

Biosecurity - Permanent Identifiers for Pigs (Special Circumstances)

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Management of biosecurity risk

The purpose of this procedure is to describe how the NSW Government will manage the situations where a Permanent Identifier for Pigs (Special Circumstances), i.e. a special ('crown' or 'emergency') brand is applied to pigs. This procedure identifies which National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) movement documents must be used, the records which must be kept by the supplier of the special brand and the specifications of this type of permanent identifier.

Scope

This procedure applies to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry and Local Land Services (LLS) involved in the administration, implementation and management of the NLIS in NSW.

Biosecurity legislation summary

The NLIS is Australia's permanent whole-of-life identification system which aims to ensure individual cattle, sheep and goats, and pigs can be traced from property of birth to slaughter for biosecurity, food safety, product integrity and market access purposes.

The NLIS is underpinned by State/Territory legislation, which forms the regulatory framework for the system. In NSW this is the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017 (the NLIS Regulation). The NLIS is endorsed and supported by all sectors of the cattle, sheep and goats and pig industries including producer, stock and station agent, saleyard, feedlot and processor peak industry bodies.

The NLIS Regulation prescribes mandatory identification and traceability requirements for pigs in NSW including:

- Part 2 - Property identification codes
- Part 3 - Permanent identification of pigs
- Part 4 - Information requirements for stock transactions (Division 1)

Any person who deals with pigs and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with pigs has a general biosecurity duty to take measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. The general biosecurity duty can be discharged 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.

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Permanent identifiers for Pigs (Special Circumstances) procedure

Introduction

Permanent identifiers for pigs (special circumstances) or special ('crown' or 'emergency') brands may be applied to pigs over 25 kg if a swine brand for the property is not readily available or is unreadable. This might occur if:

- no PIC has been assigned to the property yet
- 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.

Special brands should not be used routinely and a person who regularly sells pigs should obtain their own swine brand. The special brand may be applied on a property, in a saleyard or an abattoir lairage, or at a convenient location en route.

1. Role and responsibilities

1.1 NSW Department of Primary Industries

NSW DPI will advise LLS about the specifications and use of special brands for pigs, as well as providing policy advice to LLS and to pig producers about NLIS Pig requirements in NSW.

The NSW DPI Leader Traceability attends the NLIS Pork Advisory Committee and provides NSW input and feedback on any matters relating to NLIS Pigs.

1.2 Local Land Services

District registrars assign property identification codes (PICs) and pig brand numbers and maintain district registers of PICs and brands. They may also authorise other persons to apply special (crown or emergency) brands at a saleyard or abattoir.

LLS veterinarians and biosecurity officers regularly attend Camden and Forbes pig sales to provide NLIS and other advice and conduct NLIS compliance monitoring.

1.3 Authorised officers

Authorised officers/Biosecurity Officers in saleyards monitor compliance with stock identification requirements by vendors, agents and buyers, and take appropriate regulatory action where non-compliance is detected. Specific procedures for authorised officers are provided in the NLIS compliance monitoring and enforcement procedure.

Authorised officers:

- apply special (crown) brands as required
- advise on and promote branding requirements and good branding practices, and the need to provide a correctly completed NVD.

2. Permanent Identifiers for Pigs (Special Circumstances)

2.1 Approval and use of permanent identifiers for pigs (special circumstances)

LLS authorised officers (Veterinarians or Biosecurity Officers) may approve the movement of pigs not properly identified (i.e. without swine brands) if it is not practical to brand the pigs on their property of origin. The pigs must be branded with a permanent identifier for pigs (special circumstances) i.e. a special brand, before they are sold or slaughtered or moved again.

Approval for the movement may be given verbally and a record kept in the authorised officer's files, or a written permit may be sent to the person who wishes to move the stock and a copy retained by the authorised officer.

If the movement is across district boundaries, the approval or permit may be given by either the authorised officer for the 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 permit may cover multiple movements to a specified location such as a saleyard or abattoir.

A special brand may also be applied if unbranded pigs turn up at a saleyard or abattoir. Although special branding allows the pigs to be sold or slaughtered it does not cancel out any breach of the NLIS Regulation (clause 18) and a breach investigation must be conducted.

2.2 Supply of special brands

A special brand 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.

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.

2.3 Records of permanent identifiers for pigs (special circumstances)

Records are essential for traceability. The record must be made and kept by whoever supplies the special brand, 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 were supplied
- full name and business or residential address of the owner of the pigs
- address and PIC (if known) of the property of origin of the pigs
- class and brief description of the pigs to be identified
- type and quantity of special brands supplied
- reason for supply of special brands (if used in saleyard or abattoir)
- identification code and serial number on each special brand supplied, and
- date and place of supply of the special brands.

The record must be made by close of business on the next working day following the supply of the special brands and kept for seven years, unless the special brand is for use at a saleyard or abattoir where the record must be retained for two years.

2.4 Application of special brands

A special brand may be applied by an authorised officer, district registrar, or a person approved by the district registrar. The latter provision allows a special branding device to be supplied or lent to an approved 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.

LLS may charge for special brands and approvals in accordance with the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.

A special brand must be applied to the rump (as permitted by the Group Biosecurity Permit – Permanent Identifier for Pigs (Special Circumstances), rather than the shoulder, 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 and specification and the characters that make up the special brand are prescribed in the form Permanent Identifier for Pigs (Special Circumstances).

Both the Permanent Identifier for Pigs (Special Circumstances) form and the Group Biosecurity Permit are published on the Biosecurity page of the NSW [DPI website](#).

2.5 Obtaining a special brand

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

Drovers A1 A-One Brands (<http://www.drovers.com.au/index.html>) can supply replaceable numbers and letters. A set of numbers would have to be carried by the authorised officer and changed manually.

2.6 Movement documents

An NLIS movement document in the form of a PigPass NVD must accompany the movement of all pigs to sale, slaughter or to another property. PigPass NVDs are available from the PigPass website. See <http://www.pigpass.com.au/>.

To complete a PigPass NVD, pig producers must first register with PigPass and then create a PigPass NVD online at no cost. Alternatively a PigPass NVD book may be purchased.

For assistance with PigPass NVDs contact the PigPass helpdesk on 1800 001 458 or helpdesk@pigpass.com.au

3. Definitions and acronyms

DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
LLS	Local Land Services
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
PigPass Database	A national tracking system which provides information on the movements of pigs
PIC	Property Identification Code

4. Documentation

Procedure - NLIS pigs
Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)
Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)
Policy - Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)
Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
Procedure - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information

5. Records

Not applicable.

6. Revision History

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/27/2017	New procedure to replace the NLIS Circular 'Special (Crown) brands for pigs' in response to the Biosecurity NLIS Regulation 2017	Systems, Intelligence and Traceability

7. Contact

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