

Livestock movement and identification in the Northern Territory

Livestock Biosecurity Branch

Introduction

Livestock movement and identification in the Northern Territory (NT) is regulated by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources under the *Livestock Act* and *Regulations*. The identification and movement requirements for livestock in the NT provide information to support market access and traceability in the case of an animal disease or chemical residue incident.

Livestock defined under the *Livestock Act* as 'identifiable livestock' include; alpacas and llamas, bison, buffalo, cattle, camels, deer, emus, ostriches, goats, horses, mules, donkeys, pigs, poultry, pigeons and sheep.

A Property Identification Code (PIC), Brands, Waybills and the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) are the four components under the *Livestock Act* and *Regulations* that livestock owners are required to comply with for identification and movement of identifiable livestock.

Property Identification Code

A property or a parcel of land that has identifiable livestock is required to register for a Property Identification Code (PIC) with the department. This is a requirement for all livestock owners in Australia. A PIC identifies a specific property. For example TEDG0086 is the PIC for Berrimah Export Yard. The 'T' is for NT and 'DG' is Darwin Gulf.

NT PIC's can be searched online at <http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au>

Further information on PIC's can be located at <https://www.nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/get-a-property-identification-code>

Brands

Under the *Livestock Act* brands are required on cattle over 8 months of age in the NT. The NT uses a three letter brand system where one letter must be a 'T'. Once the three letter brand is registered then the owner can register an ear mark and a distinctive or "symbol" brand. Brands are a permanent identifier registered to a person or company to be used on a specific NT property only as described on the brand certificate. It cannot be used on another property without approval from the Registrar. A registered NT brand is the only true proof of ownership of livestock in the NT. With the purchase of cattle cross branding is accepted but not a legal requirement under the Act. A receipt of purchase would be required for proof of ownership if cattle were not cross-branded with supporting movement documents.

NT Brands can be searched online at <http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/>

Further information on brands can be located at <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/brand-and-identify-livestock/livestock-brands-in-nt>

Waybills

Waybills in the NT are a movement document for livestock (cattle, buffalo, camels, alpacas, llamas, deer, goats, sheep and pigs) moving from one property to another. A waybill provides detailed information which can be used for tracing animal movements. The waybill is an essential part of the NLIS. There are three copies of a waybill, the white copy travels with the livestock and is given to the receiver, the pink copy should be sent to the Registrar within 28 days of the cattle movement

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and the green copy is retained in the book by the sender. NT Waybills are an accountable document and must be retained for seven years by the receiving livestock owner.

Further information on waybills can be located at

<https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/moving-and-exporting-livestock/nt-waybills>

For livestock (cattle, buffalo, horses, camels, alpaca, llama, sheep, goats, deer and honeybees) entering the NT the waybill is included in a NT Health Certificate and Waybill document. This document is available on the NT government website to be downloaded for producers to complete when importing livestock from interstate. Livestock entering from Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia are required to be endorsed by an inspector for the certification of disease free status. Endorsement is not required from the remaining states. A completed NT Health Certificate & Waybill is required to be sent to the department prior to livestock entering the NT. NT Health Certificate & Waybill must be retained for a period of seven years by the receiving livestock owner.

A copy of these documents can only be supplied to other people or agencies by written permission from the owner, freedom of information, a subpoena or warrant.

Further information on NT Health Certificate and Waybill and the NT entry conditions for livestock can be located at <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/moving-and-exporting-livestock/moving-livestock-into-the-nt>

National Livestock Identification System

National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for identifying and tracing of livestock for food safety, product integrity and market access purposes. It is a permanent whole of life identification system that allows individual animals to be traced from the property of birth to slaughter or export. In the NT all cattle and buffalo must have an approved NLIS device and sheep and goats an approved tag attached to their right ear before they are moved off a property regardless of where they are going. NLIS data for cattle and buffalo is recorded on the NLIS database.

Anyone can open an account on the NLIS database if they satisfy requirements relating to livestock including PIC ownership. To create an account go to <https://www.nlis.com.au/> click on Register. When choosing an account type, be sure to select the appropriate category.

Further information on NLIS can be located at <https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock/brand-and-identify-livestock/nlis-in-the-nt>

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