all NSW DPI staff working with or advising producers with pigs. The information contained in the document is also relevant to other LLS staff.

Management of the biosecurity risk

The purpose of this procedure is to describe the minimum requirements for the identification and movement of pigs under the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Pigs in accordance with the Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017 (the NLIS Regulation).

The NLIS links animals with the properties on which they have been on. This is crucial to traceability for emergency disease response and market access.

Biosecurity legislation summary

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) underpins access of Australian livestock products to international markets. NLIS allows for traceability of livestock through a combination of permanent identifiers, movement documents and database records.

The NLIS database holds information on livestock movements from birth to slaughter, to protect and enhance Australia's reputation as a producer of animal products that are free of chemical residues and exotic diseases.

NLIS devices with a Property Identification Code (PIC) are required to be attached to all livestock and all properties with livestock should have a PIC.

In NSW the NLIS is supported by the [Biosecurity \(NLIS\) Regulation 2017](#), which forms the NLIS regulatory framework. The NLIS is endorsed and supported by all sectors of the cattle, sheep and goat and pig industries including producer, stock and station agent, saleyard, feedlot and processor peak industry bodies.

Any person who deals with cattle, sheep, goats and pigs and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with these livestock has a general biosecurity duty to take measures to

prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. This is called the general biosecurity duty and is met by following the NLIS Regulation, Industry Standards or by following other advisory or education material.

The collection, use and disclosure of information in accordance with this procedure, including any internal or external discussion or distribution of information, must be in compliance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or be exempted by the operation of section 387 of the Act.

Section 387 (2) of the Act provides authority for the disclosure of information about a person, without the consent of the person: to a public sector agency, or to any other person, but only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function.

Work health and safety

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI and LLS) as a person conducting a business or Undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe Work Method Statements that support activities included in this procedure must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this procedure.

Users are reminded of the need to follow safe work practice when applying any techniques described in this publication. This includes identifying, assessing and managing any work health and safety risks.

National Livestock Identification System – Pigs

Introduction

NLIS Pigs is a mob-based tracing system. It includes permanent identification of pigs with a brand or NLIS approved ear tag indicating the property identification code (PIC) of the property the pigs are moving from, movement documents (PigPass National Vendor Declaration (NVD)) that accompany the pigs, and recording the movement in the PigPass database. This data feeds directly into the NLIS database.

Traceability for pigs is focussed on tracing back to the previous property for acute disease (such as classical swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease) and product integrity (such as antibiotic residues) purposes.

1. Roles and responsibilities

1.1 NSW DPI Biosecurity and Food Safety authorised officers

- provide training for authorised officers
- provide educational material to the pig industry and the community about their requirements in NSW under NLIS Pigs.
- provide and monitor statistical and compliance reports which highlight NLIS non-compliance issues in the supply chain
- assist with NLIS Pigs compliance and tracing activities

1.2 Local Land Services

- District registrars assign PICs and pig brand numbers and maintain district registers of PICs and swine brands.
 - They may also sell 'special/emergency' NLIS post-breeder tags printed with the LLS District code and authorise other persons to supply and/or apply these tags to pigs i.e., at a saleyard or abattoir.

1.3 Authorised Officers

- Authorised officers in saleyards monitor compliance with NLIS requirements by vendors, agents and buyers, and take appropriate regulatory action where non-compliance is detected.

Authorised officers:

- apply 'special' or 'crown' brands, or supply or sell 'special/emergency' NLIS post-breeder tags as required
- advise on NLIS requirements and promote branding requirements and good branding practices for pigs of 25 kg live weight or more,
- advise on NLIS ear-tagging requirements for pigs less than 25 kg live weight, and
- advise on the need to provide a correctly completed PigPass NVD.
- NSW DPI authorised officers may assist LLS authorised officers with breach investigations and prosecutions on request.

1.4 Producers / vendors

- Producers must ensure that all pigs are correctly identified with a permanent identifier for pigs, i.e., an NLIS approved ear tag for pigs below 25 kg liveweight, and a swine brand for pigs heavier than 25 kg liveweight or more, when they leave their property of birth, or subsequent property. NLIS ear tags may also be used to identify pigs weighing 25 kg or more.
- Producers must provide relevant information about the stock and where they have come from in an approved form of NLIS movement document, either a PigPass NVD or a Transported Stock Statement (TSS) (used for property to property (P2P) movements only).

1.4.1 Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ✓®)

- The **Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ✓®)** is the pork industry's on-farm quality assurance program that underpins the information supplied on the PigPass NVD. On-farm quality assurance (QA) programs help verify that good agricultural practices for management, food safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and traceability are followed on farm and that industry best practice and government requirements are met. APIQ✓® is a voluntary program. See: [APIQ | Australian Pork](#).
- Currently for APIQ✓® accredited producers some exemptions may apply in NSW from identification of pigs and the requirement that pigs be accompanied by a PigPass NVD when they move.
- The NLIS Regulation currently allows that where pigs move to another PIC and ownership does not change, (excluding movements to shows/events and saleyards) such movements will not require that the pigs be identified provided that:
 - traceability back to the last property of residence is maintained on the NLIS database
 - the property from which the pigs have come and the property to which the pigs are moving are both currently accredited by APIQ✓®, and
 - the movement of the pigs is recorded in the PigPass database within two working days.
- Note that the exemption from identification for APIQ✓® producers may change with the next review of the NLIS Regulation.

1.5 Stock and station agents

Stock agents must ensure that they do not sell pigs that are not correctly identified or that are not accompanied by an NLIS movement document, otherwise they may be committing an offence.

- when a producer books pigs in for sale, the agent should advise and confirm with the producer that the pigs are or will be correctly identified (brand or ear tag) before consignment and that an NLIS movement document (PigPass NVD) will be provided
- if the pigs cannot be identified or a movement document obtained in time, the agent should advise the producer to defer the sale
- a selling agent should check before the sale starts that their client's pigs have been branded (if heavier than 25 kg), or tagged, and confirm that a movement document has been provided and completed. If not, the selling agent should determine, in consultation with the vendor, the most appropriate course of action, noting that the owner and sender may have already committed an offence and that the agent might be committing an offence if they sell unidentified pigs or if a movement document is not available.

1.6 Buyers

Buyers of pigs must ensure that they do not buy pigs that are not correctly identified as they may be committing an offence otherwise. The buyer should make pre-sale inquiries and checks to ensure that vendors are aware of the buyer's requirements and instruct a buying agent to only purchase stock that appear to be branded or tagged and are accompanied by an NVD.

1.7 Saleyard operators

The operator of a saleyard must ensure that the NVD (mob-based movement information) about all pigs sold in the saleyard is uploaded to the PigPass database by close of business on the next working day after the sale. In regards to who should upload:

- where the saleyard is owned and operated by the local Council or by a private company or individual, then the owner is responsible.
- where the saleyard is leased, for example by a stock and station agent, the lessee has responsibility.

The operator of a saleyard may delegate some or all of their responsibilities to a stock and station agent or agents, or to any other person such as a contractor. Conditions for this are:

- where a saleyard is effectively operated by one or more stock agents, each stock agent is responsible for uploading data about the pigs that they sell
- the saleyard owner must have a written agreement with the stock agent(s) to ensure this responsibility is clear.

The saleyard operator must have a PIC, be registered with PigPass as a saleyard with their account linked to the saleyard PIC, and the functionality to upload mob movements of pigs to the PigPass database:

- a contractor for more than one saleyard may use the same database account provided they use the correct PIC for each saleyard.

1.8 Abattoirs

The operator of an abattoir must ensure the prescribed mob-based movement information about all pigs slaughtered is uploaded to the PigPass database within the prescribed timeframe, which is COB next working day after slaughter.

The abattoir must be registered with PigPass and have an abattoir account which is linked to the abattoir PIC.

2. PICs, swine brands and NLIS ear tags

A PIC is required to obtain a PigPass NVD and to otherwise meet the requirements of the NLIS Regulation. If a property does not have a PIC, the owner or occupier of a property, or the owner or person in charge of stock on a property, must apply to Local Land Services for a PIC.

Every swine brand must relate to the PIC of the property on which the pigs are branded.

The pig/swine brand/tattoo number is a derivative of the PIC, having the same six numbers. For example, if the PIC is NA471234, the swine brand is 471234. Note:

- an enterprise with a number of breeding or growing units may be assigned a separate PIC and brand for each unit
- a brand cannot be transferred to or used on a different property with a different PIC
- if a PIC is inactive or cancelled, the brand is also cancelled. However, a brand may be cancelled while the PIC remains active (for example, if the property no longer carries pigs but has other livestock).

Guidelines for recording swine brands in FARMS are provided in Appendix 1.

NLIS Pigs approved ear tags are printed with the PIC of the property, the NLIS logo and a 'P' in a circle. They can be purchased from local rural supply stores or other tag resellers.

Breeder tags are yellow and indicate that the pig has been bred on the property on which the tag is attached. Post-breeder tags are orange and indicate the pig was bred on another property and may have lost its original tag.

3. Offences

Compliance action by NSW DPI and LLS authorised officers under the NLIS Regulation may include warnings, penalty notices, or prosecution.

Requirements set out in Part 2 (Identification Codes), Part 3 (Permanent identification of stock), Part 4 (Information requirements – stock transactions), and clauses 57 and 59(1) of the NLIS Regulation are mandatory measures.

A person who is guilty of an offence against section 25 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* because of a contravention of any mandatory measure may be liable for a penalty of \$220,000 for an individual and \$440,000 for a corporation.

For all offences, the penalty notice fine for failing to comply with a mandatory measure is \$1,000.

4. Identification Requirements

4.1 Approved identifiers

Pigs must be identified with an approved identifier (swine brand or NLIS ear tag) for the property from which they are being kept/consigned.

Pigs that weigh more than 25 kg live weight before they leave the property must be either identified with a swine brand (preferred) or have an NLIS ear tag attached. Smaller pigs weighing less than 25kg must be identified with an NLIS ear tag

4.1.1 Brands/tattoos

The preferred form of identification for pigs 25 kg live weight or more is a swine brand (tattoo/slap brand) which contains the last six numbers of the PIC for the property they are being consigned from:

- the brand must be applied to one or both shoulders
- if the pigs have been previously moved, the producer must check for existing brands and ensure that they apply their own brand on a different shoulder or just beside the existing brand so the brands do not obscure each other
- the size of the brand and the characters are prescribed in the NLIS Regulation and must be:
 - a maximum width of 53 mm
 - each character in the PIC (or truncated version of that code) is at least 20 mm high, and
 - the spacing between each character is between 2mm and 3 mm, and
- the characters in the PIC (or truncated PIC) are set out in two rows and an equal number of characters in each row.
- it is recommended that black ink be used to brand a white pig and green ink is used to brand black pigs (ink must be carbon-based as prescribed in the NLIS Regulation)
- the primary purpose of a brand is to identify the carcass after slaughter at an abattoir, or at post mortem examination

- pigs may be consigned without a brand with the prior approval of, and issue of a permit by, an authorised officer to a saleyard or abattoir and identified with a special (crown) brand before they are sold or slaughtered – see 4.5 below.

4.1.2 NLIS Ear tags

NLIS approved ear tags are used on pigs weighing less than 25kg live weight and for larger pigs (25 kg liveweight or more) when a swine brand or special/crown brand is not available.

NLIS ear tags are printed with the full PIC of the property, the NLIS logo and a 'P' in a circle. Breeder tags are yellow and post-breeder tags are orange.

4.1.3 Supply of identifiers

A pig branding device containing a pig brand, or NLIS ear tags may only be ordered by and sold or supplied to:

- the owner or occupier of the property to which the PIC/brand is assigned
- the owner or person in charge of stock on the property to which the PIC/brand is assigned
- an authorised officer or a district registrar.

A person must not sell or supply a pig branding device or ear tags unless the brand/tag refers or relates to an active PIC:

- it is the responsibility of the person selling or supplying the branding device/ tags to confirm that the person ordering the device/tags is entitled to do so and that the PIC is active
- unless requested to do so by a manufacturer or supplier, orders for brands no longer need to be routinely approved by the district registrar.

4.1.4 Misuse of identifiers

A person must not make, sell, supply or use any thing that is not, but could reasonably be mistaken for, an approved identifier. This also prohibits a person supplying or using 'home-made' branding devices or ear tags that do not conform with the prescribed specifications.

A brand or tag must not be attached incorrectly or for any wrongful purpose. Misuse includes applying a brand or tag to an animal that is not on the property to which the PIC on the brand/tag relates (unless permitted by an authorised officer).

The branding device showing the swine brand for that property must remain with the property; it cannot be sold or disposed of, such as at a clearing sale, and cannot be taken by the original owner to and be used on another property with a different PIC.

Brands must not be altered or defaced in a way that could adversely affect their function or compromise traceability. However repair or modification recommended by the manufacturer is permitted.

An authorised officer may take possession of a branding device if there are reasonable grounds to believe the device is being sold, supplied or used in contravention of the NLIS Regulation, or is in the possession of a person who is not entitled to have ordered the device, or has been abandoned. If the device has not been claimed by the owner or occupier of the property to which the PIC is assigned within three months, the device may be disposed of by disassembling the branding device and disbanding the components so they cannot be reassembled, or by deep burial.

4.2 Small pigs

Pigs weighing less than 25 kg liveweight must not be branded. This long-standing exemption is in place to avoid the stress that may be caused by branding a smaller pig. Instead pigs weighing less than 25 kg must be identified with an NLIS ear tag.

The weight refers to liveweight at the time of consignment, sale or slaughter. Authorised officers should use discretion when determining whether a pig is exempt from branding and may estimate the weight by eye or feel (if the pig can be lifted without difficulty, it should weigh less than 25 kg). If the weight is uncertain or in dispute and prosecution action may be taken, the pig should be weighed on a scale and the measurement recorded.

Very small and pet pigs are not exempt from having an NLIS ear tag attached if they weigh less than 25 kg at the time of sale.

4.3 Feral pigs

It is unlawful to keep feral pigs in captivity or to transport feral pigs as prescribed in the *Local Lands Services Act 2013*.

There should be no circumstances in which feral pigs need to be identified or accompanied by a movement document in accordance with the NLIS Regulation.

Feral pigs that are harvested and slaughtered as game in accordance with the *Food Act 2003* are outside the scope of the NLIS Regulation.

4.4 Interstate pigs

Pigs entering NSW from another State or Territory must comply with the NLIS requirements of their State of origin while travelling within that State.

Once they move to a property in NSW they must comply with NSW NLIS requirements (before they move again).

4.5 Permanent identifiers for pigs (Special brands or ear tags)

Permanent identifiers for pigs which are applied by *authorised officers to the rump* of pigs over 25 kg are brands usually described as 'special' or 'crown' brands. Special/crown brands are used if a swine brand for the property is not readily available or is unreadable. This might occur if:

- only a few pigs are moved off the property and it is not cost-effective for the owner to have their own branding device
- a brand has been ordered, but has not yet arrived or has been damaged and has not yet been repaired, or
- the brand that has been applied to the pig is illegible.

Crown brands should not be used routinely and a person who regularly sells pigs should obtain their own swine brand. The crown brand may be applied on a property, in a saleyard or an abattoir lairage, by an authorised officer, usually to an unidentified pig.

Unidentified pigs weighing less than 25 kg liveweight must have a 'special/emergency' post-breeder tag attached printed with either the LLS district code, or the saleyard or abattoir PIC. These special post-breeder tags are also printed with a unique serial number that provides traceability.

LLS can supply 'special/emergency' post-breeder tags to producers prior to sale if the producer has no breeder or post-breeder tags available. They must be attached before the pigs move to another property, to sale, or to an abattoir.

LLS may also authorise saleyards or abattoir operators to supply post-breeder tags printed with the saleyard or abattoir PIC for use on unidentified pigs of any size. However, for larger pigs moving

to an abattoir, a crown brand is the preferred form of identification because a brand can be easily seen on the carcass of the pig.

An alternative option for unidentified pigs that arrive at saleyards and abattoirs is for the pigs to be returned to the property of origin (subject to the approval of the relevant food hygiene authority at the abattoir).

Note that LLS and saleyard operators do not allow attachment of special/emergency tags to pigs on sale day at saleyards in NSW which means the only choice may be for the pigs to be returned home.

Special brands may also be applied for compliance monitoring.

Although special branding or attaching a special post-breeder tag allows the pigs to be sold or slaughtered, it does not cancel out any breach of the NLIS Regulation and a breach investigation must be conducted.

4.5.1 Permits

An authorised officer may permit the movement of pigs without brands or NLIS tags if it is not safe to brand or tag the pigs on their property of origin. The pigs must be identified with a special brand or ear tag before they move again or are sold or slaughtered.

The decision to grant or refuse a permit can be given verbally under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, but not the permit itself. A written approval or permit will be sent to the person who wishes to move the pigs and a copy retained by the authorised officer

If the movement is across district boundaries, the approval or permit may be given by the authorised officer for the LLS district of origin or destination, depending on whether the sender or recipient of the stock applies, but each authorised officer should check with their counterpart in the other district to ensure they are aware of and concur with the movement and have not already rejected the application. The approval or permit may cover multiple movements to a specified location such as a saleyard or abattoir although it is recommended that permits be granted for single movements only.

A copy of the permit must accompany each consignment of pigs covered by the permit. The permit must be given by an authorised officer for the district. Authorised officers should refer to the 'Biosecurity- Permits Procedure' (see Section 10. Documentation) before issuing a biosecurity permit.

A generic Biosecurity permit form is available on the Department of Primary Industries website at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/managing-biosecurity/forms>

A link to the specific generic permit application form is at:

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/723617/Generic-Biosecurity-Permit-Application.pdf6

4.5.2 Supply of special brands or tags

A special brand or special/emergency post-breeder ear tag may be supplied by a district registrar, authorised officer or a person approved by the district registrar. The latter provision allows a special branding device to be supplied or lent to an authorised person such as a stock agent, saleyard operator, or abattoir operator. A special brand must not be lent to a producer for their ongoing or frequent use.

The district registrar must keep track of the brand and put in place measures to ensure that it is only used on specified pigs, that the brand is returned or accounted for after each use, and that appropriate records of use are kept.

NLIS special post-breeder pig ear tags must be printed with a serial number unique to each tag and either the district code, or saleyard PIC (if being used in a saleyard) or abattoir PIC (if being used in an abattoir).

LLS may charge for special brands and permits in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

4.5.3 Records of special brands or ear tags

Records are essential for traceability. The record must be made and kept by whomever supplies the special /crown brand or special post-breeder tag, be it the district registrar, authorised officer or an approved supplier.

The record must contain the:

- full name and business or residential address of the person to whom the special brands/tags were supplied
- full name and business or residential address of the owner of the pigs
- address and PIC of the property of origin of the pigs
- number and type of special brands/tags supplied, along with identification code and serial number on each tag
- reason for supply of special brands/tags (e.e. used in saleyard or abattoir), and
- date of supply of the special brands/tags

4.5.4 Application of special brands and post-breeder tags

A special/crown brand must be applied to the rump so that it does not obscure (or become obscured by) a brand applied on a property.

A carbon-based ink must be used. The size, specification and the characters that make up the special brand are described in Appendix 2.

Special/emergency post-breeder tags may be applied by an authorised officer, or a person approved by the district registrar e.g. at an abattoir, or the owner of the pigs prior to the pigs being moved.

4.5.5 Obtaining a special brand or ear tag

Vaucluse Livestock Equipment (<http://www.vaucluse-aps.com.au/tattoo.htm>) can supply rotating numbers and replaceable letters.

Other suppliers include: bainbridgevet.com.au and stockbrands.com.au

Special/emergency NLIS post-breeder ear tags are bought and supplied by an authorised officer, district register, or a person approved by the district registrar, and are available from tag manufacturers and resellers who sell NLIS accredited visual tags (<https://australianpork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Accredited-pig-devices-Feb-18-.pdf>)

4.6 Other circumstances

Reasonable circumstances may arise which fall outside the rules and procedures detailed in this procedure. Authorised officers may exercise with care some discretion in the use of special tags, brands and permits, on a case by case and one-off basis in consultation with:

- the LLS Team Leader or NSW DPI Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, or,
- Manager Biosecurity and Emergency Services or other LLS manager,

The provision that the authorised officer allows must be consistent with existing approved provisions and not compromise traceability. The 'exception' must be provided fairly and equitably, be covered by a permit, and must not become the 'rule'.

The record of supply of the special identifier or the permit provides for paper-based tracing.

Except as approved in legislation or this procedure, pigs must not be allowed to move without any form of identification or movement document.

5. Movement documents and records

Information about the pigs and their property of origin must be provided in the form of a PigPass NVD whenever pigs are moved, and a record of the movement retained for two years for the selling agent or three for the vendor or buyer.

Required delivery information about the pigs must be provided on arrival of the stock at a saleyard, abattoir or another property.

Movements to another property include movements to a show, between properties as part of normal management or for growing out, for live export or for any other purpose.

The required information must be provided in an approved form of NLIS movement document and includes:

- name/trading name of owner of the pigs
- the number and type of pigs
- the date the pigs left the property where the stock were last held (previous property)
- the PIC and address of the previous property
- destination property address and PIC if known
- the brand applied to the pigs (this is called the 'relevant identification particulars' in the NLIS Regulation)
- the unique serial number of the movement document
- whether the pigs have been bred by the vendor
- name and signature details of the owner/consignor.

It is an offence if any information provided on an NLIS movement document is false or misleading.

There is no requirement for a Transported Stock Statement (TSS or waybill) for pigs under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*, although a TSS can be used as an NLIS movement document.

5.1 Approved forms

Pig producers have to meet a number of statutory requirements and industry standards when moving pigs. There is a requirement to provide information about the origin, type and identification of stock for tracing purposes.

The approved forms for this purpose include:

- NVD for pigs ('PigPass NVD') that is approved periodically by Australian Pork Limited (APL) and is the preferred movement document for pigs
- TSS (available from LLS): this is accepted by PigPass
- a biosecurity permit granted under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- a stock permit (available from LLS)

- other forms that are developed by industry and meet the requirements of the NLIS Regulation may be approved in future.

Pig producers also provide information to a processor that the stock conforms with the *Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transport of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption (AS4696;2007)* in accordance with the *Food Act 2003* and *Food Regulation 2015*.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Meat Notices require abattoirs to operate in accordance with these Meat Notices. See:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3/notices>

Pig producers will also need to conform with the Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ✓®) managed by APL, if the producer is registered with that program.

The ‘PigPass’ NVD issued by APL and available from the PigPass database is the only approved form that meets all statutory requirements and pig industry standards. The PigPass NVD has the provision to record both the PIC and the brand.

PigPass NVDs are available free of charge from PigPass.

It is compulsory for vendors sending pigs to NSW abattoirs for a PigPass NVD to be supplied with the pigs. This is a direction of the NSW Food Authority.

To obtain a PigPass NVD:

- contact Australian Pork Limited (APL) at <http://www.pigpass.com.au>, by emailing helpdesk@pigpass.com.au or by phoning 1800 001 458
- a producer who is registered with PigPass can complete free electronic PigPass NVDs online, and print them as needed. Alternatively a PigPass NVD book can be purchased from APL
- because of the ability to complete and print a PigPass NVD online, APL no longer refers to or supplies ‘emergency’ PigPass NVDs
- guidelines on how to complete a PigPass NVD can be found on the PigPass web site or by phoning 1800 001 458.

A TSS that is approved in accordance with Part 9 of the *Local Land Services Act 2013* and an Australian Capital Territory (ACT) stock permit will be accepted by PigPass for the reporting of property to property movements. An image of the TSS must be uploaded to PigPass when reporting a movement with a TSS.

A TSS does not meet APIQ✓® standards or provide information required by processors about conformance with food safety standards. It is not recognised by saleyards or abattoirs.

When using a TSS, ‘Pigs’ must be specified under the details of stock. If the TSS doesn’t contain provision for a PIC of consignment, this can be written next to ‘place of loading stock’.

5.2 Record keeping

A record of prescribed information must be made and kept for a specified period of time as required by the NLIS Regulation and outlined in the following table:

Person	Record	Time
Vendor or person sending stock	Copy of movement document plus either the PIC or address of the saleyard or abattoir, or the PIC or address of the property, to which the stock are consigned	3 years

Selling agent	Copy of movement document plus PIC or address of the saleyard plus PIC or address of the property or abattoir to which the stock are sent	2 years
Buyer or person receiving stock	Copy of movement document plus PIC or address of the saleyard or previous property	3 years
Abattoir	Copy of movement document for direct consignments	2 years
Saleyard operator	Copy of movement document	2 years

The NLIS movement document which includes all of the above information, is the PigPass NVD.

This record may be retained in a number of ways:

- paper copy of the movement document provided by the vendor or sender of the stock
- electronic copy of the PigPass held on the PigPass database
- image of a TSS uploaded to the PigPass database
- record of special identifiers
- any other data management system that may be maintained by a business for commercial purposes (provided it contains all of the prescribed information).

6. Property to property movements

All pigs that are being sold, or change ownership by being given away, and moved directly between properties must be branded or tagged with an approved identifier before they leave any property.

An approved NLIS movement document containing the delivery information must be provided by the person delivering the pigs on arrival at the property (the 'current property') to the person in charge or the owner of the pigs at the current property. The person receiving the pigs must record the movement on the PigPass database within 2 days. Both persons must keep a record of this information and the PIC of the current property for at least three years.

All records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an authorised officer.

6.1 Movements between properties without change of ownership

Currently pigs do not have to be identified if they are moving directly from one property to another and the ownership of the pigs is not changing and both properties are currently accredited with APIQ✓® and the movement of the pigs is recorded in the PigPass database within two days. See Section 1.4.1.

However, if pigs are moved from breeding to growing to finishing units within an integrated operation, or to a contract grower for example, a movement document such as a PigPass NVD, or TSS, is required and the pigs must be identified.

6.2 Shows and exhibitions (stock events)

Pigs sent to a show, exhibition or field day and return to their original property must be identified by a brand or an ear tag.

A movement document such as a PigPass NVD, or TSS, is required for the trip to the show or field day and the return trip home – include “and return” on the movement document created for the movement to the show. The movement must be recorded in the PigPass database within 2 days of the movement by the operator of the show or other stock event.

6.3 Circuses, zoos

Currently pigs do not need to be identified if the animals are owned by a mobile exhibition or animal display establishment, including an animal nursery or petting zoo, which is licensed under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*, and the pigs are not moved to a saleyard or abattoir. This exemption from identification is likely to be removed when the NLIS Regulation is next reviewed.

6.4 Live export

Live pigs for export must be identified with a brand or an NLIS ear tag before leaving the previous property and must otherwise comply with requirements stipulated by the quarantine division of the DAFF.

6.5 Carcasses

Carcasses of pigs that are being disposed of at a waste management facility, or being sent to an animal display establishment as food for carnivores, do not need to be branded or tagged.

6.6 Emergencies

Pigs may be moved without brands or ear tags if they are located on a property that is affected by an emergency that necessitates the urgent movement of stock due to a flood, fire or other emergency. There is an NLIS (Emergency) group permit in place for this type of situation.

The stock may subsequently be returned directly to the original property without identification, otherwise the stock must be identified with a brand or NLIS tag assigned to the current property, or with a special brand or NLIS post-breeder tag before being sold, slaughtered or moved elsewhere. The owner of the identifiable stock must make a record of the emergency movement using an NLIS movement document.

6.7 Solutions to problems

6.7.1 No brands or NLIS ear tags

If pigs are sold and moved without brands or NLIS ear tags to another property, the new owner or person in charge of the stock must notice this on arrival and report the incident to an authorised office being an LLS Biosecurity Officer or District Veterinarian (DV). Note that an offence may have been committed. The pigs must subsequently be branded or tagged before they leave that property.

6.7.2 No movement document

If the required information is not provided in an approved form (PigPass NVD or TSS) on arrival of the pigs at a property, the owner or person in charge of the stock at the destination property must ask the vendor or person who sent the pigs to provide the form within two days.

If the vendor is unable or refuses to do so, the owner / person in charge should make their own record of the prescribed information and report the incident to an authorised officer, being an LLS Biosecurity Officer or District Veterinarian (DV). Note that an offence may have been committed.

6.7.3 PIC unknown or no PIC

If the pigs have been branded with a swine brand, the corresponding PIC should be confirmed from the PIC register.

If the pigs have been branded with a special brand, it may be assumed that the relevant records have been kept by the person authorised to apply the special brand and a record of the brand number will suffice.

If the pigs have not been branded or tagged as required by the NLIS Regulation, see section 6.7.1 above.

7. Saleyards

All pigs 25 kg liveweight or heavier must be branded before moving to a saleyard. All pigs weighing less than 25 kg liveweight must be identified with an NLIS ear tag before moving to a saleyard.

7.1 Movement documents and records

There are specific requirements for the provision, transfer and retention of traceability information about pigs at a saleyard:

- a movement document (such as a NVD or TSS) containing the delivery information must be provided by the owner or person in charge of the pigs to the selling agent on arrival of the stock at a saleyard
- the buyer must provide the PIC of the destination property to the selling agent before the stock leave the saleyard
- the selling agent must provide a copy of the movement document and the PIC or address of the saleyard (or post-sale summary with equivalent information) to the buyer within seven days
- if the stock are bought for slaughter, the buyer will require the movement document to be sent with the pigs or be electronically sent to the abattoir before the pigs are slaughtered
- the selling agent must keep a record of the movement document for at least two years
- the vendor and buyer must keep a record of the movement document for at least three years
- records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an authorised officer
- it is an offence for an agent to sell pigs that are not correctly identified or if a completed movement document has not been provided.

7.2 Mob-based movement recording

Recording the movement of pigs through saleyards, abattoirs and between properties in the PigPass database is mandatory. There is a requirement for the movement details to be uploaded into the PigPass database by close of business on the next working day after the sale. This is the responsibility of saleyard and abattoir operators, and the owner or receiver of the pigs at a property.

7.3 Solutions to problems

If pigs in a saleyard are not correctly identified, there are a number of options which will improve traceability and allow the stock to be lawfully traded. This does not cancel out an offence that may have been committed by the owner and consignor by sending the unidentified stock to the saleyard.

An authorised officer may advise on available options but must not enforce an option. In particular, the option of withdrawing stock from sale or taking them back home is the vendor's choice – an authorised officer must not order unidentified pigs to be moved.

It is difficult to read a brand on a live pig. In addition, a previously applied brand may be partially visible. The presence of fresh ink on the skin of a pig may be taken to indicate that the pigs have been appropriately branded.

7.3.1 No brands or tags

Unidentified pigs cannot lawfully be sold or bought at a saleyard.

Pigs may be consigned to a saleyard without identification only if an LLS Biosecurity Officer or District Veterinarian (DV) has given prior approval and issued a permit to cover the movement, and the pigs are identified on arrival with a special brand.

NLIS 'special/emergency' post-breeder devices for pigs less than 25 kg live weight must be obtained from LLS prior to sale and attached before the pigs move to sale. Pig saleyards in NSW do not allow pigs to be tagged on sale day. See section 4.5 (Special/emergency brands or ear tags)

7.3.2 No or incomplete movement documentation

Pigs cannot be lawfully sold at a saleyard without an approved NLIS movement document that has been fully and accurately completed

If a consignment of pigs is received without an approved NLIS movement document or with an incomplete document, the pigs should be held in the saleyard until a completed document is supplied by the vendor.

Alternatively, the vendor may choose to return the stock to the property they came from. Note that the vendor may have committed an offence for failing to provide the required delivery information in an approved form when the pigs arrived.

7.3.3 PIC unknown or no PIC

The vendor and buyer respectively must provide to the selling agent the PIC of the property that the pigs were consigned from and the property to which they are being sent.

If either party does not have a PIC they must apply as soon as possible to LLS for a PIC and provide it to the agent.

8. Abattoirs and Knackeries

All pigs 25 kg liveweight or heavier must be branded before moving to an abattoir. Pigs less than 25kg must be tagged with an approved NLIS ear tag. All pigs must be accompanied by a PigPass NVD which is provided to the abattoir operator when the stock arrives.

8.1 Movement documents and records

There are specific requirements for the provision, transfer and retention of traceability information for pigs at an abattoir.

A movement document must be provided by the owner or person in charge of the pigs to the abattoir operator on arrival of the stock at an abattoir. This person may be:

- the vendor (for direct consignments)
- a butcher or meat wholesaler (for service kills)

- a buyer on behalf of the abattoir, or
- the stock owner (for a private kill).

The person who consigned the pigs to the abattoir must keep a record of the required information for at least three years.

The abattoir operator must keep a record of the required information for at least two years. Note:

- all records must be produced for inspection if the person holding the record is requested to do so by an authorised officer
- it is an offence for an abattoir to slaughter pigs that are not correctly identified or if a completed movement document has not been provided. An abattoir may slaughter such stock for humane reasons on the direction of an authorised officer, food safety officer, animal welfare inspector or veterinary practitioner.

8.2 Mob-based movement recording

Recording the slaughter of mobs of pigs at abattoirs is mandatory and abattoirs must upload this kill data to the PigPass database by the close of business the day after slaughter.

8.3 Private kills

A private kill is where a single pig is consigned to an abattoir for slaughter and the carcass is returned to the owner of the pig for their personal consumption or use.

All properties which run livestock, including one or more pigs, are required to have a PIC which is to be obtained by the owner of the land or arranged by the owner of the livestock on that land.

8.4 Solutions to problems

8.4.1 No brands

If a consignment of unbranded pigs is received, the abattoir should notify a Food Safety Officer or DAFF officer. If the property of origin cannot be determined, the abattoir must hold the stock in lairage until slaughter is approved by that officer. An authorised officer should also be notified.

8.4.2 No or incomplete movement documentation

If a consignment of pigs is received at an abattoir without an approved movement document or with an incomplete document, the pigs should be held in the lairage until a completed document is supplied by the vendor. If this is not practical, the stock may be slaughtered with the approval of an authorised officer, food safety officer, DAFF inspector or veterinary practitioner on humane grounds.

PigPass NVDs are available from PigPass free of charge so there should be no reason why an NVD is not supplied.

8.4.3 PIC unknown or no PIC

The pig owner or vendor must provide to the abattoir the PIC of the property the pigs were consigned from. The abattoir may look up any PIC through 'Search the PIC register' or 'QuickPIC' on their NLIS database account.

Definitions and acronyms:

- **Abattoir:** Any premises used for the slaughter of stock or for the processing of carcasses of stock, including knackeries.

- **APL:** Australian Pork Limited
- **DAFF:** Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- **District code:** An identification code assigned to a Local Land Services District
- **DPI:** NSW Department of Primary Industries
- **DV:** District Veterinarian
- **FARMS:** Financial and Rural Management System – the database used by LLS to record PICs and swine brands
- **LLS:** Local Land Services
- **Movement Document:** An NLIS movement document such as an NVD or TSS.
- **NVD:** National Vendor Declaration and waybill for pigs (PigPass) issued by APL
- **PIC:** Property Identification Code
- **PigPass NVD:** The PigPass national vendor declaration that is approved by APL, being a form on which is recorded the prescribed information that must be provided when pigs arrive at a property, saleyard or abattoir. Available from PigPass.
- **PigPass Database:** A national tracking system which provides information on the movements of pigs at: <https://pigpass.australianpork.com.au/faq>
- **Property:** An area of land (including an area comprising one or more parcels of land that are proximate) that is worked as a single property. A property has a PIC.
- **TSS:** Transported Stock Statement.

Documentation:

- Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
- Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
- Policy – Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017
- NLIS procedures on DPI website
- Policy: Biosecurity - Collection, use and disclosure of (INT17/82007)
- Procedure: Biosecurity - Collection, use and disclosure of information (INT17/83863)
- Procedure: Biosecurity Permits (INT17/3898)
- Policy: Records Management (IND-I-177)
- Policy: Classified Information (IND-I-196)
- Policy: Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)

Records:

- Not applicable

Revision history:

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
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1	01 July 2017	Substantially updated to align with Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017	System, Intelligence and Traceability
2.0	20 September 2017	Updated to include NLIS Pigs requirements as per NLIS Regulation and use of 'special' brands	System, Intelligence and Traceability
3.0	April 2023	Review and update as part of Animal Biosecurity website uplift project	Animal Biosecurity, Traceability team

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Phone 1300 720 405

Email enquiries.nlis@dpi.nsw.gov.au

NSW DPI website NLIS: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nlis>

PigPass database - [PigPass \(australianpork.com.au\)](http://australianpork.com.au)

Phone: 1800 001 458

Email: helpdesk@pigpass.com.au

For general biosecurity matters:

Emergency Animal Disease hotline: 1800 675 888

Appendix 1 – Guidelines for recording swine brands in FARMS

It is essential that PICs and swine brands are correctly recorded and linked in FARMS for:

- Traceability: so a pig can be quickly and accurately traced back to the property it came from using either the swine brand/tattoo or the PigPass.
- Integrity of branding devices: Manufacturers and suppliers of swine branding devices must confirm that the PIC is active and the person ordering the device is entitled to do so. The easiest way for them to do this is from the NLIS database PIC register.
- Integrity of movement documents: applications for PigPass will be checked against the NLIS database PIC register, and any discrepancy between the brand, PIC and applicant details will result in the application being rejected and the issue referred back to the LLS for resolution.
- Compliance monitoring: using a different brand to the PIC on a PigPass suggests a misuse of the identifier.

Under the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017, a swine brand number is the same as the PIC without the first two letters, e.g., if the PIC is NA471234, the swine brand is 471234.

In FARMS, a PIC is linked to a holding whereas a swine brand is linked to a customer.

- A customer can have more than one swine brand where they have more than one holding.
- A customer can be related to a number of holdings / PICs.
- A lot or holding can only be linked to one PIC.

There are a number of reasons why a PIC and a brand might be (or appear to be) different:

- Swine brands (like PICs) used to be assigned to people rather than properties.
- They are now assigned to a customer and relate to a specific property. PICs are assigned to land at a Lot/DP holding level. Some pig producers might not appreciate this has changed and may think they are able to use a swine brand, assigned originally for use on one property, on a different property, when this is not the case.
- A number of swine brands have been assigned to different production units on a larger property. The whole property has one PIC which might or might not correspond with one of the brands.
- A producer is misquoting their brand number or PIC on a PigPass.

New swine brand

Check whether the property on which the pigs are located already has a PIC.

- If yes, assign swine a brand based on the PIC
- If no, assign a new PIC and then a swine brand based on the PIC

Existing swine brand, no PIC

Check whether the holding on which the swine brand is used is already linked to another holding identified by a PIC:

If the land has not been assigned a PIC, a new PIC needs to be issued and the customer will need to apply for a new swine brand (see 'Existing swine brand, different PIC' for how to deal with branding device).

- If no, assign a PIC based on the brand to the holding
- If yes and the brand and the PIC coincide (same 6 numbers), link the holding to that PIC.
- If yes and the brand and PIC are different, see below.

Existing swine brand, different PIC

Determine the reason for the discrepancy:

- If the swine brand was originally assigned to a different property, a new brand must be issued. The existing branding device should either be offered up by the producer or seized by an authorised officer. The producer must order a new branding device.
- If the brand is correct and a different PIC is being used by the producer, assign the PIC (if not already in FARMS) and advise the producer of the correct PIC.

Multiple brands on one holding or PIC (e.g., multiple production units on one property)

- If each unit is on a separate lot, create new holdings for each lot and assign a PIC based on the brand (assuming the brand is being correctly used). This needs to be referred to the DV for assessment and approval as usually multiple PICs are not allowed on a single property.
- If the units are on a common lot, create separate sub-lots / holdings for each unit in FARMS (though one can remain on the original holding) and assign a PIC based on the brand (assuming the brand is being correctly used). These sub lots will need to be mapped and GPS identified. Seek advice from the FARMS representatives as to how to create a sub lot to avoid errors.
- Any requests to create additional holdings, sub lots or applications for a PIC must be assessed and approved by the DV for that district to avoid impacts with disease or residue risks.

Appendix 2 – Special or crown brands for pigs

Pursuant to clause 3 and 17(8)(a) and 17(10)(b) of the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017, a permanent brand identifier for pigs that complies with the following specifications and identification particulars is a permanent identifier for pigs which can be applied to one or more sides of the rump of the pig by an authorised officer.

Specifications

1. the brand contains 4 characters:
 - a. the 1st or 4th character being a Local Land Services region letter as specified in the table below,
 - b. the 2nd and 3rd characters being two numbers each between 1 and 5 inclusive , and
 - c. the 1st or 4th character being a number between 1 and 9 or a crown symbol ; and
2. each character on the brand is at least 20mm high; and
3. the spacing between each character is between 2 and 3mm; and
4. the brand is attached to the pig by applying a carbon based ink or paste brand to one or more sides of the rump of the pig so that the characters on the brand are impressed through the skin of the pig and can be easily read; and
5. the brand is applied to the pig when the pig:
 - a. is located at a saleyard to which the property identification code (or truncated version of that code) and the Local Land Services letter on the permanent identifier has been assigned; or
 - b. is located at an abattoir to which the property identification code (or truncated version of that code) and the Local Land Services region letter on the permanent identifier has been assigned; or
 - c. is being or was moved between properties and is currently on a property to which the property identification code (or truncated version of that code) and the Local Land Services region letter on the permanent identifier has been assigned.

Local Land Services region	Letter
North West	N
Central West	W
Greater Sydney	C
Murray	H
Hunter	M
Northern Tablelands	E
North Coast	K
Riverina	R
South East	S
Central Tablelands	T
Western	V