

Do I have to participate?

Yes – all state and territory governments, together with representatives from various sectors of the sheep and goat industry, introduced the NLIS (Sheep & Goats) Scheme from 1 January 2006.

Animals born after that date must be tagged, although there are exemptions for animals consigned direct from property of birth to slaughter, on an over-the-hooks basis.

State laws underpin the use of NLIS devices and specify penalties for misuse. States also maintain Property Identification Code (PIC) registers to store details about individual properties.

How do I order equipment?

For information about NLIS equipment manufacturers, costs and subsidies, call your **NLIS State Contact** or visit the website of your State Department of Primary Industry or Agriculture.

The NLIS Equipment Compatibility Guide also contains information about readers, weigh scales, devices and applicators.

To see the Guide, go to the NLIS website at www.nlis.mla.com.au

Click [▶ Help tools](#) at the top of the screen.

Scroll down and click [NLIS Equipment Compatibility Guide](#)



NLIS State Contacts

For information about NLIS regulations, contact your local State Department:

New South Wales

Department of Primary Industries
NSW Hotline: 1300 720 405

Northern Territory

Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Mines
Phone: 08 8999 2034

Queensland

Department of Primary Industries
DPI Call centre: 13 2523

South Australia

Primary Industries & Resources of South Australia
NLIS Hotline: 1800 654 688

Tasmania

Department of Primary Industries & Water
Phone: 1300 368 550

Victoria

Department of Primary Industries
Helpline: 1800 678 779

Western Australia

Department of Agriculture
Phone: 08 9780 6100



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National Livestock
Identification System
Sheep & Goat

Australia's system for livestock identification and traceability



safemeat



What is NLIS?

NLIS is Australia's system for identification and tracing of sheep and goats – for food safety, product integrity and market access purposes. NLIS uses visually-readable ear tags printed with your Property Identification Code (PIC) and the NLIS logo. The ear tag stays with the animal for life.

When these tags are used in conjunction with the Sheep National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form, the NLIS enables trace-back to property of birth and/or last property of residence.

NLIS is supported by SAFEMEAT, the industry/government partnership responsible for red meat safety and hygiene.

Sheep and goats born after **1 January 2006** must be tagged, although there are exemptions for animals consigned direct from property of birth to slaughter, on an over-the-hooks basis.

From **1 January 2007** in Queensland and **1 January 2009** in other states and territories, all sheep and farmed goats, irrespective of the date of birth, must be identified with an approved NLIS tag prior to movement.

National Vendor Declarations










NVD forms must be provided when dispatching sheep or goats of any age to a saleyard, abattoir or another property with a different PIC. NVD forms must be kept for 7 years.

How does NLIS work?

The system consists of three components:

1. Visually-readable tags
2. A National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form
3. State/Territory legislation and PIC registers

Breeder Tags are applied on the property of birth before sheep or goats move to another property. Tags are colour-coded by year of birth, in a rotating eight-year cycle. This enables visual age identification of animals at a distance. It is strongly recommended that producers use the year of birth colour nominated in this schedule.

YEAR	TAG COLOUR	
2003		Light Green
2004		Purple
2005		Yellow
2006		Red
2007		Sky Blue
2008		Black
2009		White
2010		Orange
2011		Light Green

Post-Breeder Property Tags are applied to sheep or goats no longer on their property of birth, or to introduced animals that have lost their original tag. The post-breeder property tags are pink.

Any Year		Pink
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Benefits for livestock industry

- Trace individual animals from property of birth
- Reduce the financial and social impact of a livestock disease epidemic or residue incident
- Maintain access to international markets

Benefits for producers

- Identify your animals easily, if they stray or get boxed with your neighbour's sheep or goats.
- Maintain records for individual animals by adding unique numbers when ordering tags.
- Identify the breeder of sheep and goats that perform best on your property.

