

Livestock identification and movement in Western Australia: deer, alpaca, llamas, vicuna, camel and ostriches

Summary

Identification of livestock is required under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013 [BAM (IMSA) Regulations].

It allows stock to be traced for disease, helps to recover stolen animals and deters stock theft.

Owners must register

All owners of deer, alpaca, llamas, vicuna and camel in WA must be registered as owners of livestock with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Brands Office. Ostrich owners do not have to be registered if they only have ostriches. If they wish to identify their ostriches with a registered identifier, they must be registered.

On registration, owners will be issued with their registered identifiers such as stock brand and earmark as required, and a property identification code (PIC) which indicates the properties on which their animals are normally kept.

A PIC card is issued that lists their registered identifiers and properties that the owner has nominated to run stock on.

Your registered stock brand consists of two letters and a number. One of the letters may be 'lazy', that is, lying on its side to the left.

For more information, see:

- [Livestock ownership, identification and movement in Western Australia](#)
- [Registering as an owner of stock](#)
- [Application for registration as an owner of stock](#)

Property Identification Code (PIC)

The PIC is used to identify the property on which the animals are normally kept, whether you own the land or not. When the stock owner is not the land owner, the owner of that property must sign the registration form to confirm their consent for the animal(s) to be kept on their property.

Having your own PIC on a shared property will allow you to be notified should anything occur on that property that could affect your animal.

Short-term movements to other properties — such as to a veterinarian, an event, or to a breeding centre — do not constitute where the animal is normally kept and so do not have to be listed on your registration form (these locations will need their own non-farming PIC to indicate that stock are present but do not belong to them).

Identification requirements

Different livestock species have different identification requirements.

Deer

Deer must be identified with the registered identifier as listed on your PIC card, or with an approved identifier.

Identification requirements for deer may be all or any of:

- The registered brand impressed on an approved eartag applied to the ear specified on the PIC card,
- The registered earmark applied to the ear specified on the PIC card, or
- An approved breed society identifier.

Deer must be identified at the first muster, before they reach 12 months of age, or before they are moved from the property, whichever occurs first.

If you purchase a deer that is already identified, you do not have to re-identify it. You will need to have documents to show that you own the animal.

Alpacas, llama, vicuna

South American camelids (alpaca, llama and vicuna) must be identified with the registered identifier as listed on your PIC card, or with an approved identifier.

Identification requirements may be all or any of:

- The registered brand impressed on an approved eartag, applied to the left ear of males and the right ear of females,
- The registered earmark applied to the applied to the right ear of males and the left ear of females, or
- An approved breed society identifier.

South American camelids must be identified before they reach six months of age, or before they are moved from the property, whichever occurs first.

If you purchase a South American camelid that is already identified, you do not have to re-identify. You will need to have documents to show that you own the animal.

Camel

There is no requirement or prescribed method for identifying camels. It is up to the individual to identify their animals if they wish to claim ownership or distinguish them from feral populations or camels owned by another party.

Ostriches

If an ostrich owner is registered and chooses to identify their birds, the identification required is the registered brand impressed on an approved neck band applied to the base of the neck, or the registered brand impressed on an approved leg band, applied to a leg.

Approved identification

Approved identification is an alternative identification system approved by the Registrar of Stock and Apiaries. This can include breed society identification systems and may include a microchip, an alternative brand or a tattoo. Owners are still required to be registered with DPIRD.

If approved by the Registrar, members of breed societies can use their society's approved identifier instead of their registered brand or earmark. They are required to keep the ownership records current for each animal.

For the approval process and groups with existing approved identification, see [Approved identifiers for livestock](#).

Identification Exemptions

Unweaned deer that are moved between properties with the same PIC, while accompanied by their correctly identified mother, do not require identification.

Unweaned alpaca, llama, vicuna that are moved between properties with the same PIC, while accompanied by their correctly identified mother, do not require identification.

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Moving animals Waybills

Under Western Australia's BAM (IMSA) Regulations, most stock leaving or arriving at a property must be accompanied by a valid, completed waybill.

The owner or person in charge of the stock at the property of origin has the responsibility to accurately complete the waybill and give it to the truck driver before the stock are moved. This may not be the current owner of the stock if ownership has changed on property prior to transport.

Deer leaving or arriving at a property must be accompanied by a valid, completed waybill.

Alpaca, llama, vicuna leaving or arriving at a property must be accompanied by a valid, completed waybill.

Camel leaving or arriving at a property do not require a waybill, unless they are being consigned to an abattoir for human consumption. Waybills can be used to keep a record of where their animals have been and when.

Ostriches do not require a waybill.

For more information, see:

- [Moving livestock in Western Australia](#)
- [Downloading and printing of livestock waybills](#)

Waybill exemptions

Movement between properties with the same PIC

A waybill is not required when you are moving your stock between properties with the same PIC, as long as you have your current PIC card or a full copy of it (showing both sides) with you. Your card must list the properties registered to that PIC and stock being moved need to be identified or registered to that PIC.

Stock from other States

Stock imported into Western Australia and accompanied by the 'Health Certificate for Movement of Stock to Western Australia', form (LB 1) may not have a waybill.

Waybill inspections

Stock in transit can be inspected for correct identification and waybills by a Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development inspector or a police officer at any time.

Offences under the BAM (IMSA) Regulations

The following are offences:

- possessing stock that is not legally identified
- using another person's registered brand or earmark
- possessing another person's registered branding or earmarking equipment
- applying your earmark to stock on a different property to those registered to your PIC
- trading/moving animals that are not correctly identified.
- Moving stock without a waybill.

The penalty for a breach of the legislation may be up to \$20 000.

More information

Contact - Registrar of Stock and Apiaries

w: dpiird.wa.gov.au

t: +61 1300 926 547 e: nlis@dpiird.wa.gov.au

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