

NLIS Sheep

NLIS Sheep is now a Government requirement in NSW and therefore as the sheep owner, there are now new obligations which you must meet.

NLIS sheep has two components that a producer is required to comply with:

1. MOVEMENT DOCUMENTATION:



All sheep, of any age, that leave your property (a specific PIC) are required to be accompanied by **movement documentation**, that must be kept for 7 years, by both the vendor and buyer to provide a paper record of movement.

Suitable movement documentation includes:

- Transported Stock Statement (TSS) or
- National Vendor Declaration (where the document incorporates a TSS) or
- Animal health statement (again where this incorporates a TSS).

The Movement documentation remains essentially the same, however there are now two ways to complete it:

- a) You will need to record all the different PICs attached to the consignment sheep (where there is more than one).



| SECTION 3 – DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT SHEEP | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|---|---|
| Number | Year Born (ip) | Breed, Sex and Type (e.g. cross-bred wether lambs) | Brand on sheep; PIC on ear tag (if different from that shown above) | Earmarks (if present or required) |
| 54 | 2006 | Cross bred | NK938574 |  |
| 73 | 2006 | Cross bred | NQ836174 |  |

OR

- b) If you don't want to record the various PIC numbers attached to consignment sheep, you can choose to apply a pink "post breeder" NLIS tag to all the sheep, and only record your PIC on the NVD, TSS or AHS



PLUS

| SECTION 3 – DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT SHEEP | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|---|---|
| Number | Year Born (ip) | Breed, Sex and Type (e.g. cross-bred wether lambs) | Brand on sheep; PIC on ear tag (if different from that shown above) | Earmarks (if present or required) |
| 127 | 2006 | Cross bred | NK938574 |  |
| | | | |  |

2. **PLASTIC NLIS TAGS:**

Sheep are required to be fitted with an NLIS tag when they leave your property. There is a phased in approach to the tagging:

- All sheep born after 1 January 2006 are required to be tagged when they move from their property of birth.
- From 1 January 2009, all sheep, of any age are required to be tagged.
- If sheep move direct from their property of birth to the abattoir on an over the hooks basis they are not required to be identified with an NLIS tag. Please be aware there is much contention over this point and this 'direct to slaughter' tagging exemption may be withdrawn in the future.

NLIS tags require the PIC of the property where they are applied, to be printed on them. Producers can choose any colour tag for sheep born on their property, although year of colour is recommended by the abattoirs. You must use PINK tags for sheep born on another property, or where applying an additional post breeder tag.

It is recommended that you purchase NLIS tags with the NLIS logo on them (logo pictured below). This is because all other states require "approved NLIS devices", which means plastic ear-tags with the NLIS logo printed them. Therefore if you trade into Victoria or Queensland for example, your sheep require NLIS tags with the logo printed on them before they enter into that State.



You can purchase approved NLIS tags (i.e. tags with the NLIS logo) from either rural suppliers, tag manufacturer, or your local RLPB.

ELECTRONIC NLIS DEVICES

No state or territory has regulations that required the recording or reporting of individual NLIS Sheep devices, therefore there is no regulatory driver for electronic or radio frequency devices.

Notwithstanding the NSW DPI, Victoria DPI and Sheep CRC are progressing a research proposal that aims to demonstrate that an enhanced visual mob based PIC NLIS system (sheep) combined with an abattoir RFID system that can achieve acceptable traceability from abattoir back to property of origin.

The Association policy in relation to EID is that the Association:

1. Supports the proposed standards for sheep electronic identification being consistent with current National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Sheep plastic tag standards (ie visually readable property identification code, and retention).
2. Require a cost / benefit analysis to be undertaken prior to electronic identification becoming mandatory under NLIS Sheep.
3. Will require the following electronic identification standards, if electronic identification becomes a mandatory NLIS Sheep requirement:
 - Capable of interfacing with multiple reader technologies;
 - Effective at commercial speeds at each point in the supply chain (i.e. on farm, saleyards, processing works live exports); and
 - Prices starting at less than \$0.50 per device.

Contacts:

Michael Stalley: 1300 794 000 or stalleym@nswfarmers.org.au **MLA:** 1800 654 743 or www.mla.com.au