

# Fact Sheet

## NLIS for Cattle Producers with Small Holdings

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) was introduced to provide rapid and accurate tracing of livestock movements across all states and territories in Australia for the purpose of underpinning consumer and market confidence in the safety and integrity of Australian livestock and livestock products.

The NT identification and tracing system for cattle includes:

- Compulsory registration of all cattle holdings with a PIC.
- Mandatory branding of cattle over the age of 8 months.
- Mandatory use of NLIS devices and transaction recording to the NLIS database for cattle moving property to property.
- Mandatory documentation of movements through waybills.

All cattle producers should familiarise themselves with NLIS. NLIS packages were distributed to all properties with a registered Property Identification Code (PIC).

### How does the system work?

The NLIS in cattle uses radio frequency identification devices (RFIDs), also known as NLIS devices or tags and a national database to record individual animal movements. The database enables producers to monitor and record individual animal movements onto and off their property. It can also be used as a management tool.

NLIS devices display the property PIC on the front of the tag, and contain a microchip with the RFID number inside the tag. There are two types of tags:



- **Breeder tags** are white in colour and are used to permanently identify cattle before they leave their property of birth. These tags should only be applied to cattle which are born on the property they are leaving.
- **Post-breeder tags** are orange in colour and are used to permanently identify introduced cattle that were not born on the property.

Cattle only need to be identified once, either with a breeder or post-breeder tag. If purchased cattle are already identified with a RFID, it must not be removed, and a second tag must not be attached. The tags cannot be re-used. Tags must be attached to the middle section of the right (offside) ear. The tag is issued for application on one property only and cannot be applied to cattle on another property. NLIS devices can be ordered through your local stock and station agent.

NLIS readers are used to electronically read the RFID numbers on each NLIS device. There are two types of readers:



- **Hand held readers** act in the same way as a race reader, but generally are not as fast at recording. Hand held readers are more portable and cost less. This type of reader is suitable for small mobs of cattle.
- **Race readers** are attached to the rails in the race or crush and provide automated recording. As cattle walk by the reader, they activate the microchip in the tag which is captured by the reader.



### What do cattle producers need to do?

#### When sending cattle off the property:

1. Ensure property is registered with a PIC.
2. Purchase breeder and post-breeder devices and applicator.
3. Apply NLIS devices to cattle before they leave the property.

### When receiving cattle onto the property:

1. It is the responsibility of the owner of the property receiving cattle to ensure NLIS devices are read with an NLIS reader and that RFID numbers are sent to the national NLIS database.
2. Register a user account with the NLIS database at [www.nlis.mla.com.au](http://www.nlis.mla.com.au). Select 'create a new account'. Producers must have a property identification code (PIC) prior to creating a new account.
3. Obtain a NLIS reader or use a third-party provider to read RFID numbers, and upload RFID numbers to the NLIS database within 48 hours of cattle moving.

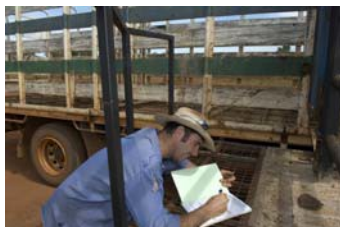
### What cattle don't require RFIDs?

Only cattle which are moving from their property of birth directly to the Darwin Wharf will not require an RFID. These cattle may be consigned to an Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) registered export premise to complete export treatment protocols en route to the wharf.

### Waybills

Waybills provide detailed information of livestock movement in the NT, and **must be completed whenever livestock are moved outside the boundaries of a property**. The waybill system also acts as a deterrent to stock theft, provides certification of the property of origin for saleyards, abattoirs and exporters and provides detailed documentation for management.

It is compulsory to use waybills under the Livestock Act. To maintain efficient operation, it is extremely important that the information completed on the waybills is accurate and complete. Waybill information is recorded on the NT Waybill database.



- The original (white) copy of the waybill should accompany stock to the destination.
- The duplicate (pink) copy should be sent to the Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer (RLBO) within 28 days of movement.
- The triplicate (green) copy should remain in the book at the property of origin.

Further information on Livestock Identification and Movement is available at your Primary Industry office or on the website [www.nt.gov.au/d/nlis](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/nlis)

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**Animal Biosecurity Branch** - [www.nt.gov.au/d/animalhealth](http://www.nt.gov.au/d/animalhealth)

**NT Property Identification Code (PIC) Search Database** - <http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/>

**NT Brands Register Search Database** - <http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/>

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