

## Biosecurity – National Livestock Identification System - Cattle

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### Scope:

This procedure applies to all cattle, including calves and American bison or buffalo (*Bison bison*) and domestic water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*).

This procedure applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their roles as authorised officers enforcing the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and District Registrars under the Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017.

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### Management of the biosecurity risk

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

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### 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 cattle 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.

The NLIS is underpinned by State/Territory legislation, which forms its regulatory framework. The NLIS is endorsed and supported by all sectors of the cattle, sheep, goat 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 cattle in NSW including:

- Part 2 - Property identification codes

- Part 3 - Permanent identification of cattle
- Part 4 - Information requirements for stock transactions
- Part 6 - Clauses 57 and 59(1).

Any person who deals with cattle and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with cattle 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 *Biosecurity Act 2015* (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.

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### **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.

## **NLIS – Cattle Procedure**

### **1. Roles and responsibilities**

## 1.1 NSW Department of Primary Industries

NSW DPI authorised officers may:

- assist LLS authorised officers with breach investigations and prosecutions on request to the Senior Veterinary Officer
- conduct compliance activities in saleyards (often in conjunction with Local Land Services) and abattoirs.

## 1.2 Local Land Services

The role of LLS authorised officers in saleyards is to:

- monitor compliance with stock identification requirements by vendors, agents, buyers and saleyard operators, and
- take appropriate regulatory action where non-compliance is detected.

LLS staff assigned to Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) are responsible for ensuring the relevant NLIS movement documentation for cattle moving onto, off and between TSRs contains the required delivery information.

- LLS staff must advise producers of NLIS compliance requirements for moving cattle onto, off and between TSRs.

Authorised officers involved in pre-export certification on behalf of the (Commonwealth) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry should check:

- the requirements of NSW legislation are being complied with, and
- provide advice on how to meet exporting legislative requirements.

LLS District Registrars

- LLS district registrars manage the allocation of identification codes and maintain the district Property Identification Code (PIC) register.

## 1.3 Vendors of cattle

Cattle vendors must ensure that their stock are properly identified with permanent identifiers (NLIS devices) before they send cattle from their property to any location:

- the primary obligation is on the owner of the stock, though any person who sends or delivers the cattle also has responsibilities
- the owner or sender may delegate another person to do the job for them, but remains responsible for ensuring that it is correctly done.

Before consignment, the owner or person in charge of the stock must:

- attach an NLIS device to each unidentified animal
- visually check that all devices are still present and replace any that are lost
- if the producer chooses to scan their cattle, then any non-reading devices should be replaced, and
- complete a National Vendor Declaration (NVD) or Transported Stock Statement (TSS) specific to the land from which the animals have been consigned, containing all relevant details of the cattle consigned including the Property Identification Code (PIC) for the property the cattle are being consigned from.

On arrival of their cattle in a saleyard, abattoir or on another property, the owner or person in charge of the stock (consignor, vendor, carrier or selling agent) must provide the PIC for the

property from which the cattle have just been sent and other prescribed delivery information, by supplying an NLIS movement document, usually an NVD or TSS.

## 1.4 Buyers of cattle

Buyers of cattle have responsibilities under the NLIS Regulation, and must ensure that:

- they do not buy cattle that are not properly identified as it is an offence to do so
- before any purchased cattle leave the saleyard, they provide the saleyard operator with the PIC for the property to which the cattle are being sent.

Producers who are buying or receiving cattle directly from another property should:

- confirm that the cattle are identified with NLIS devices before the cattle are moved, and
- obtain an NVD or TSS with the PIC of the property of origin.

Buyers of cattle must then ensure the arrival of the cattle on their property is recorded on the NLIS database within two days or before they are moved to another property, whichever occurs first.

## 1.5 Stock and station agents

Stock agents must ensure that all cattle they sell are properly identified with NLIS devices and are accompanied by a completed NLIS movement document. It is in an agent's business interests to avoid circumstances that may expose themselves and their clients to prosecution, by advising and confirming this with their clients prior to booking in the sale.

If the cattle cannot be identified, the agent should advise the producer to defer the sale or to contact their LLS office.

Once cattle arrive at a saleyard, the selling agent must check before the sale starts that their client's cattle have been consigned with NLIS devices. If none of the livestock are identified, the selling agent should determine, in consultation with the vendor, the most appropriate course of action. They may either:

- reject the mob, sending it back to the vendor's property, or
- attach relevant special/emergency NLIS post-breeder devices printed with the saleyard PIC or district identifiers, supplied from LLS staff.

*Note that the owner and sender might have already committed an offence and that the agent might be committing an offence if they sell, offer, assist, or attempt to sell cattle that are not correctly identified or if the required information has not been provided.* A selling or buying agent may act on their client's behalf by providing the saleyard operator with their client's PIC. In doing so, the agent assumes the responsibilities and obligations of the owner or person in charge of the stock in this respect.

A selling agent who is acting as the saleyard operator must record the transfer of cattle by uploading the NVD with the saleyard and their destination PIC to the NLIS database by close of business (COB) of the:

- on sale day for livestock going direct to an abattoir for slaughter
- next working day after sale for all other movements.

Selling agents acting as saleyard operators are not responsible for the actions of other agents at the saleyard.

The NVD or a copy of the NVD provided by the vendor must be kept by the selling agent for at least two years and provided to the buyer within seven days.

Agents who buy cattle on behalf of a number of clients may ask the saleyard operator to temporarily transfer the cattle on the NLIS database to their agent identification code. Agents must then transfer the cattle to a property, saleyard or abattoir within two days and advise the NLIS database.

Agents may be authorised by the District Registrar to supply special identifiers (post breeder emergency NLIS devices).

## 1.6 Saleyard operators

The operator of a saleyard (owner or manager) must ensure that relevant information about all cattle sold in the saleyard is provided to the NLIS database by COB:

- on sale day for livestock going direct to an abattoir for slaughter
- next working day after sale for all other movements.

It is the responsibility of the operator of the saleyard to comply with the NLIS Regulation. 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.

When the ***saleyard is owned and operated by the local Council***, a private company or individual, then the owner is primarily responsible for this task

When the ***saleyard is leased***, for example by a stock and station agent, the lessee has primary responsibility as the saleyard operator.

In order to provide the relevant information to the database, cattle must:

- be individually scanned
- identification particulars of each animal be matched with PICs of origin and destination, and
- an upload file created.

These services may be performed by any person, such as a stock agent, employee or contractor, but the person who is the saleyard operator remains responsible for ensuring, through proper training and supervision, that the services are carried out in an accurate and timely manner.

Each saleyard owner should have a written agreement with any stock agent(s) who lease or operate in that saleyard:

- a lessee should have a similar agreement with other stock agents
- contracts with scanning service providers should also be in writing
- the agreement or contract should nominate the person in charge of the saleyard and set out responsibilities for implementing NLIS in the saleyard
- the agreement or contract may recognise shared responsibilities.

In the absence of such an agreement, the focus of regulatory action will start with the saleyard owner and move on to the person who is deemed by an authorised officer to be the operator or person in charge or otherwise most responsible for providing the relevant information to the NLIS database.

## 1.7 Cattle Transporters

Cattle must be properly identified with NLIS devices when transported and it is an offence to send, including transfer or deliver, unidentified cattle.

All cattle must be accompanied by a correctly completed movement document in accordance with Part 9 of the *Local Land Services Act 2013* (LLS Act), such as:

- Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and Waybill,
- Electronic or eNVD (see National Vendor Declaration | Integrity System, or available through licensed eNVD software providers), or
- A Transported Stock Statement (TSS) available from Local Land Services (LLS).

Cattle offloaded en-route must be transferred on the NLIS database into and out of the transit centre if they are at the transit centre for 24 hours or more.

### 1.8 Abattoir and knackery operators

The owner or person in charge of an abattoir or knackery must ensure that relevant information about all cattle slaughtered or processed is provided to the NLIS database by COB the next working day for abattoirs and within 7 days for knackeries.

### 1.9 Exporters

Cattle being prepared for export must be properly identified with NLIS devices before leaving their property of origin. These provisions apply to:

- movements to a pre-export quarantine or holding centre, and
- movements directly to a port for embarkation.

The owner or person in charge of the cattle at the pre-export centre must:

- record their arrival on the NLIS database
- report the exportation to the NLIS database following embarkation.

## 2. General NLIS regulatory requirements

All cattle must be properly identified with an approved permanent identifier before the cattle leave the property on which they are located even if they remain in the same ownership.

This includes:

- cattle, including bobby and unweaned calves moved:
  - to a saleyard
  - to an abattoir
  - to a show or sporting event
  - between properties as part of normal management
  - for agistment
  - after being sold
  - to a travelling stock reserve
  - for live export
  - or for any other purpose.

The movement of cattle must be recorded on the NLIS database when:

- sent to a saleyard (by the saleyard operator)
- slaughtered at an abattoir (by the abattoir operator)
- moved to another property (by the owner of the stock on the next property), or

- exported (by the exporter).

Cattle do not have to be properly identified in the following circumstances:

- the cattle is a carcass that is moved directly to:
  - a waste management facility that is authorised to accept the carcass, or
  - a licensed animal display establishment within the meaning of the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*, or
- the cattle are moved:
  - to a contiguous property and will be returned to the first property within two days, or
  - to a contiguous property because the stock is grazed continuously between those two properties, or
  - to part of the same property by a route that requires the stock to leave the property, or
  - for the purposes of display under a licence or approval under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*.

Note that the circumstances outlined above where cattle can be moved without being properly identified will likely change when the NLIS Regulation is reviewed later in 2023.

## 2.1 Permanent identifiers (NLIS devices)

Each animal leaving a property must be properly identified with a permanent identifier. Approved devices are either an NLIS Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) attached to the right ear of the cattle, or a rumen bolus/ matching ear tag combination.

Breeder devices are:

- white in colour
- must only be attached to cattle that were born on that property
- provide lifetime traceable (LT) status.

Attaching breeder devices to cattle that were not bred on that property falsely implies that the cattle are traceable to their property of birth.

Post-breeder devices are:

- orange in colour
- must be attached to cattle that were not born on that property
- may also be attached to animals bred on that property where:
  - the producer is uncertain which animals were or were not born there
  - if the producer has insufficient breeder devices available, and
  - where it is easier to manage one device type such as for a town common or small property.
  - cattle with a post-breeder device attached lose LT status.

### Special Identifiers

Special identifiers are orange post-breeder devices that may be issued and used in specified circumstances.

All NLIS devices must be attached to the right ear of the animal in accordance with national standards and the manufacturer's instructions. The same applies to the matching ear tag to a rumen bolus. If the right ear is damaged, a device may be attached to the left ear instead.

### Removal of identifiers

Once attached, an NLIS device must not be removed unless approved by an authorised officer in the following circumstances:

- more than one identifier is attached to an animal
- an identifier is incorrectly attached (e.g. to the wrong ear or back to front)
- the identifier cannot be read electronically
- an incorrect identifier has been attached (such as a breeder device instead of post-breeder, or an identifier with the wrong PIC)
- the ear is infected or necrotic around the device.

If an animal has two (or more) devices, the authorised officer should first determine the most appropriate identifier for the cattle:

- all devices should be read and any that can't be scanned removed.
- if time permits, a Life History report from the NLIS database for each device may help to clarify what has happened and identify the device that provides the greatest traceability.

Otherwise the older device (i.e. breeder device, or the older post-breeder device based on year of manufacture) should be retained as it provides a longer tracing history. Ideally the removed device should be linked together on the database with the retained device, the removed device is assigned an 'R1' (replaced) status, and the history of each device is retained with that animal.

If in doubt, both devices may be removed and replaced with a special NLIS identifier.

If an identifier is incorrect or is attached incorrectly or cannot be read electronically and the owner or person in charge of the cattle requests or agrees to its replacement, an authorised officer may authorise the removal of the inappropriate device provided:

- a specified replacement identifier is immediately attached to the animal, and
- the two devices are linked on the NLIS database within seven days by the owner or person using their own database account or by an approved third party.

The authorisation should be in writing, unless the authorised officer supervises the process or provides verbal authorisation and keeps a diary record of the event. Generic written authorisation to remove or replace devices in specified circumstances in a saleyard may be given to a person who is authorised under the Act with respect to the provision of special identifiers.

If an incorrect identifier has been attached and the person is unwilling to replace the device, an authorised officer should direct the owner or person in charge to replace the identifier. This biosecurity direction must be in writing and state the specified device must be removed and handed over to an authorised officer within a specified time period for disposal:

- a specified replacement identifier must immediately be attached to the animal
- the two devices must be linked on the NLIS database within seven days by the owner or person using their own database account or by an approved third party
- the authorised officer must subsequently confirm that this has happened by running a 'Life History' report on either device from the database.



If a non-reading rumen bolus is detected, the matching ear tag may be removed and an ear device attached and recorded as a replacement on the NLIS database.

A producer may elect to replace ear devices with rumen boluses to reduce the risk of stock theft. This may be authorised by an authorised officer provided the removed devices are immediately replaced with post-breeder devices for that property, or if the cattle were bred on that property with breeder devices. The new and replaced devices must be linked on the NLIS database.

In some circumstances, an authorised officer may determine that an incorrect device does not need to be replaced as traceability can still be maintained on the NLIS database. Where appropriate the life-time traceability status should be turned off to flag that the animal is not life-time traceable. This request should be sent by the authorised officer to the Biosecurity Intelligence Support Officer for action.

If other circumstances arise in which a permanent identifier may need to be replaced, authorised officers who are considering providing authorisation or direction should first check with an LLS Team Leader, Animal Biosecurity and Welfare.

## 2.2 Reuse of identifiers

Identifiers that have been removed from slaughtered stock must be disposed of or destroyed so that the identifier is unable to be reused or re-attached.

## 2.3 NLIS Register (NLIS database)

The NLIS register is also known as the NLIS database, which is maintained by the NLIS Administrator Integrity Systems Company Ltd (ISC) (formerly NLIS Ltd), a subsidiary of Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

ISC Limited is approved as the NLIS administrator pursuant to clause 56 of the NLIS Regulation. Movements must be recorded on the NLIS database on-line through a database account. See [www.nlis.com.au](http://www.nlis.com.au), NLIS Terms of Use (Related Documents) or phone ISC on 1800 683 111 for further information.

## 2.4 Other tags

In addition to the NLIS device, non-approved ear tags printed with a PIC may be voluntarily attached to meet market requirements or for management reasons. If the management tag contains a PIC it must not be misleading as to the identification particulars of the cattle.

## Hormonal growth promotant-free declaration

Cattle that have been treated with a hormonal growth promotant (HGP):

- must be earmarked in accordance with Order No. 2013 under the *Stock Medicines Act 1989* (triangular ear mark in the right ear)
- vendors must declare the HGP status of their cattle on the NVD
- buyers can determine the HGP status of cattle from the NVD that is underpinned by the rules of the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program managed by ISC.

## 2.6 'Sighted livestock' function

Sighted livestock is an NLIS database function whereby cattle that are only on a PIC for a short period of time can be 'sighted' on that PIC rather than transferred onto and off the PIC as a property to property transfer. It is suitable for short term movements such as cattle being exhibited at a country show, but not for longer-term movements as traceability is compromised.

It is the appropriate method for shows and sporting events that run for less than three days and livestock transit centres. If cattle are present for three days or more, a full transfer on and off the event PIC is required. This function is available on 'Sporting event', 'Transit centre', 'Pound/Stockyard', 'SDA Medium' and 'SDA' NLIS database accounts.

Further information is available in the Tech Tip 'Sighted Livestock' available from the NLIS database.

## 2.7 Interstate cattle

Cattle entering NSW must be identified with an NLIS device 'on arrival' into NSW if they are not already identified, and once in NSW, they are subject to NSW cattle NLIS requirements, when they move again. Note that all states and territories have the same NLIS requirements when cattle move off their property of birth.

## 3. Regulatory action

Regulatory action may be undertaken by an authorised officer if any breach of the NLIS Regulation or an order or permit is detected:

- regulatory action starts with investigation to collect and record evidence
- when an offence is confirmed and depending on its significance, a warning letter or penalty notice may be issued or a recommendation made for prosecution.

## 4. Property to Property Movements (P2P)

The movement of cattle directly between properties must be recorded on the NLIS database, including:

- movements to properties with a different PIC within the same ownership
- to feedlots, agistment, shows, sporting events
- other movements irrespective of whether or not the cattle are sold.

Information that must be uploaded to the NLIS database within two days of the movement by the stock owner or the person in charge of the cattle at the end property is:

- particulars of identification (RFID or NLIS number) of the cattle
- PIC of the property where the stock was last held
- PIC of the property to which the stock has been sent
- date of arrival
- serial number of movement document accompanying the cattle e.g. NVD, TSS.

The owner or person in charge of the cattle before they are moved (vendor or consignor) must provide the owner or person in charge of the cattle at the property to which they are sent with the PIC of the property from which the cattle have come and other prescribed delivery information in the form of an NVD or TSS.

The relative merits of 'sighted livestock' and full property to property (P2P) are summarised in the following table:

| Functionality              | Data recorded                                  | Advantages   | Disadvantages  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Property-to-property (P2P) | NLIS/RFID, From PIC, To PIC, Date of movement, | Full tracing history – movement integrated with life history and | Two transactions, PICs of both property of origin and return are required if |

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|   | NVD/TSS serial number  | other monitoring and tracing reports.   | cattle leave property of origin for a short time and come back home.   |
| Sighted livestock (only to be used to record presence of cattle at shows and sporting events) | NLIS/RFID, Current PIC, Date sighted, NVD/TSS serial number (optional), Comments (such as name of event, optional) | Simpler – only one database transaction, PICs of origin/return properties not required, does not trigger system transfer if cattle are not recorded on the property of origin in NLIS | Incomplete tracing history – no confirmation of previous PIC, sighted (not movement on and off) dates, movement noted on life history report but not integrated with other database reports. |

#### 4.1 Agistment

All cattle moving to and from agistment (i.e. for the purposes of feeding) must be properly identified with an NLIS device before leaving any property. This is the responsibility of the owner of the cattle:

- if the cattle are moving to agistment, they must be identified with a breeder or post-breeder device before leaving their 'home' property
- if the cattle were born while on agistment, they must be identified with a breeder device for the agistment property before being moved off that property. Devices with the PIC of the cattle's 'home' property must not be used
- the agistee should make arrangements to allow purchase of the required number of NLIS devices with the appropriate PIC from the agistment property owner.

All cattle that are moved to and from agistment must be accompanied by an NVD or TSS and the movement recorded in the NLIS database, as for any other property to property movement. This is the responsibility of the owner of the cattle, rather than the owner of the land on which the cattle are being agisted, depending on the agistment agreement.

While the owner of the cattle may arrange for the owner or manager of the agistment property to record the movement in the NLIS database, it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that this has been done.

It is recommended that there should be a written agreement between the owner of the cattle and the owner/manager of the agistment property confirming who is responsible for NLIS database transfers, access to breeder tags for calves born on the agistment property, and NVDs if necessary for cattle moved off the agistment property. Any transfers must be recorded on the database within two days of the movement.

#### 4.2 Co-grazing on neighbouring properties

Neighbours may have an arrangement which allows grazing of adjoining paddocks so that the cattle can move freely between the neighbouring properties. Although NLIS requirements should be adhered to, this arrangement is consistent with short term local movements (see section 2) and presents a low risk provided:

- the properties are contiguous, and
- the cattle are correctly identified with NLIS devices.

The cattle are exempt from constant P2P movement recording requirements although they must be transferred once to the neighbouring property PIC when the arrangement commences and back to their original property PIC after a period of time/the arrangement ceases to reflect the grazing history.

### 4.3 Private sales

Cattle moved between properties following a private sale must be transferred on the NLIS database to the next property as a P2P. This is the responsibility of the buyer. The vendor or agent may provide this service if asked to, even though they are under no obligation.

Cattle sold by public auction must be transferred onto and off the property where the private sale is held as for saleyard movements.

### 4.4 Travelling stock reserves and roads

Generally a Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR) is for the purpose of providing travelling stock with access to or a crossing of water.

A TSR must have a PIC and all cattle on a TSR must be properly identified with an NLIS device. Movements of cattle onto, off or between TSRs must be recorded on the NLIS database individually within two days of the movement where the movement is to a different PIC and under a new stock permit (see below).

The abbreviation 'TSR' or words 'stock route' or 'stock reserve' should be included in the PIC register details to help identify it as a TSR in PIC registers:

- the District Registrar should determine whether TSRs in their district should be combined under one PIC or have separate PICs, based on their geographical distribution, typical cattle movements, and local management arrangements
- a public road may be assigned a PIC by the district register without application from the local Council or other owner of the road. The road may be described textually or spatially in the district register. A TSR and contiguous road should be under the same PIC
- a portion of a TSR that is on a long term grazing permit to the occupier of a nearby property may be temporarily placed under the PIC of that property

#### 4.4.1 Stock permits

Stock permits are issued by authorised officers of LLS to any person authorising the person to do anything (or omit to do anything) on or in relation to any public road or TSR (whether controlled or managed) specified in the permit in respect of stock owned or in the charge of the person and that would otherwise contravene a provision of this Division.

A unique numbering system for stock permits must be used by LLS:

- this number is uploaded instead of the NVD number to the NLIS database and allows cattle belonging to each mob on the TSR to be differentiated based on the permit number and date of movement
- if pre-printed stock permit forms are used, the unique permit identifier must be written on the original and any copies.

The following conditions must be included in writing with each stock permit issued under the LLS Act for the use of a TSR. Stock owners and drivers should be verbally advised of these conditions when being issued a stock permit and that compliance can readily be monitored from the NLIS database:

- all cattle must be properly identified with NLIS devices before being moved onto the TSR
- the owner or person in charge of the cattle is responsible for transferring the cattle on the NLIS database from any property to the TSR, and from the TSR to any property, within two days of the movement. This includes any cattle that are added to or removed from a mob
- the stock permit identifier must be uploaded to the NLIS database instead of the NVD number
- the purchaser of cattle at a saleyard who intends to move the stock directly onto a TSR must advise the saleyard operator to transfer the cattle to the TSR PIC and use the stock permit identifier as the NVD number.

#### 4.4.2 Identification of cattle

Cattle being moved onto a TSR must be identified with NLIS devices before leaving their property. This is the responsibility of the owner or person in charge of the cattle, with the former being primarily responsible.

Cattle moved to a contiguous TSR under a grazing permit or moved along or across a TSR between different parts of the same property (same PIC) under a stock permit must be identified with NLIS devices unless:

- the movement is within the same holding (defined under the LLS Act), and
- the livestock are being moved on a permit to a different part of the property specifically for the purposes of identification.

Calves born on a TSR do not have to be identified with NLIS devices until they are moved to any other place or are marked or weaned while they remain with their dam. A permit may be issued to allow the calves to be moved directly to another place for identification.

If moved to another property, the calves must be identified within two days of arrival with breeder devices with the TSR PIC. The devices must be transferred on the NLIS database from the TSR PIC to the property PIC by the owner or person in charge of the cattle within two days of the movement.

If moved to a saleyard, the calves must be identified before sale with either breeder devices with the TSR PIC or special tags printed with the district code. The saleyard will perform the database transfer from the TSR PIC to the buyer's PIC.

If moved to an abattoir for slaughter, the calves must be identified before slaughter with either breeder devices with the TSR PIC special tags printed with the district code. The abattoir will perform the database transfer to deceased status after slaughter.

In all cases, devices with the TSR PIC should be used in preference to special tags printed with the district code, with the latter being used only as 'emergency' devices. LLS must either endorse orders for TSR devices from drovers and stock owners, or obtain and supply sufficient quantities of breeder and post-breeder devices to meet the needs of people with cattle on a TSR.

#### 4.4.3 Movement transfers

All movements to and from TSRs must be recorded on the NLIS database within two days of the movement. This includes movements between TSRs with different PICs and stock permits. For all movements, the stock permit identifier must be recorded in lieu of the NVD/Waybill number, as this allows all cattle under the same permit to be more readily transferred together.

Below, you will find descriptions of different types of movements and the requirements for stock owners and drivers:

##### Movement from and to a property

- movements from and to a property must be recorded on the NLIS database by the owner or person in charge of the cattle. It is ultimately the responsibility of the stock owner to either do the transfer or arrange for it to be done. If agreed or contracted, the drover, as the person in charge of the cattle on the TSR, is responsible.
- stock owners and drovers should be advised that, as a condition of being granted a stock permit, they must transfer the cattle onto and off the TSR and that compliance can be monitored from the NLIS database
- the movements must be recorded within two days, as for other P2P
- cattle added to or removed from the mob have to be similarly transferred. However, small numbers of deaths and strays (say < 1%) do not have to be accounted for (as with deaths and strays on properties) although it would be good practice to do so
- it is more practical to scan the cattle before they leave a property and after they are returned to a property than while they are on the TSR
- if a file listing the transferred cattle is kept, then the file can be transferred and the cattle do not have to be rescanned if stock numbers have not changed through births or deaths.

#### Movement between TSRs

- must be recorded by the LLS as producers are not able to transfer cattle between PICs when neither PIC is registered in their name
- if the cattle are moving between Districts, the LLS for the district of origin must transfer the cattle as they are more readily able to obtain and transfer the list of devices from the NLIS database. To help them do this, the destination LLS must advise the new stock permit identifier (number) and approximate date of movement
- each LLS must either open an NLIS database 'Producer' account linked to their TSR PICs, or request that third party functionality be linked to their SDA Medium account.

#### Movement from a saleyard to a TSR

- must be recorded by the saleyard
- the purchaser of the stock must advise the saleyard of the TSR PIC and the stock permit identifier as soon as the sale is concluded
- the saleyard must transfer the cattle to the TSR PIC using the stock permit identifier instead of the NVD/Waybill number. If the stock permit identifier is not uploaded at the time, the saleyard can readily edit the NVD number subsequently from their database account using the View my transaction history to identify the relevant Upload ID and then the Transfer correction and Edit functions.

#### Movements that do not have to be recorded in the NLIS database

- movements along or across a TSR directly between different parts of the same property (same PIC) within seven days. This includes movements between reserves on long term permits provided they are under the same PIC
- cattle regularly grazing on a TSR which is contiguous to the cattle's 'home property' or otherwise meets the definition of a single 'holding' under the LLS Act
- continuous movements along or between sections of a TSR (same PIC), even if a new permit is issued. The new and original permits must be cross-referenced so that the mob can still be identified on the NLIS database from the original permit identifier.
- movements onto a contiguous TSR (such as in an adjoining district) and back onto the same TSR within seven days

- deaths and strays, though it is good practice to record them if their NLIS number is known. Small numbers of devices which are left on a TSR PIC after the rest of the mob has moved off and which cannot be accounted for may be set to an 'inactive' status by the LLS.

The responsibilities for recording different types of movements on the NLIS database are summarised in the following table:

| <b>Movement</b>  | <b>Responsibility for database transfer</b>  |
|--|--|
| From 'home' property to TSR  | Stock owner or drover  |
| From TSR back to 'home' property                                   | Stock owner or drover  |
| Between home property and contiguous TSR regularly                 | Not required if movement completed within 7 days – stock permit provides traceability        |
| Between parts of the same property along or across a TSR regularly | Not required if movement completed within 7 days – stock permit provides traceability        |
| Between TSRs within same district or between districts             | 'From' LLS district the cattle are walking from  |
| Between TSR to or from a QLD stock route                           | Stock owner or drover  |
| From agistment property to TSR                                     | Stock owner or drover  |
| From TSR to different property                                     | Stock owner or drover  |
| From saleyard to TSR   | Saleyard, which uploads TSR PIC as the 'to' PIC and stock permit number as the 'NVD/Waybill' |
| From TSR to saleyard   | Saleyard, which uploads TSR PIC as the 'from' PIC  |
| From TSR to abattoir   | Abattoir   |
| From TSR to sporting event and back again                          | Operator of the stock event  |

#### **4.5 Shows and stock events**

All cattle moved to a show or other stock event such as a field day, fete or similar display, or being used in a camp draft, rodeo, cutting or similar sporting event, must be properly identified with an NLIS device before leaving their property and the movement recorded on the NLIS database.

A showground is a property and must have a 'property' PIC. The PIC type of 'Showground' should be assigned on PIC registers.

The NLIS devices on all cattle must be read either electronically or visually, or recorded on the show or event entry form.

The movement of all cattle to a show or other stock event must be recorded on the NLIS database in either of two ways, depending on the circumstances:

- as 'sighted livestock' by the show operator using a 'Sporting event' account. This option is available to show/event societies provided the cattle are at the showground for less than three days
- as a P2P transfer by the operator of the show using a 'sporting event' account. Two P2P movements are usually recorded, the first from the animal's origin PIC to the showground PIC, and the second from the showground PIC to the PIC of the property it moves to. The operator of a stock event must record this in the NLIS database within two days of the movement.

To perform either P2P or 'sighted' transfers, the show society or event organiser must open a 'Sporting event' NLIS database account.

Each committee using a showground may open their own account which is linked to the same showground PIC, or all users of the showground may agree for one person (perhaps employed by the managing trust or local council) to open and manage an account on their behalf.

The most practical data upload options for each common circumstance are summarised below.

1. all movements to, between and from showgrounds may be uploaded as normal P2P transfers to retain full traceability
2. traceability is not compromised if the same movement is recorded as both 'sighted' and P2P
3. for shows with very small numbers of cattle (approximately 20 head) assistance is available. The show committee must accurately record the NLIS number of each animal on a form designed for this purpose and promptly send the form to Agricultural Societies Council (ASC) head office in Hunters Hill for forwarding onto NSW DPI to upload to the NLIS database. Affiliated show societies interested in using this service should contact the ASC.

#### **4.5.1 Steer over the hooks competitions**

Steers exhibited at a show and then immediately consigned to an abattoir for slaughter over the hooks can be 'sighted' at the show and then transferred by the abattoir from the PIC of the property on which they were last held to an abattoir PIC with a kill upload using the exhibitor/vendor original property NVD.

#### **4.5.2 Births or lost devices at shows**

If an NLIS device is lost from an animal while at a show, the animal may be returned under permit to the property that it came from and re-identified with a breeder or post-breeder device as appropriate.

The lost device (if known) and new device should be linked on the NLIS database and the database transfer completed with either the old or new device to maintain traceability.

If a calf is born at a show, the cow and calf may be returned to the property that the cow came from. The calf moving with its dam is then identified with a breeder device with the destination PIC.

#### **4.7 Bobby calves (Cattle scale operators)**

A cattle scale operation is a business (other than a farming business) that trades in cattle by purchasing the cattle by live weight or price per head directly from farmers (and not by way of a public auction) and then sells the cattle on.

Bobby calves must be properly identified with a breeder device before leaving their property of birth, and must be accompanied by an NVD for bobby calves or a TSS when picked up by the mobile scale operator or taken to the scale operator's property.



In the case of mobile scale operators, bobby calves purchased for slaughter must be scanned off the property of dispatch and the date of scanning recorded. They must be allocated against the PIC of the property of collection, and the required movement information recorded on the NLIS database before COB the day of arrival at the abattoir or before the calves are slaughtered (whichever occurs first).

If consigned to a saleyard or abattoir, the operator of that establishment is responsible for uploading the movement of the calf/cattle to the saleyard or abattoir and the recording of the subsequent sale or slaughter to the NLIS database.

If consigned to the scale operator's property for aggregation or to grow out before being sent to a saleyard, an abattoir or another property, the buyer or scale operator must:

- transfer each calf from its property of birth PIC to the scale PIC as a P2Ptransfer, or as a saleyard in and out transfer using a saleyard account before the calf leaves the scale
- consign the calf to sale or slaughter with a bobby calf NVD showing the scale PIC.

#### **4.8 Stock in transit**

Transit centres must have a PIC. The carrier is primarily responsible, as the person in charge, for transferring or 'sighting' cattle in a transit or staging centre on the NLIS database using a 'Transit centre' NLIS database account. A saleyard may offer a scanning and data transfer service for stock in transit:

- if the buyer knows that stock being consigned to an abattoir will go first to a transit or holding facility, then that facility's PIC must be provided to and recorded by the saleyard operator as the destination PIC
- the cattle are subsequently transferred to the abattoir PIC from the transit centre PIC.

On journeys where cattle are unloaded from a vehicle for 24 hours or more before being reloaded and continuing the journey to their final destination, this movement must be recorded on the NLIS database within two days as a P2P or 'sighted livestock' transfer:

- this includes stops for the purposes of resting cattle in accordance with animal welfare codes of practice (Land Transport Standards)
- it does not include briefly offloading cattle to transfer them directly from one vehicle to another.

A calf born in transit does not have to be identified with an NLIS device if it remains with its dam until it reaches the destination property, however:

- it must subsequently be identified with a post-breeder device for the destination property
- if separated from the dam, the calf must be identified with a permanent identifier before it moves any further.

#### **4.9 Movements between different parts of a property**

The movement of cattle directly between different parts of the same property (different holdings or parcels of land covered by the same PIC) does not have to be recorded on the NLIS database. The requirements include the:

- cattle must be properly identified with NLIS devices if they are moved along or across a public road, unless the movement is within the same holding (as defined under the LLS Act) or unless the stock are being moved with approval to the other holding for the purposes of identification

- stock must be moved in accordance with the provisions of the LLS Act, either directly in a vehicle and accompanied by a correctly completed TSS, or by walking in accordance with a stock permit
- movement must be completed within two days of commencement.

#### 4.10 Short term local movements

If the cattle are walked along or across a public road, they must be moved in accordance with the LLS Act.

#### 4.11 Commons

A 'common' is a piece of open land for public use. Under the NLIS Regulation it is considered a property and must have a PIC if it runs livestock. The word 'common' should be included in the PIC register details to help identify it as a common on PIC registers.

All cattle moving to or from a common must be identified with an NLIS device and movements to and from the common must be recorded on the NLIS database.

If the common is managed by a trust with a structured management committee, the secretary must apply for a PIC and purchase NLIS devices to be attached to cattle on the common:

- breeder or post-breeder devices may be used, depending on whether or not the animals are born on the common, although only post-breeder devices may be used for management purposes
- special/emergency NLIS district tags may be supplied by the LLS although this is at the discretion of each LLS district.

The common trust secretary may open a 'Producer' NLIS database account and record the movements of cattle to and from the common on behalf of its users. Cattle might not need to be scanned if each owner keeps a written record of the NLIS or RFID numbers of their stock.

If cattle are moved between the common and other properties, such as town blocks or other small farms, those other properties may be placed on the same PIC provided they are 'proximate' and share a similar disease and residue risk.

#### 4.12 Pounds/place of care

A 'pound' is a place of care for animals, including strayed or lost stock, often run by the local Council. Under the NLIS Regulation the pound must have a PIC if it keeps any livestock. The word 'pound' should be included in the PIC register details to help identify it. If the pound is part of a saleyard or other premises, then a separate PIC should be assigned to that part used normally as a pound.

Straying stock may present a significant disease and residue risk as their origin and movement history is unknown. It is important that the animal is identified and its presence at the pound recorded on the NLIS database by the pound opening a 'Pound' type of NLIS database account and either record the:

- animal as being at the pound using the 'sighted livestock' function (if the stock was only present in the pound for up to three days), or
- animal's movement to and from the pound as a property to property transfer.

If the animal does not have an NLIS device, one must be attached before the animal leaves the pound, irrespective of whether it is returned to its property of origin or is otherwise sold or disposed of. This is to ensure that the animal's history, as recorded on the NLIS database, includes the fact that it had strayed and was impounded.

The NLIS device may be a special identifier supplied by the LLS, or the pound may order its own post-breeder devices.

If the animal has an existing NLIS device, the pound may be able to determine its property of origin from the NLIS database or by contacting the LLS. The information will only be correct if the animal strayed from the property on which it was identified or has been correctly transferred between properties.

If recording the animal's movement to and from the pound as a property to property transfer, the movement onto the pound must be recorded from the property PIC where the animal was found. LLS may help to identify the PIC. If this is not possible, the PIC of the district code should be used. The NLIS database may perform a 'system transfer' from the previously recorded PIC to the identified PIC or a district code, removing life-time traceable status for the animal and highlighting the potential gap in traceability.

Both movements on and off the pound, and from/to the beast's owner PIC, must be recorded by the pound operator on the NLIS database within two days of the movement to ensure that the beast's life history includes that it was impounded.

If the animal is disposed of through a saleyard or abattoir, those establishments will do the transfer from the pound PIC.

#### **4.13 Circuses, zoos**

Currently, cattle do not have to be properly identified and their movements do not have to be recorded in the NLIS database if the cattle are moved as part of the exhibit and the cattle is:

- owned by a mobile exhibition or animal display establishment which is licensed under the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986*, and
- not moved to a saleyard or abattoir, and
- not sold (except to another licensed mobile exhibition or animal display establishment).

Any cattle leaving the exhibit by being sold, moved to another property, or sent to slaughter, must be identified with an NLIS device, be accompanied by an NLIS movement document such as an NVD or TSS, and the movement recorded in the NLIS database,

#### **4.14 Lost, stolen, injured or dead stock**

Identifiable stock is defined in the NLIS Regulation as including carcasses of stock. Cattle that are lost or die while on a property do not have to be recorded on the database, although the recording of deaths of cattle is encouraged for best practice and management purposes.

Producers are strongly encouraged to report suspected stolen stock to the Police.

Injured cattle that are sent to a knackery should be transferred to the knackery PIC and then to deceased status by the knackery operator after slaughter.

The following actions must be taken by an authorised officer or animal welfare inspector with cattle that are euthanised for animal welfare reasons:

- if the cattle have NLIS devices and are disposed on the same property, their devices should be read and uploaded as 'deceased' to the NLIS database, however this is optional and might not be practical if large numbers are involved or if tags are damaged (e.g. after a bush fire)
- carcasses disposed at an approved waste management facility, or sent to a licensed animal display establishment as food for carnivores, are exempt from NLIS requirements
- if carcasses are moved off the property for disposal other than at an approved waste management facility, a permit may be issued for the movement of untagged cattle, while

tagged cattle should be read and uploaded as 'deceased' to the NLIS database unless not practical in the circumstances (such as after a bush fire).

## **4.15 Solutions to problems**

### **4.15.1 Cattle not identified with NLIS devices**

If unidentified cattle are moved to a property, the recipient of the cattle must:

- promptly report the incident to an authorised officer
- negotiate the supply of devices with the person who sent the cattle otherwise the cattle will have to be identified with post-breeder devices for the current property before they leave that property and LT status is lost
- in all cases, the authorised officer should investigate and act on the alleged breaches.

The authorised officer may authorise the tagging of the cattle with NLIS devices for the original property provided the movement is immediately recorded on the NLIS database

### **4.15.2 Strayed cattle**

Property owners who find stray cattle and, with the cattle owner's permission, send these cattle to a saleyard or abattoir, must use the NVD for the property on which they were found.

### **4.15.3 Non-functioning devices**

If an NLIS device cannot be successfully scanned, the producer must visually read the device in order to complete the transfer on the NLIS database. They must also remove and immediately replace it with a breeder or post-breeder device for their property, as appropriate and link the two devices on the NLIS database to retain Lifetime Traceability (LT) status.

### **4.15.4 Lost in transit devices**

An authorised officer may authorise the re-identification of an animal that has just moved from its property of birth and which has lost its NLIS device in transit with a breeder device assigned to the previous property.

If it is not practical to do this or the animal has moved from a property other than its property of birth, then the animal will have to be identified with a post-breeder device before the animal subsequently leaves the current property. If the lost device number is known, it may be possible to link the old and new device on the NLIS database to maintain traceability, otherwise the movement to the property cannot be recorded on the NLIS database and LT status is lost.

### **4.15.5 Options for scanning and data upload**

The owner or person in charge of the cattle at the destination property may ask someone else to transfer the cattle on the NLIS database on their behalf, for example the vendor, transporter, agent, contractor, neighbour, friend or any other person. The owner or person in charge of the stock is still responsible for ensuring this is done.

Cattle may be scanned before or after movement. Larger producers who regularly move cattle between properties should be encouraged to purchase a scanner. Information on equipment is available from rural suppliers and tag manufacturers.

Producers who require training or experience difficulty with their scanning equipment should contact the supplier or manufacturer of the equipment for support. Instructions for uploading data to the NLIS database are available from ISC Ltd and producers who experience difficulty with data uploads should contact ISC Ltd's helpline 1800 683 111.

It may be easier for a vendor to do the transfer, as the cattle are already listed on the NLIS database against their PIC, and buyers may wish to negotiate this service as part of the purchase agreement. If the cattle are introduced and then managed and moved as one mob, then a list of RFID or NLIS numbers may be retained as a computer file or hard copy and sent with the cattle, avoiding the need to rescan the cattle each time they are moved.

Producers with fewer cattle may rely on paper based records or spreadsheets of the NLIS numbers of their cattle, which should be requested from the vendor or agent when they buy cattle. They may engage the services of a scanning contractor or stock agent if they need to scan their cattle for any reason. If producers only buy and sell through saleyards and/or consign cattle directly to abattoirs, then they will not need to scan their cattle or use the NLIS database as this will all be done for them at the saleyard or abattoir.

## 5. Saleyards

All cattle being consigned to a saleyard must be properly identified with an NLIS device before leaving the property. This includes bobby calves, and calves at foot being sold as a unit with their dam.

The owner or person in charge of the saleyard (the 'saleyard operator') must ensure that all cattle that are sold in the saleyard are scanned and the required transaction information is uploaded to the NLIS database in the required timeframes set out in the NLIS Regulation, i.e., by:

- COB on the day of the sale for stock going to an abattoir (e.g. prime sales)
- COB of the next working day for all other sale transactions (e.g. store sales).

Scanning may be done either pre-or post-sale or both, depending on the layout and facilities at the saleyard and the requirements of buyers. The relevant information that must be uploaded to the NLIS database is:

- particulars of identification (RFID or NLIS number) of the cattle
- PIC of the property where the stock was last held
- PIC of the property to where, or agent code for the stock agent to whom, the stock is sent after sale
- PIC of the saleyard
- date of sale
- serial number of movement document.

If cattle have been consigned for sale but are passed in and returned to a property, the 'from' PIC and the 'to' PIC will be the same, but the movement must be recorded to reflect their time at the saleyard.

### 5.1 On-property sales

A 'saleyard' is defined by the NLIS Regulation as any property on which identifiable stock is sold by public auction. Saleyards therefore include public on-property sales such as stud, circuit and clearing sales, and public auctions at shows and field days.

The selling agent, as the person in charge of the 'saleyard' (the saleyard operator), is responsible for transferring cattle on and off the on-property sale in the same timeframe as for other saleyards. To do this, the selling agent may:

- temporarily link the property PIC to an existing 'saleyard' database account (such as for a saleyard they lease) and manage the sale using their usual saleyard software and procedures
- perform third party P2P transfers from their 'agent' database account.

If the sale is being conducted by private treaty, the buyer is responsible for transferring the cattle to their property as a P2P movement, although the vendor may offer to provide this service.

## **5.2 Solutions to problems**

### **5.2.1 Cattle not identified with NLIS devices**

If stock arrive at a saleyard without NLIS devices and without the prior approval of an authorised officer, the vendor and stock agent may choose to redress the situation noting:

- an authorised officer may provide advice but not enforce any option, and
- provided one of these options is used, the cattle may be sold and bought.

This offence must be further investigated by the authorised officer and appropriate regulatory action taken.

Options include:

- cattle may be identified with special NLIS devices (orange post-breeder devices with the district code or saleyard PIC) pre-sale unless approved to be attached post-sale but before the cattle leave the saleyard
- cattle may be withdrawn from that sale, held in the saleyard, identified with special NLIS devices on a non-sale day, and offered for sale again at the next sale (where the facilities and pace of saleyard activities do not allow identification on the day of sale), or
- withdraw the cattle from sale and return them to their property of origin with a permit to move stock without identifiers issued by an authorised officer. This is the vendor's choice – an authorised officer must not order the cattle to be moved. The cattle can be identified on the vendor's property (with white breeder devices if this is the property of birth, otherwise orange post-breeder devices) and re-consigned for sale on a later date.

It is up to the saleyard operator to determine whether they wish to allow special NLIS devices to be attached in the saleyard. If the saleyard operator and agents decide not to be involved with attaching special identifiers, then the first or second options are not available and vendors who consign unidentified cattle will have to take them home again – 'no tag, no sale'.

Once identified with special NLIS devices, the cattle must be scanned and the movement through the saleyard recorded on the NLIS database, as for all other cattle, additional measures include:

- the additional cost of special identifiers, additional yard or service fees, delayed sale and additional transport costs, as the case may be, should provide incentives to producers to consign cattle correctly identified with their property NLIS devices
- special identifiers should be supplied by a person authorised by the District Registrar rather than an authorised officer.
- Agents and saleyards may charge for their services, in addition to the statutory fee for special identifiers

Permanent identifiers for a property PIC (breeder devices) must not be brought to and attached in a saleyard except as approved by an authorised officer and noted on the permit to move stock without identifiers. This may include where there are unsuitable facilities under work health and safety rules or incapacitated persons in charge of the stock.

### **5.2.2 Non-functioning devices**

A non-functioning (non-reading) NLIS device is one that is visibly present but cannot be electronically read after repeated attempts.

Saleyards should have in place operational procedures that allow cattle to be rescanned if necessary. This might involve running the cattle past a reader again or using a hand wand.

If a device still cannot be scanned, one of the following measures must be implemented.

*Best practice* - The non-functioning device is removed and replaced with a special NLIS device and the old and new devices are linked and transferred on the NLIS database.

*Minimum practice* - The device is visually read and the NLIS number is manually entered and the animal transferred into and out of the saleyard on the NLIS database using the saleyard's NLIS database account or their saleyard software if it has the functionality to do manual transfers. The buyer must be made aware that the animal has a faulty device so they can later replace it and link the old and new devices on the NLIS database to retain traceability.

### 5.2.3 Lost in transit devices

A lost NLIS device is one that was present when the animal left a property but has subsequently been lost in transit. There should be signs of this, such as a fresh tear or a hole in the right ear.

A special NLIS device is attached before the cattle leave the saleyard and the movement to and from the saleyard is recorded on the NLIS database. The animal will not have LT status as it has been identified with a post-breeder device and its tracing history starts at the saleyard.

### 5.2.4 PIC not known

The saleyard must upload to the NLIS database the PIC of both the properties of origin and destination of the cattle. Vendors and buyers must supply their PIC to the saleyard operator and this mandatory requirement should be included in the saleyard's terms of trade. In this case, the PIC:

- of the property of origin may be determined from the NVD, for regular vendors by registering the PIC with the vendor's account details, or by asking the vendor or their selling agent
- of the property of destination may be obtained (for regular buyers) by registering the PIC with the buyer's account details or by asking the buyer or their agent
- of the buyer, if not provided, the saleyard may transfer the cattle to the selling or buying agent's agent identification code if they have one, but this is discouraged
- may also be determined from the 'Search the PIC register' function on the NLIS database.

Collectively, the vendor, selling agent, buyer and saleyard operator are responsible for ensuring that the correct active PIC is uploaded to the NLIS database:

- if the PIC is incorrect, invalid, cancelled (disbanded) or blocked'; the relevant provisions of the NLIS Regulation have not been complied with; and an offence has been committed by one or several parties (devices may still be moved off an inactive PIC in some circumstances).
- depending on the status of the PIC, the data may be accepted by the database and a warning email sent back, or it may reject the data and send an error message
- the saleyard operator must correct the mistake on the database as soon as possible by rolling-back the incorrect transfer and re-uploading the data for that animal only. The saleyard should not re-upload the entire file as this may create further errors.

### 5.2.5 Calves born at a saleyard or in transit

A calf born at, or in transit to, a saleyard does not have to be identified with an NLIS device if it is sold with its dam and is sent directly to the buyer's property. It must subsequently be identified with a post-breeder device for the buyer's property. If separated from the dam, the calf must be identified with a special identifier before it leaves the saleyard.

### 5.2.6 Dead or injured cattle that are destroyed

If any cattle die or are destroyed while still at a saleyard, the saleyard operator must transfer the cattle to DECEASED on the NLIS database by the close of business on the next working day after the event. Injured cattle that are sent from a saleyard to a knackery must be transferred to the knackery PIC rather than to DECEASED.

### 5.2.7 Solving problems with scanning and data upload

Scanning and data upload in saleyards are key elements of the NLIS for cattle. Problems with uploading data to the NLIS database can occur. The saleyard:

- operators must pay particular attention to error messages generated and emailed by the database, as these indicate that the specified data is incorrect and has not been accepted by the database
- must promptly correct the error and re-upload that specific data within the prescribed time period for providing the relevant information
- may not be able to rely on their commercial software to do this, and will need to log directly into the NLIS database to detect these errors using the 'View my transaction history' report and perform these corrections using 'Transfer correction' function.

Saleyard operators should contact their equipment or software provider in the first instance for technical support. ISC Ltd can also provide specialised technical advice to saleyard operators. Inspectors who detect a problem with data accuracy or upload during monitoring or compliance checks may contact the NSW DPI Biosecurity Intelligence Support for advice.

A saleyard might occasionally experience a problem, such as equipment, power or internet failure, that compromises scanning or data upload. While there are no specific exemptions for this circumstance, an authorised officer investigating an alleged breach may take into account mitigating circumstances beyond the saleyard operator's control.

### 5.2.8 Agent codes

Licensed stock and station agents may apply for an agent identification code to which cattle may be temporarily transferred to on the NLIS database. The saleyard operator:

- must transfer cattle to a buying agent's code if the agent has bought the cattle on behalf of one or more clients or themselves and does not know which property which cattle will be sent to.
- may transfer cattle to the selling agent's code if neither the agent nor the buyer has provided the saleyard operator with the PIC for the property of destination by the end of the sale. This arrangement is sanctioned by the industry's own code of practice and provided by the Regulation if the selling agent is deemed to still be in possession of the cattle. The saleyard operator does not need the agent's permission to do this and the agent may be unaware that this has happened.

The agent must make a record of the actual location of cattle while they are assigned to the agent code, keep that record for at least two years, and produce the record for an authorised officer on request.

Within two days of movement and/or sale the cattle must be transferred on the NLIS database by the agent from the agent code to the correct property, saleyard or abattoir PIC to which the cattle have been sent. The cattle cannot be lawfully transferred to another agent code.

The database sends an automated email message daily to each agent with cattle that have been on the agent code for more than two days ('overdue' cattle). The agent is obliged to monitor these messages and to advise ISC Ltd of any change of email address. These conditions and reminders mean an agent cannot legitimately claim to be unaware that they have overdue cattle.



The agent can access a 'View my current holdings (agent)' report through their NLIS database account which details, for each beast assigned to their agent code, the NLIS and RFID numbers, vendor PIC, saleyard name, NVD number, sale date and (depending on the saleyard) a description of the lot. This should provide adequate information with which the agent can identify the cattle and, from their accounts and tax invoices, the buyer and hence destination.

If an agent who neither sold nor bought the cattle believes that a saleyard operator has incorrectly transferred cattle to their agent code, they should take that up with the saleyard as soon as possible. Only if the operator refuses or fails to correct the mistake should an authorised officer intervene:

- if an agent has genuinely attempted to determine the correct property of destination for cattle but is unsuccessful, they may apply to DPI for the cattle to be transferred to the 'DPI audit PIC', or the devices be given an Inactive status
- this should only be used rarely to either remove 'old' cattle on their current holdings or where there has been a significant and irresolvable error, and not for expediency.

An agent, who does not want, need or use their agent code, or who finds the database and compliance issues difficult to use should voluntarily cancel their agent code by advising the District Registrar and close their NLIS database account by advising ISC Ltd.

### 5.3 Internet sales

Cattle may be sold online or through internet auctions such as AuctionsPlus, Elite Livestock or Gumtree. The vendor is responsible for ensuring that all cattle are identified with NLIS devices before they leave their property and are accompanied by an NVD or TSS.

Responsibility for transferring the cattle on the NLIS database is outlined in the following table:

| Type of on-line sale                                 | Location of stock at time of sale | Stock movement                 | Responsibility for recording movement on NLIS database                     |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Private treaty                                       | On property                       | Property → property            | Buyer – property to property transfer within 2 days of arrival at property |
| Auction  | On property                       | Property → property            | Buyer – property to property transfer within 2 days of arrival at property |
| Interface with physical auction (auctioneer present) | On property                       | Property → property            | Saleyard operator  |
| Interface with physical auction                      | In saleyard                       | Property → saleyard → property | Saleyard operator  |

### 5.4 Commissioned buyers and dealers

People who trade cattle as commissioned buyers and/or dealers must comply with the same NLIS requirements as any other buyer or seller, including for cattle:

- traded through a saleyard, by providing the correct PIC of the property of origin or destination to the saleyard operator
- bought on farm, by transferring the cattle on the NLIS database to another property that they are using for aggregation. If the cattle are delivered directly to the final buyer, then it is that person's responsibility (as the new owner of the stock) to transfer the cattle to their property PIC within two days.

Unless the commissioned buyer or dealer is a registered stock and station agent, they are not eligible for an agent code. However, they may use an agent's code if employed by or acting as that agent's representative.

## **6. Abattoirs and Knackeries**

The owner of cattle being consigned to an abattoir (including knackeries) must ensure that the cattle are properly identified with an NLIS device. The owner or person in charge of cattle on arrival at an abattoir must provide the abattoir operator with the PIC of the property where the cattle were last held in the form of an NVD, TSS or other approved movement document.

The abattoir operator must upload prescribed information to the NLIS database by the COB the next working day after slaughter.

### **6.1 Injured or dead stock**

Injured cattle that are being humanely transported to a knackery for slaughter, or which have been euthanised by a knackery operator on a property and the carcass is being sent to a knackery for processing, must be:

- properly identified with an NLIS device, and
- be accompanied by an NVD or TSS with the PIC of the property from which the animal has been sent.

This applies to all stock sent to a knackery from a property, saleyard, abattoir or any other place.

Dead stock may be sent without an NLIS device to a Council waste management facility for disposal.

## **7. Live Export**

Cattle being exported must be properly identified with an NLIS device before leaving their NSW property. The owner or person in charge of cattle at the point of embarkation in NSW for overseas export must provide the relevant delivery information to the NLIS database within two days of the date of embarkation. The relevant delivery information includes:

- particulars of identification (RFID or NLIS number) of the cattle
- PIC of the property where the stock was last held
- date of embarkation, and
- that the cattle have been exported. This is recorded on the NLIS database as eight Es (EEEEEEEE) as the PIC of the property of destination, together with the export certificate number as the NVD number.

Inspectors involved in pre-export inspections should advise exporters about the NLIS requirements for live exports.

## **8. Special Identifiers and Biosecurity Permits**

Special/emergency identifiers may be issued by an authorised officer, district registrar or other authorised person. Special identifiers are orange post-breeder NLIS devices printed with the district code or saleyard or abattoir PIC.

An authorised officer may approve the movement of cattle without NLIS devices only in the circumstances outlined below. In these situations, the approval for the movement:

- may be given an individual biosecurity permit verbally and a record of the conversation kept in the authorised officer's files. Written confirmation of decision must be given to as soon as reasonably practicable to the person who wishes to move the cattle within 2 days or prior to sale or slaughter, and a copy retained by the authorised officer
- must be given by the authorised officer from the district in which the beast is currently situated
- may be provided to cover multiple movements to a specified location such as a saleyard or abattoir. The approval must be given by the authorised officer from the district or the Senior Veterinary Officer for the region in which the specified location is situated.

The authorised officer creates a unique number which they include in the individual biosecurity permit as follows:

- NP (for NSW approval or permit)
- District number (2 characters, e.g. 47)
- Year number (2 characters, e.g. 17 for 2017)
- Three character sequential number from 001 to 999

This numbering system allows for a unique movement document number to be entered into the NLIS database.

Some of these arrangements have been put in place to facilitate the movement of cattle in emergency or other unforeseen circumstances. However, the arrangements do not come without some inconvenience, cost or consequence and the cattle might lose LT status. To avoid this, producers should ensure that they order NLIS devices and identify their stock well in advance of any possible movement.

It is best practice, when replacing a non-working device with a special identifier, to link the old and new devices together on the NLIS database in order to retain traceability and LT status. The database will only link devices if both devices are on the PIC of the property or saleyard where the replacement is to take place and a precise series of steps is followed.

## **8.1 Properties without suitable facilities**

An authorised officer may approve cattle to be moved without NLIS devices by issuing an individual biosecurity permit if the stock is located on a property that does not have suitable stock handling facilities, or if it is otherwise not reasonably practical to safely attach NLIS devices on the property.

The stock must be moved directly from the property to another place in accordance with the conditions of approval. Before granting approval, the authorised officer must satisfy themselves that the reasons appear to be genuine, but does not have to inspect the facilities.

NLIS devices must be attached as soon as practical and before the stock is sold or slaughtered, or within two days of arrival, or before the stock leaves that property, whichever is the sooner. Either NLIS devices with the PIC for the property from which the cattle have just been moved, or special NLIS devices, may be used.

If the cattle do not return to the property on which they were originally located, and move after being identified to another property, this movement must be recorded in the NLIS database within two days.

## 8.2 Large or difficult cattle including bulls and 'feral' cattle

An authorised officer may approve by issuing an individual biosecurity permit the movement of a beast to an abattoir or saleyard without an NLIS device if they believe on reasonable grounds that it is not practical or safe to attach an NLIS device to the animal because it is too large (> 750 kg) or too difficult to handle.

Saleyard and abattoir operators may decline to handle beasts that are dangerous and many saleyards and agents do not want dangerous animals consigned to them for work, health and safety reasons. The approving officer should confirm that the owner of the animal has the approval of the saleyard or abattoir before granting approval for the animal's movement.

Cattle that are too difficult to handle (either feral or those with an extreme temperament) and are unable to be loaded onto a truck without a risk to public health and safety, should not be moved. These cattle should at some stage be euthanised in-situ in a humane manner as per the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. If these cattle have an NLIS device it should be uploaded as DECEASED to the NLIS database as per section 3.17.

## 8.3 Emergency movements

Cattle may be moved without NLIS devices if the stock has to be urgently moved due to a flood, fire or other natural emergency under the Group Permit – NLIS Emergencies:

- if the stock is sent to a saleyard for sale or an abattoir for slaughter, they must be properly identified with special NLIS devices, or, they may be identified under permit with devices for the property from which they have been moved before being sold or slaughtered
- if the stock is sent to another property from the property of refuge, they must be subsequently identified with breeder or post-breeder NLIS devices for the original property, or post-breeder devices for the refuge property, before being moved again, unless they are returned directly to the original property or approval is given to allow them to be moved and identified after arrival at another place

## 8.4 Delayed device orders

Special NLIS devices may be supplied where a producer has ordered NLIS devices at least three weeks beforehand but has not yet received the devices and must move the cattle due to drought or for animal welfare reasons.

The special identifiers must be attached before the movement unless this is impractical, in which case approval may be given to allow them to be attached elsewhere or after the movement.

## 8.5 Other circumstances

Reasonable circumstances may arise which fall outside the rules and procedures detailed in this document. An authorised officer may allow the use of special/emergency identifiers or permit the movement of cattle to deal with these situations on a case by case basis. This discretion must only be exercised after consultation with and concurrence by the NSW DPI Senior Veterinary Officer.

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 and must not become the 'rule'. The record of supply of the special identifier or the permit must provide for paper-based tracing.

**Except as approved in legislation or elsewhere in this procedure, cattle must not be allowed to move without any form of identification or permit.**

## 9. 8.6 Misuse of Identifiers

A permanent identifier is designed to be in place for the whole life of an animal and therefore provide lifelong traceability. Identifiers must be sold and supplied in accordance with the NLIS Regulation.

A person must not use a permanent identifier except in accordance with the NLIS Regulation. Misuse includes:

- attaching a breeder device to an animal that was not bred on that property
- attaching a device to cattle that are on a different property to that to which the PIC on the device is assigned (unless authorised by an authorised officer).

A permanent identifier must not be attached to any cattle that already have a permanent identifier.

A permanent identifier that is attached to any cattle must not be removed except in prescribed circumstances. The circumstances in which an NLIS device may be removed are as follows:

- the stock has been slaughtered at an abattoir
- the stock has died, unless there is suspicion that the death was due to a notifiable disease. In this case, the identifier must be left in place until an authorised officer has had the opportunity to examine the carcass and remove the device themselves if they wish, or instruct that the device may be removed
- the identifier is damaged such that it cannot be read electronically and/or visually. Immediately after removal, a new NLIS device must be attached
- if the person has been authorised by an authorised officer to remove the permanent identifier and does so in accordance with any conditions specified in the authorisation.

Permanent identifiers, whether attached or unattached, and any equipment used for the purposes of attaching or reading a permanent identifier, must not be altered or defaced in a way that could adversely affect their function or compromise traceability. Note: this does not preclude repair, modification of equipment for use by a disabled person, or upgrades recommended by the manufacturer.

Permanent identifiers that have previously been attached to cattle must not be reused or recycled.

Authorised officers should observe whether NLIS devices that are lost in transit and subsequently found in saleyard pens or on trucks are disposed of appropriately and advise the saleyard operator and transporters accordingly.

A person may voluntarily attach a non-approved identifier to meet market requirements (as long as cattle are identified correctly with an NLIS approved identifier). Orders for non-approved identifiers do not have to be endorsed by the District Registrar but the PIC on the tag must not be misleading or altered.

An authorised officer may take possession of an unattached identifier that the authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds:

- is for sale or supply or is being used in contravention of the NLIS Regulation, or
- is in the possession of a person without the approval of the owner or occupier of the property or the owner of the stock to which the identifier relates, or
- has been abandoned.

If the identifier is not claimed by the owner or occupier of the property within three months, the authorised officer must dispose of the identifier in a manner that ensures the identifier is unable to be used or attached to cattle.

Unattached identifiers may be surrendered by any person to an authorised officer. The devices must then be destroyed and not reused.

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#### Definitions and acronyms:

- **Abattoir:** Any premises used for the slaughter of stock or for the processing of carcasses of stock, including knackereries
- **ASC:** Agricultural Societies Council of NSW
- **COB:** Close of business
- **Current Property:** The property at which cattle has arrived
- **Destination Property:** The property to which cattle are being sent
- **District code:** An identification code assigned to the LLS District that is accepted by NLIS database in lieu of a PIC
- **eNVD:** A completed electronic national vendor declaration obtained from the ISC website, the NLIS website, or an eNVD licensed provider as specified by ISC
- **From PIC:** The PIC of the previous property
- **ISC Ltd:** Integrity System Company Ltd (formerly known as NLIS Ltd)
- **LLS:** Local Land Services
- **LLS Act:** *Local Land Services Act 2013*
- **LPA:** Livestock Production Assurance
- **Movement document:** An NLIS movement document on which is recorded the prescribed information that must be provided when cattle arrive at a property, saleyard or abattoir
- **NLIS:** National Livestock Identification System
- **NLIS database:** The national database which is used to record movements of cattle and is maintained by Integrity Systems Company Limited (previously NLIS Limited). Under the NLIS Regulation the NLIS administrator is Integrity Systems Company Limited and the NLIS register is the NLIS database.
- **NSW DPI:** NSW Department of Primary Industries
- **NVD:** National vendor declaration issued by the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program of AUS-MEAT
- **P2P:** Property to property movement
- **PIC:** Property Identification Code
- **Previous property:** The property on which cattle were most recently held and from which they have just been moved
- **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.
- **To PIC:** The PIC of current or destination property
- **RFID:** Radio Frequency Identification Device
- **TSR:** Travelling stock reserve. *Local Lands Services Act 2013* definition of **travelling stock reserve**  
—  
(a) any route or camping place reserved for travelling stock route or camping place under the [Crown Land Management Act 2016](#), or

- (b) any reserve for travelling stock, water reserve, reserve for access or crossing (where the reserve is for the purpose of providing travelling stock with access to or a crossing of water, whether expressly notified for that purpose or not), or
- (c) any stock watering place.

- **TSS:** Transported stock statement issued under Part 9 Local *Land Services Act 2013*
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**Documentation:**

- Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
- Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
- Policy – Code of Ethics and Conduct
- Various NLIS procedures at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/nlis/policy>
- Biosecurity Permits for access and use by authorised officers only at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/managing-biosecurity/forms>
- NLIS Emergency group biosecurity permit: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/legislation/list/biosecurity-act-2015> (under Instruments)
- NLIS Cattle accredited devices, see: <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/identification--traceability/animal-identification/>
- Terms of Use for the National Livestock Identification System Database: <https://www.nlis.com.au/>
- NLIS database support (including replacing devices): <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/identification--traceability/technical-support/National>

Vendor Declaration and Waybill (NVD): <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/livestock-product-assurance/>

- Permit for the movement of stock without permanent identifiers: (contact Local Land Services office at <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/>)
  - Humane destruction of cattle: Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines at: <http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/>
  - Procedure - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information
  - Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)
  - Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)
  - Policy - Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)
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**Revision history:**

| Version | Date issued      | Notes   | By   |
|---------|------------------|---|--|
| 1       | 01 July 2017     | Substantially updated to align with Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation                     | Systems, Intelligence and Traceability             |
| 1.1     | 01 December 2017 | Includes various updates and amendments to sections 2, 3, 4 and 7                     | Systems, Intelligence and Traceability Biosecurity |
| 2.0     | May 2023         | Review of procedure with minor amendments made as part of the website uplift project. | Traceability team, Animal Biosecurity              |

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- Integrity Systems Company at: [National Livestock Identification System | Integrity Systems](#)
- Agricultural Societies Council for NSW , Phone: 02 9879 6777, Email from website at <https://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/contact>
- NLIS Helpdesk, Phone 1800 683 111 Email [info@integritysystemscom.au](mailto:info@integritysystemscom.au), see [www.nlis.com.au](http://www.nlis.com.au)