

Property Identification Codes (PICs) Explained

By Trisha Esson.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for the permanent identification and tracing of cattle for market access, food safety and disease control purposes.

What is a PIC?

A property identification code or PIC is an eight character code allocated by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) or equivalent authority in other states/territories to identify a livestock producing property.

Who should have a PIC?

If you have livestock you are required by law to have a PIC for the properties on which you graze livestock. Livestock are cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camelids (as in alpacas or llamas) deer, horses or more than 100 poultry or 10 emus or ostriches.

All livestock businesses (saleyards, cattle scales, abattoirs, knackeries and stock agents) must also have a PIC. Horse owners running horses on their own property and owners of properties where horses are agisted are also required to have a PIC.

Property Identification Codes – Why?

The purpose of property identification is partly for tracing and controlling disease and residue problems that may be detected after leaving the farm, but also for locating properties and owners that have livestock when an outbreak of a disease that may threaten their enterprise is detected in an area. Traceability systems provide confidence to consumers in domestic and overseas markets that the products they buy are of good quality.

General Information:

The following are useful contacts for further information:

Specific NLIS Database Queries for the MLA:

NLIS Hotline: 1800 654 743

The helpdesk operates 8am to 6pm Mon-Fri (Sydney time).

www.nlis.mla.com.au nlis.support@mla.com.au

Australian Capital Territory

Department of Territory and Municipal Services
Senior Veterinary Officer

(02) 6207 2357

Will.Andrew@act.gov.au

New South Wales

Contact LHPA about PICs and ordering devices.

www.lhpa.org.au/contact

Industry & Investment NSW – Primary Industries

Sheep & Wool Officers:

Megan Rogers (02) 6850 1905

Edward Joshua (02) 6881 1275

Geoff Cashburn (02) 6938 1630

www.industry.nsw.gov.au

Northern Territory

Department of Resources
, Animal Health, Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Alice Springs: (08) 8951 8125

Darwin: (08) 8999 2031

Katherine: (08) 8973 9754

Tennant Creek: (08) 8962 5490

ntnlis@nt.gov.au www.nt.gov.au

Queensland

Department of Employment, Economic Development and

Innovation – Biosecurity Queensland

Business Information Centre: 13 25 23

NLIS_admin@deedi.qld.gov.au

www.deedi.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Primary Industries & Resources of South Australia –

Biosecurity

NLIS Hotline: 1800 654 688

pirsanlisdatabasenotifications@sa.gov.au

www.pir.sa.gov.au

Tasmania

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment

Food Quality and Safety

1300 368 550

john.cameron@dpiwpe.tas.gov.au

www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Victoria

Department of Primary Industries

Biosecurity Victoria, Animal Standards Branch

1800 678 779

nli.victoria@dpi.vic.gov.au

www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Western Australia

Department of Agriculture and Food – Animal Biosecurity

Roy Butler (08) 9081 3110 roy.butler@agric.wa.gov.au

Brands office (08) 9780 6207 brands@agric.wa.gov.au

www.agric.wa.gov.au

