



Special Arrangements and Exemptions

This Fact Sheet outlines NLIS special interim arrangements for:

- Mature bulls
- Cattle offloaded at transit yards
- Cattle sent to shows and exhibitions
- Cattle used at campdrafts, rodeos and competitions

What is NLIS?

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) has been developed to enable lifetime traceability of all Australian livestock in the event of a disease outbreak or food safety or residue contamination issue.

All owners of cattle, including those with only one or two animals, must comply with NLIS requirements. All cattle must be identified with an NLIS identifier before they are moved off the property for sale or moved to a location with a different PIC.

The NLIS will enable individual animals to be tracked from their property of birth through all changes of ownership and geographic location until they are sent for slaughter, sold overseas or die.

The NLIS database contains a complete record of all the locations an individual animal has been throughout the course of its life.

All cattle industry participants have specific responsibilities under the NLIS. Adhering to these requirements will uphold the international reputation of Australia's cattle industry by underpinning the integrity and safety of our cattle, beef and dairy products.

Special arrangements for specific cattle under NLIS

Several exemptions apply to specific groups of cattle during the NLIS implementation phase. These transitional arrangements are in place until appropriate infrastructure is available to identify and record the movements of exempted animals.

Exemptions from NLIS identification requirements will be issued as either a 'general exemption' which does not require a permit, or as a 'specific exemption' which will require a permit issued under special conditions.

General exemptions (no permit required)

Mature Bulls

Bulls born before 1 July 2003 do not require NLIS electronic identification when sold direct for slaughter either to an abattoir or via saleyards to an abattoir.

Owners of such bulls do not need individual approval from the Chief Inspector but the receiving saleyard or abattoir must agree to receive the animals before they leave the property.

The exempt bulls will require a transaction tail tag and identifying paint brand.

If the bulls are to be moved to a live export depot, they will require a minimum of a transaction ear tag bearing the Property Identification Code (PIC) of the property of dispatch.

The bulls must be loaded separately, clearly identified and accompanied by a separate National Vendor Declaration (NVD) Waybill. This will enable the bulls to be positively identified and easily separated from other cattle at the final destination for sale or slaughter.

Please note this is a transitional arrangement and will be in force only until 30 June 2008.

Tagging Tips:

Producers are advised to identify bulls with an NLIS electronic device at marking to avoid the problems associated with applying a device to more mature bulls.

Cattle off loaded at transit yards

Cattle that will be offloaded at transit yards must have an NLIS device fitted, however they are not required to have them scanned on arrival or departure.

Transit depots are defined as any yard or facility where cattle are held for less than 48 hours before being moved to another location. If a farming property has yards that are used as a transit depot, the property must be registered as a transit depot and be allocated a non-farming PIC.

Unmanned depots must have their PIC displayed prominently so transporters can locate and record the PIC on the waybill. It is the responsibility of the carrier to record the PIC and the date the cattle were in the depot on the waybill accompanying the cattle.

Cattle sent to shows and exhibitions

All cattle entering a show or exhibition must be identified with an NLIS electronic device and be accompanied by a waybill.



Cattle for show only

If the cattle are for show only, the NLIS electronic devices do not need to be read.

This is a transitional arrangement until adequate infrastructure is in place to record individual animal movements.

The event organisers must register a PIC for the show site and maintain a record of the PICs of all exhibitors, the number of animals at the show and the dates the cattle were present at the site.

Cattle for sale at shows

Cattle for sale at shows have no exemption. Under NLIS, cattle sold at shows, exhibitions or trade and carcass competitions are considered to be under the same conditions as a saleyard. These cattle must therefore be identified with an NLIS electronic device before being moved for sale and the transfer recorded on the national database.

The event organiser or auctioneer is responsible for scanning the NLIS devices of the cattle before sale and for ensuring the cattle are transferred on the NLIS database to the show site PIC and after sale to the buyer's PIC.



Specific exemptions (permit required)

Cattle used at campdrafts, rodeos and competitions

Cattle participating at campdrafts, rodeos and competitions can qualify for a special exemption from NLIS identification.

This is an interim measure until adequate infrastructure is in place to record individual animal movements.

Event organisers must apply for the exemption permit through a Stock Inspector and issue copies to attendees before the event so that the permit travels with the animals at all times.

Cattle moved to such grounds without an NLIS electronic device must have an **ear tag bearing the PIC** from the property the cattle came from and an accompanying waybill endorsed with the PIC of the property to where the animals are being moved.

The event organisers are responsible for registering a PIC for the site and must maintain a record of all cattle at the event and the dates they were present.

‘Difficult’ cattle due to inadequate handling facilities or animal welfare reasons

When animals are unable to be restrained to apply an NLIS electronic device, the owner can apply for a special permit exempting the cattle from specific NLIS requirements.

Owners of difficult cattle need to apply in writing to a local Department of Agriculture & Food Stock Inspector.

Provided the application meets specific criteria, the Chief Inspector will authorise approval for exemption.

The cattle must be identified with a transaction tail tag and an identifying paint mark. They can only be moved directly to an abattoir lairage for slaughter or to an approved facility to be identified with an orange NLIS electronic device registered to the tagging location.

The exemption permit only applies to the particular animals in the application and it must accompany the animals.

The exempt cattle must be accompanied by a separate NVD Waybill and be maintained as a separate lot during transport. This will enable the cattle to be positively identified and easily separated from other cattle at the final destination.



Further information:

For further detail on NLIS or Brand and Property Identification Code (PIC) registration, please contact the Department of Agriculture and Food, Bunbury.
Telephone: (08) 9780 6100.

Please note: Failure to comply with the cattle and buffalo NLIS requirements under the Enzootic Disease Regulations 1970, can result in fines of up to \$5000 for each offence.

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