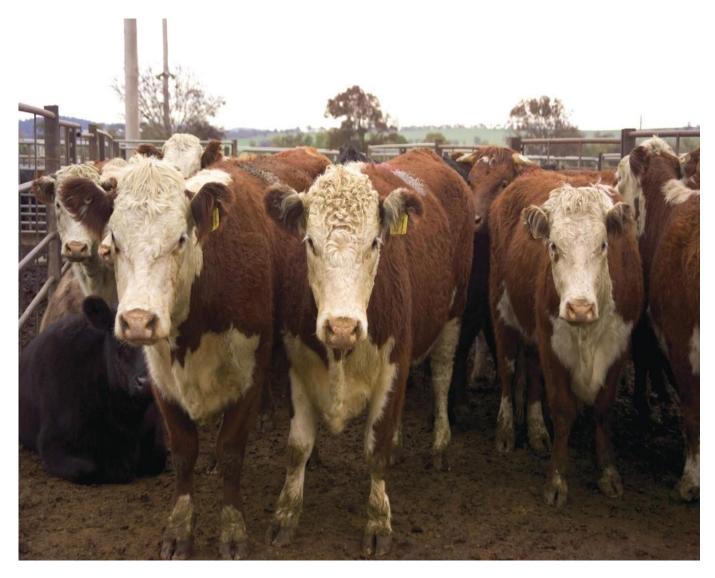# NLIS Guidelines for NSW Knackeries

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Cattle at a saleyard.
Photo courtesy of Department of Primary Industries.

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Preamble

This publication provides guidelines to knackery operators about complying with the requirements of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) whenever cattle, sheep or goats are slaughtered at knackeries in NSW. These requirements are prescribed under the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017 (the NLIS Regulation).

In summary:

- All cattle, sheep and goats must be identified with an NLIS device or tag before they are sent to a knackery and slaughtered.

- All stock must be accompanied by a completed National Vendor Declaration (NVD), Transported Stock Statement (TSS) or other approved document.

- Kill data must be uploaded to the NLIS database within 7 days.

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1. Tags

Stock owners must ensure all cattle, sheep and goats that are being consigned to a knackery are properly identified with an approved NLIS device or tag. It is an offence for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of, buy or otherwise acquire or slaughter unidentified stock.

The **vendor** should check all stock before they are loaded and replace any tags that are lost or missing.

The **knackery operator** should sight the stock as they are being unloaded at the knackery and identify any untagged stock.

- Special ('abattoir' or 'emergency') tags may be arranged through [Local Land Services](#) (LLS) and either attached to untagged stock before slaughter or linked to the body in kill records.
- If many or all stock in the consignment are untagged:
    - The stock should be held if possible until sufficient special identifiers can be obtained or slaughtered on the direction of a Biosecurity and Food Safety NSW officer on humane grounds.
    - If livestock are slaughtered without NLIS devices, the Property Identification Code (PIC) of the property from which the livestock were consigned must be determined from the NVD or TSS.
    - The knackery should notify an authorised officer at the relevant LLS office for further investigation or referral to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI).

A beast that is too large or dangerous to safely tag may be exempt from having an NLIS device with the approval of an LLS authorised officer. Such cattle must be accompanied by a stock permit issued by LLS to the knackery showing the consignment property PIC. The transport of such animals must be arranged with the knackery prior to transfer of the animal. A knackery may choose not to accept dangerous or exempt stock.

2. Vendor declarations and other NLIS movement documents

All stock movements to the knackery must be accompanied by an NVD , **TSS**, a **permit** issued by an authorised officer, or a Post Sale Summary (PSS) or Buyer's Reconciliation report issued by a saleyard

The vendor must provide the following information on the NVD or TSS:

- Property identification code (PIC) and address of the property where the journey commenced. This is pre-printed on the NVD and should be written on a TSS.
- Number and description (breed, sex, type) of the stock.
- Date of movement
- Unique serial number
- PIC or address of the destination of the stock
- A signed declaration

The **knackery operator** must confirm that a completed NVD, TSS or permit has been provided. If not, the stock should be held until a completed NLIS movement document is provided by the vendor.

It is an offence if vendors don't provide the required information, and if a knackery slaughters stock without this information. However, a knackery may slaughter such stock for humane reasons, as outlined above.

3. NLIS database uploads

The key feature of the NLIS is the ability to rapidly trace stock through the NLIS database. To achieve this, prescribed 'kill' data must be uploaded soon after slaughter by the knackery operator.

1.   Who

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The operator of the knackery is responsible for uploading kill data.

2.   When

Kill data must be uploaded by knackeries to the NLIS database as soon as possible and no later than within 7 days of the date of kill.

3.   How

Each knackery should have an NLIS database account and upload kill data directly to the database. An 'Abattoir/Processor' account can be opened online or by contacting ISC Ltd on 1800 683 111. The knackery's property identification code (PIC) and any holding paddock PICs must be linked to the account. PICs are assigned by the LLS.

The knackery may arrange for a local stock and station agent, contractor or LLS to upload kill details on a fee for service basis.

4.   Reading cattle tags

Cattle tags can be read electronically using an Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) reader and downloaded to a computer. Or the NLIS number printed on each tag (e.g., NA471234ABC00123) can be read visually and typed in.

Uploading cattle kills

There are various ways of uploading kill data about cattle to the NLIS database and each knackery may choose the method which best suits their business.

Log into your NLIS database account, select *'I want to work with Cattle',* go to *'What do you want to do today?'* then go to *'Notify the database of:'*

HINT: Go to the Help tools and download the User Guide for Processors. When using the database, read all information on the screen, click on the 'Help' button and follow all instructions.

Method 1

Use the *'Killed animals with PIC of consignment'* function and type in the following details:

- Date of kill
- Your knackery establishment number (a 6 character number starting with NK)
- Chain number (can leave as zero)
- Operator number (can leave as zero)
- Body number (starting at 1 each day)
- Property identification code (PIC) of the property or saleyard that the beast came from
- NLIS number printed on the tag
- NVD, TSS serial number

Method 2

Use the *'Livestock moved off my property'* function 'type in the details' method and enter the following details:

- NLIS number printed on the tag
- Your knackery PIC
- DECEASED as the destination PIC

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- NVD or TSS serial number
- Date of kill ('movement')

If your suppliers of cattle (e.g., saleyards, dairies) transfer the beasts to your knackery PIC on the NLIS database, you may use the 'choose from the list method' which requires you to click on each animal killed, then enter DECEASED as the PIC they are being moved to, the kill date, and leave the NVD/waybill number blank.

Method 3

Use the *'Killed animals'* function to upload a file which lists all killed animals. The file must contain the following information:

1. Your knackery establishment number (a 6 character number starting with NK)
2. NLIS number printed on the tag
3. Date of kill
4. Body number (starting at 1 each day)

Before you upload kill data, make sure that all cattle devices are transferred to your knackery PIC (Use the '*View my current holdings (processor*)' report). If devices are not registered to your knackery PIC, then transfer them from the property of consignment onto the knackery PIC using *'Livestock moved onto my property' function first and then move devices to DECEASED code'. This is the least preferred method as it captures limited data and should be used when other methods are not available.*

Method 4

Use a commercial software program to upload kill details from an RFID scanner linked to a computer with internet access directly to the NLIS database. This could be the best option if the knackery slaughters more than 20 cattle per week.

Uploading sheep and goat kills

Log into your NLIS database account, select 'I want to work with Sheep (mobs)' or 'Goats'', go to 'What do you want to do today?' then go to 'Notify the database of:'

HINT: Go to the Help tools and download the Tech Tip 'Mob kill upload'. When using the database, read all information on the screen, click on the 'Help' buttons and follow all instructions.

Use the '*Mob-based Kill'* function and type in or select the following details

- Species (sheep or goats)
- Kill date
- Processor PIC (your knackery PIC)
- Number of head killed
- Source (saleyard or direct)

For sheep or goats consigned from a saleyard:

- Saleyard PIC
- Foreign PICs (PICs which are on the tags, but not written on the NVD)

For sheep consigned directly from a property:

- Foreign PICs (PICs which are on the tags, but not written on the NVD)
- NVD or TSS serial number

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- Other PICs recorded on the NVD (for non-vendor bred sheep/goats)

- Have the stock been bred by the vendor?

- Upload image of NVD or TSS

Checking file upload status

Sometimes a file will contain incorrect or incomplete records which may trigger a warning or error which appears on the screen or in an email message.

To confirm that all information has been successfully uploaded, each knackery should log into their NLIS database account frequently and check the previous uploads using the report 'View my transaction history'. Any file statuses that are not 'Complete' must be investigated by clicking on the file upload status link (e.g., 'Error') to see details of the problems, which must be fixed and the corrected records re-uploaded as soon as possible.

The NLIS Regulation requires the information uploaded to the NLIS database to be accurate, with any inaccurate information promptly corrected.

Managing current holdings

'Current holdings' refers to active cattle devices which have been on the knackery PIC for more than 7 days. This may be because some slaughtered animals have not been uploaded as killed, or the devices have been incorrectly transferred to the knackery PIC, or the cattle are still held in a holding paddock.

Knackeries with an NLIS database account receive an automatic email every day listing all active devices in their current holdings for over 7 days, including cattle on linked holding paddock PICs. In addition, knackeries can log into their NLIS database account and run the report 'View my current holdings' which shows all devices currently assigned to the knackery and linked holding PICs, including those transferred within the last several days. The report 'Transfer history for a device' can be used to determine the source PIC, saleyard (if applicable) and NVD number for each device.

This information should be compared with purchase, kill and database transaction records at least weekly to determine corrective action which includes:

- Correcting any file upload errors and re-uploading those kill records.

- Doing a manual kill upload for those devices, if you are certain that the cattle have in fact been slaughtered.

- Contacting the relevant saleyard, dairy or feedlot and requesting that they roll-back the transfer to your knackery PIC, if you are certain that you never received those animals.

- Transferring the devices to another PIC, if the animals are still in a holding paddock or have been returned home, resold or sent to another abattoir.

- Setting the devices to inactive status, only if all other options fail.

4. Disposal of used tags

NLIS tags removed from slaughtered animals must be disposed of in accordance with the NLIS Regulation to prevent their unlawful reuse. Options are deep burial; destruction by heat treatment (such as rendering) or disposal at a waste management facility (e.g., local Council tip).

5. Records

The **vendor**, **selling agent** or **saleyard** must provide a copy of the NVD, TSS, Buyer's Reconciliation Report or PSS when the stock is delivered to the knackery.

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The **knackery operator** must keep a copy of this document for at least 2 years. The knackery must also keep a record of the number of stock slaughtered and the number held alive at the knackery at the end of each day. This record must also be kept for at least 2 years and provided on request to an inspector.

6. Compliance and performance monitoring

NSW DPI monitors the performance of knackeries from the NLIS database and provides a report to each knackery, the Biosecurity and Food Safety Compliance Unit and relevant DPI staff and management, at least quarterly. Pooled data is also provided to State/Territory and national NLIS committees to help monitor the overall performance of the NLIS.

The monitoring data assesses how well knackeries are complying with the requirements of the NLIS and whether the system is continuously improving. On a State-wide basis, it provides an overall measure of traceability and whether the NLIS as a whole is working.

More information

Using the NLIS database, including data uploads, transfer monitoring, error messages, data correction and managing current holdings:

Help tools on a processor NLIS database account

Integrity Systems Company, on 1800 683 111, email: info@integritysystems.com.au

PICs, special tags, reporting untagged stock:

Local Land Services: 1300 795 299 or https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/

NLIS rules for knackeries, compliance and monitoring:

Department of Primary Industries: 02 6391 3511 or email: enquiries.nlis@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Legislation: Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017:

Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017 - NSW Legislation

Refer - Appendix One – NLIS guidelines for NSW knackeries - checklist

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Appendix One

NLIS Guidelines for NSW Knackeries - Checklist

Knackery: Date:

Preparation:

— Obtain a knackery (abattoir) PIC and, if required, a holding paddock PIC from your LLS.

— Open a 'Processor' NLIS database account and link the knackery PIC and any holding paddock PICs to that account.

— Obtain copies of Tech Tips and other documents about database functions and reports from the Help tools on you NLIS database account.

— Arrange a supply of special/emergency (replacement) NLIS tags with the LLS.

Before slaughter:

On delivery, sight all stock for missing tags:

— Replace lost tags with special tags, or implement other systems approved by Biosecurity and Food Safety NSW Compliance Unit that maintain the link between all animals and carcases with their PIC and NVD.

— If many stock in a consignment are untagged, report the incident to an LLS inspector.

— Obtain a completed NVD or other approved document from each supplier.

After slaughter:

— Enter into the NLIS database the required information for each animal killed within 7 days.

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