

## Changes to identification requirements



### Sheep

**Earmarking of sheep became optional on 1 January 2022.**

This means that it is now up to each owner to choose whether to earmark their stock or not.

- Owners who decide to earmark will still be required to use the registered earmark allocated to them as listed on their PIC card. They cannot use anyone else's earmark or earmark pliers.
- **NLIS tagging (with an accredited year of birth colour NLIS tag or electronic device) remains mandatory on property of birth. Additional pink NLIS visual tags must still be applied prior to sheep moving off any subsequent owner's property.**



### Cattle (and buffalo)

**Earmarking and branding of cattle became optional on 1 January 2022.**

This means that it is now up to each owner to choose whether to earmark and/or brand their stock or not.

- Owners who decide to earmark or brand will still be required to use the registered earmark and/or stock brand as listed on their PIC card. They cannot use anyone else's earmark or brand.
- **NLIS tagging (with an accredited NLIS electronic device) remains mandatory. A white NLIS device on property of birth; an orange device if no longer on property of birth and no existing device.**
- NLIS tags must now be applied to cattle:
  - In the south west land division: by 6 months of age or before they first leave the property, whichever occurs first.
  - Outside the south west land division: by 18 months of age or before they first leave the property, whichever occurs first.

[agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-movement-identification/changes](https://agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-movement-identification/changes)

**For more information:**

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