

NLIS tags

All sheep and goats need an NLIS tag before they can be moved to another property

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For producers this involves:

- ❑ Making sure that any animal born on the property is identified with an approved NLIS breeder tag printed with the Property's Identification Code (PIC).
- ❑ Making sure that for animals born elsewhere, they are identified with an approved NLIS tag printed with the breeders PIC or a 'pink' post breeder tag.

A 'Pink' post breeder tag generally signifies that the animal was born elsewhere to the PIC printed on the tag. Its primary function is to enable these animals to be effectively identified if they are untagged or have lost a tag.

Introduced animals born prior to 2006 are most likely to need identifying with a 'pink' post breeder tag. Prior to 2009 they were not required to be tagged and as a result, many properties will have these animals (commonly rams) that will need tagging before being moved.

All animals introduced since the 1st of January 2009 should already contain an approved NLIS eartag. These animals would only need a 'pink' post breeder tag if they lose a tag.

An NLIS tag is a permanent whole-of-life identifier. Once attached, an NLIS tag must not be removed except in approved circumstances.

An approved NLIS tag is one which conforms to the national standards specified by the NLIS Standards Committee of SAFEMEAT.

It is possible to insert a 'pink' post breeder tag into animals already containing an NLIS tag. This allowance has been made for mixed consignments and negates the need to list on the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) all of the PIC's present on the animals.

However, this is really only relevant to traders of livestock (such as feedlots) and is not commonly recommended.

Feral goats must be identified with a 'pink' post-breeder tag for the property of capture if the goats are to be moved from that property to another property (other than a depot) or to a saleyard for sale.

If a home bred animal loses its tag whilst on its property of birth it should be re-tagged with a similar tag. It is highly recommended that the appropriate year of birth colour tag is used, however this is not mandatory.

Year of birth colour tags:

Year	Colour
2009	White
2010	Orange
2011	Light Green
2012	Purple
2013	Yellow
2014	Red
2015	Sky Blue
2016	Black

If animals are away on agistment and need tagging, they should only be tagged with the 'pink' post breeder tag belonging to the agistment property.

In most cases it is illegal to insert NLIS tags with a PIC printed on the tag that does not match the property where the actual tagging is taking place.

It is for this reason that animals found without tags at the saleyard are not to be tagged with the owner's tags. These animals must either be returned to where they were transported from or tagged with emergency tags supplied by the saleyard or LHPA.

NLIS tags may be attached to either ear. It may be preferable to attach tags to the opposite ear to the registered ear mark which remains mandatory under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998*.

When buying or receiving sheep or goats directly from another property you should confirm that the stock are identified with NLIS tags before they are moved. If the owner or person in charge of the sheep or goats at the property of destination fails to report the matter to an inspector in a timely manner, that person is deemed to have accepted responsibility for the problem.



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Other circumstances

When vaccinating sheep for OJD it is important to insert a NLIS tag with a V printed on it. This signifies the animals have been vaccinated with Gudair®.

Introduced animals already tagged and then vaccinated for OJD must be tagged a second time with a 'pink' NLIS V tag unless otherwise approved by the local District Veterinarian.

A producer may choose to tag terminal lambs from a vaccinated flock with 'T' tags. A T tag may be fluro pink or a standard NLIS breeder or post-breeder colour.

Other information may be included on the NLIS tag, as long as it does not obscure the PIC or NLIS logo.

Electronic sheep and goat tags may be used provided they meet the visual tag standard, eg the PIC is printed on the face of the device, as with the NLIS logo, and they are the correct colour. Cattle NLIS devices must not be used on sheep and goats.

Sheep or goats that are moved to an agricultural show, field day, sheep dog trial, shearing demonstration, fete or similar even must be tagged before leaving their property.

Sheep and goats entering NSW must be identified with an NLIS tag 'on arrival' in this State. This means in practice that the stock must be identified before coming into NSW and certainly before they arrive at a property or saleyard, unless exempted from the tagging requirements.

Exemptions

Some animals may be approved to move without tags under specified circumstances with the approval of a District Veterinarian or Ranger. These include unweaned /unmarked lambs that are from properties without suitable facilities for the purposes of tagging.

The lambs or kids must be identified at the time of weaning or marking, or before they are moved off the property, with breeder tags for the property on which they were born, or otherwise with post-breeder tags for the property on which they now reside.

Lambs and kids born in transit or at a saleyard do not have to be identified if moved or sold with their mothers. If separated, a special NLIS tag must be attached.

Animals moving directly between different parts of the same property (different holdings or parcels of land under the same PIC) do not have to have NLIS tags.

Animals moving directly to a contiguous (adjacent) property (with a different PIC) do not have to have a NLIS tag provided they return to the original property within 2 days or are grazed continuously between the two properties.

This exemption allows local, short term movements of sheep and goats for the purposes of using stock yards and shearing sheds, gaining emergency access to water and other animal welfare reasons.

Dairy goats moving between properties and shows have been exempted from tags due to adverse ear reactions that may occur. However they must be tagged if moving into a saleyard for sale or an abattoir for slaughter

Feral goats being consigned for slaughter, directly or via a depot, are exempt from tags.

A feral goat is one that has been captured from a wild state, has not been born as a result of a managed breeding program, and has not been subjected to any animal husbandry procedure or treatment.

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