

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE OPERATION OF THE NLIS IN SALEYARDS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

FOREWORD:

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's risk based system for identifying and tracing cattle. The Northern Territory cattle industry, with the support of the Northern Territory Government, has agreed to an NLIS implementation plan which will provide for auditable whole-of-life traceability of livestock. This will ensure that consumers in Australia and overseas can have confidence in our beef products.

The NLIS Advisory Committee for the NT makes recommendations to the Minister for Primary Industry in relation to the implementation of the NLIS in the Northern Territory. The NLIS Advisory Committee has prepared this Code of Practice to provide guidance to industry participants on legal and implementation aspects of the operation of the NLIS in saleyards. All sectors of the cattle industry are represented on the Advisory Committee and have endorsed this Code.

This Code will operate in Northern Territory saleyards where cattle are traded from the 1st August 2006.

1. SCANNING AND RECORD KEEPING

1.1 Scanning at saleyards

- a) Saleyard operators will scan NLIS identified cattle. In relation to cattle identified with NLIS devices where the microchip can not be read using scanning equipment, see section .2.1
- b) In relation to scanned cattle, saleyard operators must up-load to the NLIS database within 48 hours, the following information:
 - i) NLIS device microchip numbers
 - ii) Property Identification Code (PIC) of the last property of residence as recorded on the waybill
 - iii) PIC of the property to which the cattle will be taken as recorded on the waybill
 - iv) NVD serial number
 - v) Date of transaction
- c) Saleyard operators are permitted to scan cattle before sale, or alternatively, after lots are sold. Saleyard operators, if they wish, may scan cattle more than once.

1.2 Provision of PIC information and record keeping

- a) The purchaser of cattle must, provide the selling agent with the PIC and name of the next property on which the cattle are to be kept.
- b) The selling agent must then pass this information to the saleyard operator.
- c) Saleyard operators can access the Northern Territory's PIC register, to assist with the accurate registration of cattle movements on the NLIS database.

1.3 Waybill Requirements

- a) All movements of cattle to the saleyard must be accompanied by a completed waybill which includes details of the PIC of origin, categories of stock and the brands identifying the stock. The saleyard operator will retain the original copy of the waybill delivered with the stock.
- b) The saleyard operator will issue a waybill for all movements of cattle leaving the saleyard. If the place of origin on the waybill is Bohning Yards the PIC will be TAAS0313.

1.4 Brand Requirements

- a) All stock over 8 months of age must be branded in accordance with the NT Livestock Act prior to delivery to the Saleyard.

1.5 Compliance with Waybill and brand regulations (Livestock Regulations) will be subject to audit by the DRDPIFR.

2. OPERATIONAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NLIS

2.1 Non-reading NLIS devices

- a) Non-reading NLIS devices will be replaced with the orange post breeder device for the saleyard, so that purchasers can be assured that all stock presented for sale meet the identification requirements necessary to move to any destination.
- b) Saleyard operators and agents are not required to visually read the NLIS number on NLIS devices containing non-functioning microchips.
- c) Saleyard operators will obtain NLIS Post-breeder Tags printed with a number which incorporates the PIC of the saleyard and use them to replace devices with non-functioning microchips. Use of such Tags for this purpose by saleyard operators, will incur a fee.

2.2 Lost NLIS devices

- a) Agents can not sell cattle that have lost their NLIS devices.
- b) The saleyard operator will attach the orange post breeder device issued by the saleyard to animals which have lost their NLIS device.

2.3 Sale of cattle that have never been identified with an NLIS device

- a) Producers are required to attach an NLIS device to identify all cattle consigned to Northern Territory saleyards.
- b) Only cattle identified with an NLIS device may be sold at Northern Territory saleyards.

2.4 Use of NLIS devices in saleyards

- a) Saleyard operators will obtain and use orange NLIS Post-breeder Tags printed with a number which incorporates the PIC of the saleyard. Such Tags may then be used to identify untagged cattle before they are sold.
- b) A condition of the use of NLIS Post-breeder Tags is that the saleyard operator must record the PIC of the property from which the cattle were consigned, the PIC of the purchaser's property and the NLIS numbers printed on the Post-breeder Tags (or RFID number) used. This information must then be recorded to the NLIS database within 48 hours of the date on which the cattle were tagged.
- c) Any fee associated with the tagging of cattle in saleyards is a matter to be determined by the saleyard operator.
- d) Producers are not permitted to identify their cattle at a saleyard with NLIS devices that were issued for use on their property. Only NLIS Post-breeder Tags issued for use at a saleyard, and printed with a number incorporating the saleyard's PIC, may be used to tag cattle at a saleyard.

2.5 Tagging of cattle by agents

- a) Agents are able to attach NLIS devices to cattle on behalf of a producer. This service must only occur on the producer's property using NLIS devices issued for use on that property.
- b) Agents are not permitted to transport their client's NLIS devices to a saleyard, with the intention of attaching these devices to cattle at the saleyard.
- c) The saleyard operator may attach NLIS devices to cattle at the saleyard using only the orange NLIS Post-breeder Tags printed with a number which incorporates the PIC of the saleyard.

3. TAIL TAGGING

3.1 Sales

There are no legal requirements to use tail tags. However they may be required under some marketing programs eg, EUCAS

4. LEGISLATION RELATING TO NLIS DEVICES

4.1 NLIS Breeder and Post-breeder Devices

- (a) NLIS Breeder Tags are white and are used to permanently identify cattle before they leave their property of birth.
- (b) NLIS Post-breeder Tags are orange and are used to permanently identify introduced cattle, not already identified with a Breeder or Post-breeder Tag.

- (c) Cattle only need to be permanently identified once, either with a NLIS Breeder Tag or an NLIS Post-breeder Tag. If purchased cattle are already identified with an NLIS device, a second NLIS device must not be attached.
- (d) NLIS Breeder and Post-breeder devices are available in the form of an ear tag, or an ear tag/rumen bolus combination. With ear tag/rumen bolus combinations, the visually readable NLIS number is printed on a large ear tag (white for NLIS Breeder Tags and orange for NLIS Post-breeder Tags) along with the letter 'R' or word 'RUMEN'. The bolus contains the microchip. Producers throughout Australia have the option of using NLIS endorsed rumen bolus/ear tag combinations instead of NLIS approved ear tags if they wish. Rumen boluses cannot be administered to young calves.

4.2 Use of NLIS devices

- (a) NLIS Breeder and Post-breeder devices purchased for use on one property cannot be applied to cattle located on another property (with a different PIC).
- (b) NLIS Breeder and Post-breeder Tags cannot be reused.
- (c) NLIS Breeder and Post-breeder Tags must be attached to the right (offside) ear, with the component of the Tag containing the microchip placed on the inside of the ear.
- (d) Cattle can only carry one NLIS device, either an NLIS Breeder Tag or an NLIS Post-breeder Tag. A second NLIS tag must never be attached if a NLIS device is already present.

4.3 Removal of NLIS Devices

It is an offence under the Livestock Act to remove an NLIS Breeder or Post-breeder Tag unless the tag is malfunctioning and is being replaced or the tagged animal is being processed in an abattoir or the animal is deceased.

4.4 Animals dead on arrival (on trucks)

The NLIS or RFID number should be read and supplied to the property of origin so that it can be recorded as deceased.

4.5 Animals dead in yards (unloaded alive)

The NLIS or RFID number should be read and recorded as deceased at the saleyard.

Attachment 1 – ACRONYMS & TERMS

Term	Meaning
AAAAA	Default PIC used to register cattle movements on the NLIS database when the PIC of the property on which cattle are to be kept is not known.
Bobby calf	A calf <u>not</u> accompanied by its dam that is less than 6 weeks of age.
Cattle	Under Northern Territory's Livestock Act, means animals of the bovine species.
Lifetime traceable	A status assigned to NLIS identified cattle where every property of residence in an animal's life has been registered on the NLIS database in accordance with NLIS business rules.
MLA	Meat & Livestock Australia
Microchip number	Unique number encoded on each microchip which, when read electronically, has 16 characters in the following format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturer's code 3 numeric characters • Space 1 character • Individual chip number 12 numeric characters
National Livestock Identification System	The national scheme operating throughout Australia for the identification and tracing of cattle, and operating under the auspice and direction of SAFEMEAT.
NLIS Breeder Tag/device	A white NLIS approved device used to permanently identify cattle while they are still on their property of birth.
NLIS database	National database operated by MLA which holds the register of NLIS devices, including microchip and associated NLIS numbers, transaction records, and residue, disease and market access status information for PICs and NLIS identified cattle. The database also facilitates the provision of carcass feedback to producers.
NLIS device	Ear tag or rumen bolus/ear tag combination approved by the NLIS Standards Committee for use as part of the NLIS. NLIS devices are stamped with the NLIS logo.
NLIS Logo	The logo used to identify devices approved for use as part of the NLIS.
NLIS Number	Unique number printed on NLIS devices consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 character PIC of the property on which the device is to be, or has been used, • 2 alphanumeric characters identifying the manufacturer and device type, eg NLIS Breeder or Post-breeder Tag, • alpha character for year of supply, and • 4 or 5 character serial number.
NLIS Post-breeder Tag/device	An orange NLIS approved device for the permanent identification of cattle that are no longer on their property of birth that are not already identified with an NLIS Breeder or Post-breeder Tag.
NVD / Waybill	Combined National Vendor Declaration and Waybill document used under the Livestock Production Assurance Program

Term	Meaning
Processor	A person, organisation or company directly engaged in the slaughter of livestock for human consumption.
Producer	A person, organisation or company actively engaged in the raising of cattle for subsequent sale, and includes dairy farmers and feedlot operators.
Property	A holding on which cattle or buffalo are kept or depastured.
Property Identification Code (PIC)	The eight character alphanumeric code for a property as allocated by the relevant State or Territory authority.
Rumen bolus	A device administered orally to ruminants which is designed to remain permanently in the rumen or reticulum. NLIS approved rumen boluses are supplied with a large ear tag (white for Breeder Tags and orange for Post-breeder Tags) on which is printed the NLIS number and either 'R' or 'Rumen' indicating that a bolus has been installed.
Saleyard operator	The person, organisation or company responsible for the operation of a saleyard, public scale operation or a public auction held on a farm or at a public venue.
Stock agent	A commission agent who buys and sells livestock by auction or private treaty.
Waybill	Means a way-bill issued under Part IV of the Northern Territory Livestock Act

Principal Livestock Regulatory Officer (PLRO)

Sharon Kearney

Phone: 08 8999 2031

Fax: 08 8999 2146

E-mail: ntnlis@nt.gov.au

Website: www.nt.gov.au/drdpiflr/nlis

Darwin Region

Fax: 08 8999 2146

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer (RLBO)

Ph: 08 8999 2030 M: 0439 270 039

Livestock Biosecurity Officer (LBO)

Ph: 08 8999 2034

Tennant Creek Region

Fax: 08 8962 4480

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer (RLBO)

Ph: 08 8962 4490 Sat: 0145 117 050

Livestock Biosecurity Officer (LBO)

Ph: 08 8962 4458 M: 0401 113 445

Katherine Region

Fax: 08 8973 9759

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer (RLBO)

Ph: 08 8973 9754 M: 0418 895 084

Livestock Biosecurity Officer (LBO)

Ph: 08 8973 9767 M: 0401 115 802

Ph: 08 8973 9765 M: 0427 604 002

Alice Springs Region

Fax: 08 8951 8123

Senior Field Veterinary Officer (SFVO)

Ph: 08 8951 8181 M: 0401 118 181

Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer (RLBO)

Ph: 08 8951 8125 M: 0401 118 125

Disclaimer: While all care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this document is true and correct at the time of publication, the Northern Territory of Australia gives no warranty or assurance, and makes no representation as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this publication, or that it is suitable for your intended use. No serious, business or investment decisions should be made in reliance on this information without obtaining independent and/or professional advice in relation to your particular situation.