



NLIS and identification – pigs

Summary

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

The BAM [IMSA] regulations also require the use of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). The NLIS Pigs operates through the existing PigPass system.

Identifying your livestock assists in maintaining Australia's biosecurity systems that assure trading partners of our ability to trace disease and residue issues effectively. It also deters theft and assists in recovering stolen animals.

Owners must register

All pig owners must be registered with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). On registration you will be issued registered identifiers (stock brand, earmark and pig tattoo) and a property identification code (PIC) for the property where the animals are kept. A PIC card is issued that lists the properties that the owner has nominated to run stock on and the registered identifiers for use with the stock.

For more information, see the following publications:

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

Identification requirements

The BAM (IMSA) Regulations underpin the NLIS. Pigs may have an [approved NLIS ear tag](#) displaying the owner's registered PIC, a "P" in a circle and the NLIS logo. This is the only option for pigs under 25 kg. Pigs 25kg and over may be tattooed or NLIS tagged.

Registered pig tattoo – arrangement of five numerals

Your registered pig tattoo consists of an arrangement of 5 numerals. It is presented in the following format:12/123. It is the same number as your registration number.

Slap Brand Tattoo – for pigs 25kg and over

A slap brand tattoo can **only** be used for pigs that are 25kg and over. A slap brand consists of needles inserted into a block and inked with approved carbon black paste or ink/dye. Slap brands must be ordered through an [approved manufacturer](#) or rural retailer.

If choosing to use the tattoo:

- Before leaving the property of birth, pigs 25kg and over must be slap branded on the left shoulder with the tattoo registered to that property.
- Before leaving any other property, introduced pigs and those of uncertain origin must be slap branded on the right shoulder with the tattoo registered to that property. If the right shoulder has been previously used for a tattoo, use the right rump, then left rump.

NLIS tags

Owners may choose this method of identification, particularly for non-commercial pigs. This is the **only** method for identifying pigs under 25kg. NLIS tags for pigs must be ordered through an [approved manufacturer](#) or rural retailer.

- Before leaving the property of birth, pigs under 25kg must be tagged in their left ear with a [yellow NLIS breeder tag](#) bearing the PIC of that property.
- Before leaving any other property, pigs under 25kg must be tagged in their right ear with an orange [NLIS post-breeder tag](#) bearing the PIC of that property.
- Using an NLIS tag with the correct placement and colour as described is an option for pigs 25kg and over.
- When an NLIS tag is applied, it must stay with the pig for life and not be removed.
- If an NLIS tag is lost, the pig must be identified with the appropriate tag for its current PIC of residence.

Identification exemptions

Unweaned pigs moved with their correctly identified mother between properties with the same PIC do not need to be identified.

Use of identifiers and equipment

Please note the following:

- You must not take your slap brand or NLIS pig tags off the property they are registered to without a permit from DPIRD.
- NLIS pig tags issued for use on one property cannot be used to identify animals located on another property with a different PIC.
- NLIS pig tags cannot be sold, given away or reused.

- NLIS accredited tags are ordered through your rural suppliers or online directly from the manufacturers. You will need to provide your PIC when ordering.
- Once an NLIS tag is attached to a pig, it must not be removed until the animal is processed in an abattoir.

Moving pigs

Whether you move one pig, 20 pigs, a Christmas pig or a pet pig off your property, you must have a movement document that accompanies the pigs. This includes movements to other farms or properties where ownership or PIC changes, abattoirs, saleyards or showgrounds.

Pigs must not be moved off a property without a completed waybill or equivalent (PigPass NVD/Waybill). To create a PigPass NVD waybill, you must be registered with PigPass. The movement documents must be kept for a minimum of seven years.

Ensuring pigs are identified with a tattoo or NLIS tag, moved with a waybill and the movements recorded on the database, ensures that animals can be traced in the event of disease outbreak or chemical residue incident. The waybill also provides proof that stock are being moved with the owner's consent and it must remain with the stock while they are being transported.

For more information, see the webpage: [Moving livestock in Western Australia.](#)

To become registered with PigPass, contact 1800 001 458 or go online at the [PigPass](#) website.

Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Updating the NLIS database through PigPass

The movement of pigs to a property with a different PIC must be recorded on the [PigPass database](#) within 48 hours of arrival at that PIC. The PigPass database will automatically upload all pig movements to the NLIS database. The receiver of the stock at the destination property or showground is responsible for ensuring this is done, even if they do not do it themselves.

Offences under the BAM (IMSA) Regulations 2013

- Possessing stock that are not legally identified
- Using another person's registered identifiers – brand, earmark, tattoo
- Possessing another person's registered identification equipment
- Applying your tattoo or NLIS tags to animals on another person's property
- Using another person's NLIS tags
- Removing NLIS ear tags
- Trading or moving animals without correct identification
- Failure to transfer animals on the PigPass (NLIS) database after movement to a different PIC

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

More information

For information on registering as an owner of stock, to get your PIC and pig tattoo, see the DPIRD website:

www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-ownership or telephone 1300 926 547

For information about PigPass:

- Telephone: 1800 001 458
- Email: helpdesk@pigpass.com.au
- Website: www.pigpass.com.au

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