

National Livestock Identification System for Alpacas and Llamas

Business Rules

July 2023

Endorsed by SAFEMEAT Partners

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for permanent, whole-of-life identification and traceability of livestock.
- 1.2. NLIS (Alpaca & Llama) is designed to:
 - 1.2.1. Prescribe identification of alpaca and llama
 - 1.2.2. enable device and corresponding livestock movements to be tracked, for the purposes of:
 - 1.2.2.1. biosecurity
 - 1.2.2.2. food safety
 - 1.2.2.3. product integrity
 - 1.2.2.4. market access
 - 1.2.2.5. assisting in the determination of stolen, lost or straying stock
 - 1.2.2.6. other industry related purposes.
 - 1.2.3. record alpaca and llama device details
- 1.3. The NLIS database is designed for storing records of each NLIS device issued and each change in location to enable rapid and accurate traceability.
- 1.4. It is expected that these minimum standards will be progressively adopted by industry production assurance programs.
- 1.5. These rules apply to:
 - 1.5.1. All alpaca and llama and their movements in Australia.
 - 1.5.2. Personnel responsible for the care and management of the movements of alpaca and llama from or to farms, saleyards, knackeries and processing establishments, agricultural shows or events, export depots, holding yards /transit centres, veterinarians or any other movement between locations with a different Property Identification Code (PIC), including producers, transporters, livestock agents and supply chain property operators.

2. Stakeholders

- 2.1. Stakeholders in the NLIS include:
 - 2.1.1. Industry participants:
 - 2.1.1.1. Producers / owners / property managers
 - 2.1.1.2. Saleyards
 - 2.1.1.3. Processors
 - 2.1.1.4. Transporters
 - 2.1.1.5. Live exporters
 - 2.1.1.6. Showground operators
 - 2.1.2. Government participants:
 - 2.1.2.1. DAFF
 - 2.1.2.2. State and territory primary industry departments
 - 2.1.3. ISC Ltd
 - 2.1.4. AAA Ltd and LAA

3. Participation in NLIS Alpaca and Llama

3.1. Participation in NLIS Alpaca & Llama requires:

- 3.1.1. A PIC for the property. This is sourced from the state or territory primary industries department.
- 3.1.2. Purchasing and applying NLIS approved devices to alpacas and llamas (described below).
- 3.1.3. Recording of stock movements on the NLIS database.

4. Producers / Owners

4.1. NLIS Alpaca and Llama tagging requirements

- 4.1.1. All alpaca and llama must be fitted with an electronic NLIS device approved by the NLIS Standards Committee by 6 months of age, prior to weaning or before being dispatched from property of birth, whichever is sooner.
- 4.1.2. There are two types of electronic NLIS alpaca devices for the permanent identification – NLIS breeder device and the NLIS post-breeder device.
- 4.1.3. NLIS breeder devices are used to permanently identify alpacas that are still on their property of birth and should be the appropriate colour for year of birth.

If not colour for year of birth, then the standard colour will be yellow.

- 4.1.4. NLIS post-breeder tags are pink and used to permanently identify alpacas that do not have an existing NLIS device and are no longer on their property of birth.
- 4.1.5. Except for when an alpaca dies or is slaughtered, or the device is found to be non-functioning, an NLIS device must not be removed without the authority of a state or territory primary industries department inspector.
- 4.1.6. NLIS tags should be attached to the right (off-side) ear of a female and the left (near side) ear of a male alpaca. The component of the tag containing the microchip is placed on the inside of the ear.
- 4.1.7. Other information may be printed on the male pin if there is sufficient room.
- 4.1.8. NLIS devices must have the PIC for the property on which they are applied printed, unless they are post-breeder saleyard NLIS devices applied as approved by legislation, where there may be a serial number.
- 4.1.9. NLIS devices must only be applied on the property registered to the PIC or serial number printed on the tags.
- 4.1.10. NLIS devices must not be sold, given away or re-used unless authorised by the relevant state or territory primary industries department.
- 4.1.11. Only one electronic NLIS device is to be applied to an animal at any time.
- 4.1.12. NLIS alpaca and llama devices cannot be used on any other species. NLIS devices from other species cannot be used in alpacas or llamas.¹

¹ Alpacas that have NLIS devices registered for sheep prior to the 1/1/2023 can continue without removal of this device on special approval from regulatory authorities. This is not an ongoing exception. These devices must have a status applied to indicate the animal is either an alpaca or llama.

4.2. Tagging cria

- 4.2.1. Unweaned cria, when moving with their mother from the property of birth to a property with a different PIC, must be identified with an NLIS device.

4.3. Removal of NLIS devices

- 4.3.1. Functioning NLIS breeder or post-breeder devices must not be removed or damaged in any manner unless the identified animal is being processed in an abattoir or knackery, or appropriate approval has first been obtained from the relevant state or territory primary industries department.

4.4. Lost or non-functioning NLIS devices

- 4.4.1. If an NLIS device does not read (non-functioning) the person in charge of the tagged animal may remove the non-functioning device and replace it provided:
 - 4.4.1.1. the animal is immediately re-tagged with either an NLIS breeder device if the animal is still on its property of birth; or an NLIS post-breeder device if the animal has moved from its property of birth, and
 - 4.4.1.2. the NLIS database is updated with the following:
 - the RFID or visual NLIS number of the non-functioning device.
 - the RFID or visual NLIS number of the replacement device.
 - date of tag replacement.
- 4.4.2. If an NLIS device is lost, the person in charge of the animal must fit an electronic NLIS device as soon as is practical with either an NLIS breeder device if the animal is still on its property of birth; or an NLIS post-breeder device if the animal has moved from its property of birth.
 - 4.4.2.1 If the RFID or visual NLIS number of the lost tag is known, the NLIS database may be updated according to 4.4.1.2.

4.5. Unused devices

- 4.5.1. If a producer/owner moves properties or leaves the industry and has unused NLIS devices, the devices can be transferred to the new property PIC by the relevant state or territory primary industries department.

4.6. Movement Recording

4.6.1. Moving alpacas and llamas

- 4.6.1.1. Consignors must provide an appropriate movement document with any alpacas or llamas dispatched to a saleyard or any other PIC, consistent with any relevant state / territory legislation.
- 4.6.1.2. Movement documents are to be created in triplicate, with the first copy provided to the transporter, the original to the destination owner/ manager and the second copy retained by the consignor.
- 4.6.1.3. All parties are to keep their copy of the movement document for at least 5 years.
- 4.6.1.4. Consignors must ensure that the NLIS devices on all animals are registered to their PIC prior to movement off.
- 4.6.1.5. Within 48 hours of arrival at their PIC, purchasers / receivers of alpacas and llamas are responsible for the reporting the following information to the NLIS database:

- 4.6.1.5.1. A list of RFID or visual NLIS ID numbers of alpacas and llamas that have been moved.
- 4.6.1.5.2. The PIC of the property of dispatch.
- 4.6.1.5.3. The PIC of the property of receipt.
- 4.6.1.5.4. Movement document serial number.
- 4.6.1.5.5. Date of dispatch.
- 4.6.1.5.6. Producers/owners are encouraged to open a database account and register movements to their own PIC/s.
- 4.6.1.6. If an animal is being taken to a destination that does not have a PIC or other permanent livestock (such as nursing homes, schools, etc), the movement document must contain the full address of the destination and is to be kept by the owner/manager of the destination.

NOTE: Although it is the responsibility of the purchaser / receiver to record movements on the NLIS database, the purchaser / receiver can authorise a third party to enter the data into the database on their behalf.

The person uploading the information to the database must ensure that only correct and accurate information is uploaded to the database. If incorrect information is subsequently discovered, the person must take action to promptly correct the record.

Movements are not to be reported prior to the arrival of the animals at a different PIC.

Producers / owners are encouraged to use their NLIS database account to confirm that movements onto and off their PIC have been recorded.

4.7. Alpacas and llamas that die on property

- 4.7.1. Producers/owners are encouraged to record on the database any NLIS device number of alpaca and llama that die or are destroyed on their property.
- 4.7.2. When an alpaca or llama dies, the owner of the PIC at which the death took place should update the NLIS database with:
 - 4.7.2.1. The NLIS device number of the alpaca or llama that has died.
 - 4.7.2.2. Date of death.

4.8. Dispatch from a property without an NLIS device

- 4.8.1. The person in charge of the stock must have received permission in writing (a permit) from an authorised officer of a state primary industries department because the alpaca or llama cannot be safely identified on property prior to dispatch, or post-breeder devices cannot be obtained within the required timeframe. The person must comply with all terms and conditions of the permit if granted.
- 4.8.2. In instances of extreme emergency, such as imminent threat from bushfire or floods. This must be recorded in an auditable paper trail of records which must, as a minimum, record the details with the state or territory primary industries department notified and provided with that information within 14 days. The alpaca and llama may be returned directly to their property of origin unidentified, however they must be identified and accompanied by a movement document if they are sold, moved again from the property resided at during the emergency, or sent for slaughter.

5. Saleyard Operators

5.1. Movement to and from saleyards

- 5.1.1. All stock moved to a saleyard must arrive with an appropriate movement document.
- 5.1.2. All stock moved to a saleyard must be identified with an electronic NLIS device registered to the PIC of consignment unless moving with a permit issued by the state or territory primary industries department.
- 5.1.3. For each consignment saleyard operators must scan the NLIS devices and upload the following information to the NLIS database:
 - 5.1.3.1. NLIS device numbers in each consignment
 - 5.1.3.2. PIC of the vendor
 - 5.1.3.3. PIC of the buyer
 - 5.1.3.4. Movement document serial number
 - 5.1.3.5. Date of transaction
 - 5.1.3.6. Saleyard Identification Code
- 5.1.4. Saleyard operators are permitted to scan animals before sale, or alternatively after lots are sold.
- 5.1.5. Saleyard operators must record the device of animals that:
 - 5.1.5.1. die while being transported to the saleyard (where the animals are unloaded at the saleyard), transferring them from the vendor PIC.
 - 5.1.5.2. die or are destroyed at the saleyard.
 - 5.1.5.3. animals that are passed in and are to be returned to the property of last residence.

5.2. Provision of information at saleyards

- 5.2.1. The purchaser of animals must provide the selling agent with the PIC of the next property on which the animals are to be kept.
- 5.2.2. When a livestock agent is the buyer at a sale and is uncertain of the destination PIC, the agent may provide their Agent PIC/Buyer code to the saleyard operator. The agent must transfer the alpaca or llama to the correct destination PIC on the NLIS database within two working days or before slaughter.
- 5.2.3. The saleyard operator must maintain for two years an electronic or hard copy record of the vendor and purchaser of animals.
 - 5.2.3.1. These records should include the:
 - i. the list of NLIS device numbers of each lot sold
 - ii. the vendor PIC
 - iii. the buyer PIC
 - iv. names and addresses of the vendor and buyer
 - v. description of livestock including species, age and sex
 - vi. the date and location of the sale.
- 5.2.4. Where a lot is split by the buyer or selling agent after the lot has been scanned, the buyer or selling agent (as the case may be) is responsible for arranging the rescanning and reporting to the saleyard manager the destination PICs for each sub-lot.

5.3. Non-Reading NLIS devices in saleyards

- 5.3.1. Saleyard operators must not sell stock without a functioning NLIS device.
- 5.3.2. Non-functioning devices must be replaced and recorded on the NLIS database against the vendor PIC.

5.4. Stock with a missing NLIS device in saleyards

- 5.4.1. Saleyards must have suitable facilities to safely tag animals that are not NLIS identified.
- 5.4.2. Stock without an NLIS device must be tagged with a saleyard post-breeder / emergency device prior to sale.
- 5.4.3. The saleyard manager is responsible for ensuring that accurate records are kept of the use of post-breeder devices issued for use in the saleyard. These records include the:
 - 5.4.3.1. NLIS device number.
 - 5.4.3.2. Date the device was used.
 - 5.4.3.3. PIC from which the animal was consigned.
- 5.4.4. The serial number on emergency post-breeder devices must be recorded against the PIC of consignment and included in both the database upload and post-sale documentation provided to buyers/receivers.
- 5.4.5. The record regarding emergency NLIS device use must be kept for at least two years and be retrievable within 24 hours of being requested to do so by a state or territory primary industries department.

6. Show and Event Operators

6.1. Movement to and from Shows or Events

- 6.1.1. All stock moved to a show or event must arrive with an appropriate movement document. The agricultural show/event operator must collect a completed movement document from each exhibitor.
 - 6.1.1.1. The showground operator/event manager must keep copies of movement documents for two years.
- 6.1.2. All stock moved to a show or event must be identified with an electronic NLIS device unless moving with a permit issued by the state or territory primary industries department.
- 6.1.3. Show operators must scan or visually read the NLIS devices and upload the following information to the NLIS database:
 - 6.1.3.1. NLIS device numbers
 - 6.1.3.2. PIC of the last property of residence
 - 6.1.3.3. Showground PIC
 - 6.1.3.4. NVD/waybill serial number (if provided)
 - 6.1.3.5. Date of transaction
- 6.1.4. Alternatively, show / event operators can use the 'sighted alpaca / llama' facility to record an animal's presence at a show / event.
- 6.1.5. Show operators are permitted to scan or visually read devices of animals before or after the show, but prior to leaving the grounds.

- 6.1.6. Show operators must record devices of animals that:
 - 6.1.6.1. die while being transported to the show (where the animals are unloaded at the show) and record them against the consigning PIC.
 - 6.1.6.2. die or are destroyed at the show.
- 6.1.7. The owners of alpaca and llama returning their stock to the property of last residence from the agricultural show/event must ensure the stock are transferred back to the destination PIC on the database within two days of arrival at that PIC.
- 6.1.8. The showground operator/event manager must, within seven days of the end of each show/event, reconcile the numbers of animals transferred to and from its PIC on the database with the number remaining on the premises.

6.2. Provision of PIC information at Shows / Events

- 6.2.1. The person responsible for an animal while at a show / event must provide to the show operator the PIC of the last property of residence.

6.3. Non-Reading NLIS devices in Shows / Events

- 6.3.1. Show operators are required to visually read the NLIS number printed on an NLIS device if it will not scan.

6.4. Missing NLIS devices at Shows / Events

- 6.4.1. If animals not identified with an NLIS device arrive at the show / event, they cannot be eligible for sale or competition.
 - 6.4.1.1. Unidentified animals may return to the property of residence to be retagged, subject to state or territory primary industries department inspector approval.

7. Processors

- 7.1. All persons owning or operating a business that slaughters and/or processes alpaca or their carcasses must have an active PIC relating to the property on which the business is located from their state or territory primary industries department.
- 7.2. All holding properties and depots used by a processor must hold a current PIC relating to each location from their state or territory primary industries department.
- 7.3. To ensure that all alpacas moved to and processed at an abattoir or knackery are recorded in a kill file on the NLIS database. The abattoir operator must record the:
 - 7.3.1. NLIS device number
 - 7.3.2. Body number
 - 7.3.3. PIC of the property of consignment
 - 7.3.4. PIC of the abattoir / Establishment Number
 - 7.3.5. Date of processing.
- 7.4. The NLIS device of slaughtered alpacas must not be re-used in another alpaca.
 - 7.4.1. Removed NLIS devices should be destroyed or returned to the manufacturer.

- 7.5.** Once slaughtered, the alpaca carcass must be identified in a manner that correlates with the NLIS device of that animal and enables traceability to the last PIC of residence (other than the PIC of a saleyard) until the point at which:
- 7.5.1. it has passed meat inspection and/or any residue testing if destined for the human food chain, or
 - 7.5.2. it has been inspected, and tested if appropriate, and found suitable for feeding to pets as required by the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat, if destined for the pet food chain, or
 - 7.5.3. it has been inspected and found to be fit for purpose and free from obvious notifiable diseases if processed for other purposes.

8. Exporters

- 8.1.** To ensure that all alpaca and llama are correctly identified and that their movement from their property of consignment onto registered premises (e.g. aggregation properties or export depots), to port of export PIC and to EEEEEEEEE (8Es: the PIC indicating the stock have left the country) is correctly recorded on the NLIS database and that they can be traced effectively and rapidly.
- 8.2.** The Export depot operator (EDO) must ensure that all properties on which the alpaca and llama are held during the export preparation period, including pre-export quarantine and export depot properties, have an active PIC from their state or territory primary industries department.
- 8.3.** If an alpaca or llama arrives onto a pre-export quarantine or export depot property without an NLIS device, the EDO must identify the animal with an NLIS post-breeder device printed with the PIC of the property.
- 8.4.** When an alpaca or llama is live exported, the exporter must record on the NLIS database the:
- 8.4.1. NLIS device number
 - 8.4.2. PIC of the property of consignment
 - 8.4.3. PIC of the Port / 8Es
 - 8.4.4. Movement document number
 - 8.4.5. Date of export.
- 8.5.** Where alpaca and llama are moved to the final export destination, i.e. the port of departure, the exporter must ensure that the alpaca and llama are transferred on the database to the port PIC then to 8Es, within two days of that movement.
- 8.6.** Both the exporter and EDO must take steps to confirm that the correct uploaded information has been received by the NLIS database and all warning and error messages received from the database are noted and resolved within seven working days.

9. Glossary

AAA Ltd	Australian Alpaca Association Ltd
Alpaca or Llama	Alpaca, llama or hybrids.
Animal/s	Alpaca or llama or alpaca/llama hybrids.
Cria	Baby or young alpaca or llama.
Consignment	One or more alpaca or llama belonging to a single owner/vendor leaving a property.
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Database	The NLIS database is Australia's central livestock traceability database administered by ISC Ltd for the purposes of biosecurity, food safety, product integrity and market access.
Device	A device that contains an RFID that can be read by a radio frequency scanner. It also has a corresponding external visual component (NLIS ID) that can be visually read.
EDO	Export depot operator
Electronic NLIS breeder device	Electronic NLIS breeder devices are either yellow or coloured in accordance with the national 'year of birth' colour system and are used by a breeder to permanently identify alpaca or llama before they leave their property of birth.
Electronic NLIS post-breeder device	Electronic NLIS post-breeder devices are pink and can be used to permanently identify introduced alpaca or llama that are not already identified with an electronic NLIS breeder or post breeder device, or alpaca or llama that have lost their visual NLIS device.
Emergency	An emergency exists when animal welfare or human safety is potentially compromised.
ISC Ltd	Integrity Systems Company: a wholly owned subsidiary company of Meat and Livestock Australia that manages the NLIS database, operates the NLIS database helpdesk and accredits NLIS devices.
Kill file	The electronic file generated by an abattoir or knackery and submitted to the NLIS database to register slaughter of alpaca at a processor or knackery.
LAA	Llama Association of Australasia Inc.
Lifetime traceability	The ability to determine where an alpaca or llama has been from the point of enquiry back to the property of birth

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)	The Livestock Production Assurance program is the red meat livestock industry's voluntary on-farm food safety and market assurance program.
Meat producer*	A business, enterprise or activity that involves growing, supplying or transporting animals for human consumption. A meat producer must have a system to identify the persons: a) from whom animals were received; and b) to whom animals were supplied. (* As defined in the Production and Processing Standard for Meat (FSC 4.2.3), which came into effect nationally on 31 July 2015.)
Movement	Any movement involving one or more alpaca or llama between two properties with different PICs.
Movement document	A document that contains critical details that need to be recorded when alpaca or llama are moved, including the PIC from which the alpaca or llama were dispatched, the date of dispatch, the numbers and description of alpaca or llama being dispatched, the serial number of the movement document that accompanies the alpaca or llama, the name and signature of the person completing the movement document and date it was made, the transporter's details and the intended destination of the alpaca or llama. Includes an LPA National Vendor Declaration Waybill, a Transported Stock Statement, a Waybill approved by a jurisdiction or a regulated approval granted by a jurisdiction.
NLIS database	National database operated by Integrity Systems Company Ltd that registers electronic NLIS devices and stores records of alpaca, llama, sheep, goat, pig and cattle movements.
National Livestock Identification System (Alpaca & Llama)	Known as the NLIS (Alpaca & Llama), the national system for identifying and tracing alpaca and llama from property of birth to slaughter, death or export.
NLIS	National Livestock Identification System
NLIS accredited device	An electronic device accredited by the Integrity Systems Company LTD for use on alpaca and llama and which complies with these Standards. The electronic device is tamper-proof tag printed with a 16-character code that is linked to the RFID in the device, the NLIS logo and 'Do Not Remove'.
NLIS logo	Registered Trade Mark [993748] belonging to Meat and Livestock Australia, used to designate that a livestock identification device has been accredited as an NLIS device.

NLIS Standards Committee	The NLIS Standards Committee is a technical committee appointed by SAFEMEAT to establish standards for devices that are supplied for use under NLIS. This Committee oversees device accreditation and provides advice and recommendations to ISC on device standards and device accreditation.
National Vendor Declaration (NVD) waybill	Movement document completed by a producer consigning or selling alpaca or llama that describes the alpaca and llama, records the locations where the movement commenced and ended and provides a declaration on information about health treatments or food safety issues.
Person	Means more than one person (plural) and not just a specific person.
Person in charge	Where responsibility is shared and may extend along a hierarchy of management.
Post-sale summary	A document provided by a selling agent/saleyard operator to a purchaser of alpaca or llama that includes: a) sale venue; b) date of the sale; c) selling agent's name; d) number of head in each purchased lot; e) destination PIC provided by the purchaser; and f) whether the alpaca and llama in each sale lot were bred by the owner or vendor
Purchaser	A person, organisation or business engaged in breeding, feeding or raising alpaca or llama. It includes feedlot operators and any person keeping alpaca or llama for commercial purposes, for lifestyle reasons or as pets.
Property	A parcel of land, consisting of one or more blocks within the one locality, operating as part of a livestock enterprise, hobby/lifestyle farm or residence. It includes farms, feedlots, and saleyards, holding depots/yards, artificial breeding centres, veterinary practices, export depots, knackeries, abattoirs and agricultural showgrounds.
PIC	Property Identification Code – a unique identifier for a parcel of land that is linked to the land and/or stock owner's details.
Reconcile	Make consistent with another, especially by taking into account transactions or stock movements begun but not yet completed.
Saleyard operator	The person responsible for the operations at the saleyard, the proprietor of the business or a person concerned with the management of the business, who owns, uses, manages or controls the saleyard.

Selling agent	Any person who has been legally empowered to act on behalf of another person and employed to represent their client in negotiations of sale.
Show / event operator	The person responsible for the operations at the show or event, the proprietor of the business or a person concerned with the management of the business, who owns, uses, manages or controls the showground.
Upload ID	The receipt number for a transaction processed on the NLIS database.
Vendor	A person, organisation or company offering livestock for sale.

APPENDIX 1 – National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Device Technical Information

1) External Visual NLIS number on NLIS device

- a) The number printed on the NLIS device is called the NLIS number and consists of:
 - i) The 8 character PIC of the property for which the person who purchased the tags will use them, and is linked to them.
 - ii) The 3 alpha characters identifying the 1) manufacturer 2) Breeder (A) or Post Breeder (B) and 3) the year of manufacture.
 - iii) The 5 character serial number which can be specified at ordering.

2) Internal Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID / microchip) number

- a) Devices for NLIS (Alpaca & Llama) contain a half duplex (HDX) transponder complying with ISO 11784 & ISO 11785 Standard, or whatever Standard is agreed by the Standards Committee.
- b) Microchips within the NLIS Alpaca and Llama devices are encoded with a unique, unalterable 16 character number consisting of:
 - i) The 3 numeric character manufacturer's code.
 - ii) A one character space.
 - iii) The 12 numeric character individual chip number.

3) Linking NLIS number to RFID number

- a) When a producer orders tags, their PIC they intend to use the tags on must be specified. Once the tag has been produced, both the NLIS number and the RFID number are uploaded by the manufacturer to the NLIS database. Once uploaded, both the NLIS number or the RFID number can be used to identify an alpaca or llama.

APPENDIX 2 - Implementation Timeframes

1 June 2023	<p>(1.1) Animals can be identified with an NLIS approved electronic device.</p> <p>(1.2) All alpacas born on or after 1 July 2023 registered with the AAA Ltd shall be identified with an electronic NLIS device before leaving the property of birth.</p>
1 January 2024	(1.2) All alpacas registered with the AAA Ltd shall be identified with an electronic NLIS device before attending a AAA Ltd event
1 July 2025	(2.1) All animals born on or after 1 July 2025 shall be identified with an electronic NLIS device before leaving the property of birth
	(2.2) All animals are to be identified before leaving a property, with an NLIS approved electronic device