

# NLIS REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

## NATIONAL LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

*NLIS is Australia's system for the identification and tracing of sheep and goats for biosecurity, food safety, product integrity and market access purposes.*

*To enhance this system, the recording of the movement of mobs of sheep or goats between properties on the NLIS database is being progressively rolled out across all states from 1 July 2010.*

Mob-based movement recording has not been implemented in Victoria at this time but may be undertaken by Victorian producers on a voluntary basis.

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE**

Throughout Australia, producers are required to know where the sheep and goats under their management have come from and where they are going.

In Victoria this means:

- All sheep and managed goats must be identified with an approved NLIS (Sheep) ear tag before leaving their property – be they destined for a saleyard, abattoir, sale over-the-hooks or another property with a different Property Identification Code (PIC).
- All transported sheep and goats, including unmanaged goats, must be accompanied by accurate and fully completed movement documents, generally a Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration and Waybill (LPA NVD/Waybill).
- For mixed mobs including multiple PICs, all PICs within a mob must be recorded on the LPA NVD/Waybill or a pink post-breeder ear tag used.

Buyers of sheep and goats, whether purchased at a saleyard or through a private sale, must provide the selling agent or seller with the PIC of the destination property (including when purchased for slaughter at an abattoir).

**KNOW YOUR OBLIGATIONS**

### Which ear tags do I use?

All sheep or goats must be identified with approved NLIS (Sheep) ear tags prior to moving them from your property. For sheep or goats bred on your property, this means using breeder tags. For non-vendor bred or introduced sheep or goats that do not already have tags applied, this means using pink post-breeder tags.

Consignors of sheep or managed goats that are already tagged with an NLIS (Sheep) ear tag must record all PICs printed on the NLIS (Sheep) ear tags attached to the consigned livestock on the movement document, or alternatively attach a pink NLIS (Sheep) post-breeder ear tag to each animal on which is printed the PIC of the property on which the sheep or goats are located.

### Can I use electronic ear tags?

Electronic NLIS (Sheep) ear tags are available for use on a voluntary basis.

Victorian producers are able to purchase electronic NLIS (Sheep) ear tags for \$1.

Electronic ear tags are ordered through the Victorian Department of Primary Industries website:  
[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis)

### What movement documents are required?

All sheep and goat movements require appropriate movement documentation such as a fully completed LPA NVD/Waybill. You must retain all movement documentation on your property for at least seven years after the movement of the livestock.

### What do I do if I am moving sheep or goats interstate?

If sheep or goats are being transported out of Victoria, both Victorian and destination state requirements for NLIS and livestock movement documentation must be complied with (along with the requirements of any other state that the livestock pass through during the journey).

### Are there exemptions for Victoria?

Exemptions are in place in Victoria for harvested feral or unmanaged goats as well as dairy goats. Producers should contact the Victorian Department of Primary Industries for further details.

**IF IN DOUBT, FIND OUT**

Victorian Department of Primary Industries

Phone: 1800 678 779  
[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis)

Meat & Livestock Australia  
[www.mla.com.au/NLISSheepAndGoats](http://www.mla.com.au/NLISSheepAndGoats)

National Livestock Identification System  
[www.nlis.mla.com.au](http://www.nlis.mla.com.au)