

Biosecurity - National Livestock Identification System - Property Identification Codes

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1. Purpose

Property identification codes (PICs) are a unique identifier for a parcel of land and is one of the critical elements in the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). NLIS provides traceability of livestock which then underpins access of Australian livestock products to international markets through the identification and tracing of the movement of identifiable stock, including cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. NLIS reflects Australia's commitment to biosecurity and food safety and provides a competitive advantage in a global market.

The purpose of this policy is to define the requirements for the administration and enforcement of PICs that is required under Part 2 of the Biosecurity (National Livestock Identification System) Regulation 2017 (the NLIS Regulation).

Currently PICs are the only requirement under section 7(1) of the NLIS Regulation that enables the location of livestock which are not identifiable stock to be recorded. This is vitally important in the event of an emergency animal disease detection and occurrence.

These non-identifiable livestock include equines (including horses, donkeys, asses, mules and zebras), camelids (including camels, alpacas and llamas), deer, small poultry (chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants or partridges) and large poultry (emus or ostriches).

2. Scope

This policy applies to NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), an office within the NSW Department of Industry, and Local Land Services (LLS) in their role as authorised officers enforcing the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

3. Safety Requirements

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 policy 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 policy.

4. Roles and responsibilities

NSW DPI:

- administer the central PIC register and ensure that PIC data is transferred to the NLIS database in accordance with the NLIS Regulation
- monitor and regulate the use of PICs in accordance with this policy and approved procedures.

LLS:

- assign PICs and administer district registers in accordance with the regulation and approved procedures
- facilitate systems to allow any eligible person to apply for and receive a PIC as soon as possible
- ensure PIC data is transferred to NSW DPI in accordance with the NLIS Regulation
- monitor and regulate the use of PICs in accordance with this Policy and approved Procedures.

5. Outcomes

- a. Within NSW there is a high level of identification and traceability across all regulated species given:
 - i. all properties required under the NLIS Regulation to have a property identification code are assigned a PIC
 - ii. all changes to details of PICs are notified to the district registrar within 14 days by a relevant person in relation to the property
 - iii. the district registrar notifies NSW DPI State register of changes to PIC details within seven days
 - iv. the Secretary or delegate notifies the NLIS register of changes to PIC details within seven days.
- b. Decision making is informed in the event of an emergency animal disease or food safety incident, during the alert phase and the impact of the event or incident is reduced due to accurate knowledge of location and numbers of regulated livestock species.
- c. Compliance with PIC requirements is achieved, as far as practical, through self-regulation, advisory and market-based activities and incentives led by livestock industries. Industry must require the correct use of PICs as a condition of sale and slaughter, and of participation in stock events including both commercial and recreational activities such as shows, sporting and equestrian events.

Activities

- LLS are responsible for assigning PICs, for the administration of district PIC registers, and for providing PIC data to NSW DPI in accordance with the regulation (5a)(5b)
- NSW DPI through delegation is responsible for the format of PICs and the timely transfer of PIC data to the NLIS database in accordance with the regulation (5b)
- NSW DPI and LLS promote compliance by helping industry to better understand regulatory requirements and encouraging industry to act in a manner that maximises traceability and minimises the need for Government intervention (5c)
- The priorities for NLIS regulatory action by NSW DPI and LLS are the stock identification, movement document and database upload requirements for foot-and-mouth disease susceptible species. NSW DPI and LLS are not actively involved in monitoring and enforcement of PICs in other circumstances, with regulatory action only taken in high risk situations when other methods of obtaining compliance have failed (5c)
- Any person using a NSW DPI or LLS provided service which relates to a property on which a PIC is required, must provide the PIC of the property if requested to do so. Services

include disease and residue investigations, laboratory submissions, and market assurance program accreditations (5c)

- NSW DPI's policies and procedures for PICs are publicly available on the departmental website (5c).

6. Related Procedures

Procedure - Biosecurity - Compliance procedures for property identification codes.

Procedure - Biosecurity - NLIS procedures for assigning property identification codes and for managing and accessing registers.

Procedure - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information

7. Definitions and acronyms

District register: The register of PICs in a Local Land Services District.

District registrar: A person appointed in accordance with clause 3 of the Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017 to assign PICs and administer district registers

LLS: Local Land Services

NLIS: National Livestock Identification System

NSW DPI: NSW Department of Primary Industries

PIC: Property identification code

8. Legislation

Biosecurity (NLIS) Regulation 2017

Biosecurity Act 2015

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

9. Other related documents

Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)

Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)

Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)

Policy - Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)

Policy - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information

10. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Leader Traceability

11. Contact

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