

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), Australia's scheme for the identification and tracing of livestock, has been compulsory in NSW since 1 January 2006.

All movements of cattle between properties with different property identification codes (PICs) must be notified to the NLIS database and all cattle identified with an NLIS device before they leave any property.

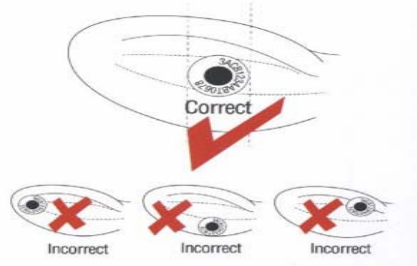
NLIS is Australia's system for the identification and tracing of livestock. It is a permanent whole-of-life identification system that enables individual animals to be tracked from property of birth to slaughter. It assists food safety management in the industry and provides a trace back system in an event of a disease outbreak or other market incident.

DO ALL STOCK NEED NLIS DEVICES?

Yes, all cattle must be fitted with an NLIS device when they leave their property of residence. Only one device is to be fitted to each animal and the same device is to stay with the animal for its entire life. There are some exemptions, for details visit the NSW DPI website <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/nlis-policy-legislation>

WHAT EAR DO I PUT THE DEVICE IN?

The NLIS Device goes into the right ear, close into the head, with the NLIS number (also the female part of the NLIS tag) facing forward.



WHERE CAN A PRODUCER ORDER NLIS TAGS?

- RLPBs sell subsidised Afflex NLIS tags with a handling fee.
- Local rural supply stores sell NLIS devices at market rates.

CAN I AMALGAMATE MY PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODES?

Producers with more than one property may consider amalgamating those properties under a single PIC if they are managed as a single entity. For further information on how to do this contact your local RLPB (http://www.rlpb.org.au/rlpb_list.htm)

WILL I HAVE TO OWN A READER (SCANNER) OR A COMPUTER?

No, there is no Government requirement to own a reader however as well as being a traceability tool, NLIS is an excellent tool for on farm management and record keeping when used with appropriate software programs and equipment. When used in conjunction with this equipment and software NLIS assists with tracking carcass feedback data, recording weights and treatments as well as recording paddock transfers.

A subsidy of \$330 (inc. GST) is now available for each producer or group of producers who have purchased NLIS reading equipment (no software) after 1 Jan 2005. For application forms, go to; <http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/nlis-reader-subsidy>, or for , for further information please contact the NSW DPI hotline on **1300 720 405** .

To be eligible for the \$330 (inc. GST) subsidy, producers must:

1. Complete the NLIS Rebate [application form](#)
2. Include a copy of the receipt for the reading equipment
3. Provide your Property Identification Code and ABN
4. Send a tax invoice to the NSW DPI for \$330 including GST

NLIS DATABASE

Every cattle producer that has an account with the NLIS database should have received a copy of the **NLIS Database Quick Start Guide**. This is an excellent and comprehensive guide, giving clear instructions to guide users through the steps needed to complete tasks on the NLIS database.

If you have an NLIS account and have not received an **NLIS Database Quick Start Guide** please contact the NLIS Database hotline on **1800 654 743**.

If you don't have an account and may like to apply for one, go to the web address: <https://www.nlis.mla.com.au/asp> and follow the prompts.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING THE DATABASE?

Where cattle are sold through a saleyard the owner or person in charge of the saleyard is responsible for uploading all information to the database.

Where cattle are sold to an abattoir or feedlot the owner or person in charge of the abattoir or feedlot is responsible for uploading all information to the database.

Where a private sale takes place between producers the buyer will need to notify the database. This may be done on their behalf by an agent, employee, transporter or other person involved. The vendor may also want to check that the sale has occurred.

Producers are required to notify the database when cattle are moved on and off PICs such as in the following circumstances:

- moving cattle between your own properties if these have different PICs, Producers have the opportunity to amalgamate their properties under the one PIC if they wish.
- moving cattle to and from leased properties, or
- moving cattle to and from agistment.

To ensure lifetime traceability you may also wish to notify the database when cattle die, or when a tag is lost or damaged. This is not mandatory under the Government legislation.

GOING TAIL TAG FREE FROM JULY 1

Some cattle will be exempt from tail tags from July 1 2006, however there are some exceptions and some cattle will still require tail tags under NSW laws:

- NLIS exempt bulls (property or special tail tag)
- NORM T listed properties (red tail tags required)
- lost devices (special tail tag may be used in saleyard, though special NLIS device is preferable)
- non-reading devices (optional use of special tail tag in saleyards, though replacement with special NLIS device is preferable).
- EU cattle with lime green tail tags (AQIS requirement, under review)

There are some cases where cattle still require tail tags to be used on a voluntarily basis:

- purple tags for cattle sold under the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) (commercially driven).
- The NVD should be the definitive source on information about HGP status. However producers are still urged to identify stock that are HGP free with a pink tail tag (producer choice) to meet a buyer or market requirements.

NLIS FACTS AND FIGURES

- NSW has the highest number of cattle properties registered with NLIS devices - 54327.
- NSW is ranked second behind Qld in cattle population – 5.7million head.
- NSW is ranked second in the number of NLIS account holders – 5987.
- NSW saleyards have reported more than 2.5 million devices transferred since 1 July 2005.
- NSW abattoirs have reported more than 2.5 million devices to slaughter since 1 July 2005.
- NSW producers have reported more than 1.2 million device movements since 1 January 2006.
- NSW phased out the mandatory use of tail tags for transaction purposes on 1 July 2006 relying on NLIS devices to identify consignment properties.
- As a member state of the national system, NLIS leads the world in international standards for cattle traceability.
- Since mandatory introduction of NLIS in mid 2004 more than 54,300 cattle producers have purchased over 8 million devices. NSW has more than 5200 producers with database accounts advising movement of more than 130,000 cattle per month.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- MLA <https://www.nlis.mla.com.au> or Tel: 1800 654 743 Fax: (02) 9463 9136
nlis.support@mla.com.au
- NSW Department of Primary industries (<http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/nlis>) on 1300 720 405
- SAFEMEAT
http://www.safemeat.com.au/English/Traceability/On_farm_feedlot_saleyard/National+Livestock+Identification+System/National+Livestock+Identification+System.htm