



LPA Requirements: #5

Livestock transactions and movements



LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTION
ASSURANCE

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity. It is part of the integrity system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. Customer confidence in Australian red meat underpins the success and growth of Australia's livestock industry, and protects the livelihoods of more than 200,000 producers.

When producers become LPA-accredited, they are promising to meet LPA's requirements and fulfil their responsibility in the production of safe and ethical red meat. **Managing livestock transactions and movements** is just one of seven elements that farmers need to satisfy to become LPA-accredited.

Every LPA-accredited producer must undertake to ensure traceability requirements, with respect to treatments or exposure to food safety hazards, have been fulfilled for all livestock movements – between farms and feedlots, and including to slaughter and live export.

What?

As a livestock producer, you must guarantee that the animals you sell are not exposed to food safety hazards and that you meet all traceability requirements, should a food safety issue occur.

This involves careful attention to the accuracy of LPA NVDs/eNVDs and the completion and filing of details of all livestock that are introduced and leave your property.

To demonstrate this you must:

- Record all purchases and sales
- Keep copies of all LPA NVDs/eNVDs
- Record vendor's name and address, and PIC
- Record livestock details/description
- Keep records of animals purchased while within a Withholding Period (WHP)/Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) period
- Keep records of animals that may have been exposed to physical contaminants such as broken needles, buckshot or wire

How?

The livestock transactions and movements checklist includes six questions to ensure a livestock producer is doing all they can to ensure traceability requirements for their livestock are fulfilled.

While the checklist is not compulsory, producers should consider documenting and filing their responses to the questions and make this available should the property be subject to an LPA audit. A template to assist you with your record keeping is available on the LPA website at www.mla.com.au/lpa

LPA requirements

- #1 Property risk assessment
- #2 Safe & responsible animal treatments
- #3 Safe livestock feed
- #4 Preparation for dispatch
- #5 Livestock transactions & movements
- #6 Biosecurity
- #7 Animal welfare



Checklist:

1 Do you use LPA NVDs/eNVDs for every livestock movement from your property?

It is important for the traceability of our livestock industry to record every time stock move from one property to another property or destination. This includes all sales and purchases as well as movements between farms and including to feedlots, to abattoirs and/or live export. It is an LPA requirement that an LPA NVD/eNVD is used for all movements between PICs.

2 Do you complete LPA NVDs accurately and keep a copy on file?

Producers are required to keep LPA NVDs/eNVDs on file, and to ensure they fill them out accurately. It is important that producers retain a copy of the LPA NVDs/eNVDs for at least the time that the livestock are owned/retained on each PIC. It is important to note that sheep and goat producers are required to retain records of LPA NVDs/eNVDs for a minimum of seven years in accordance with regulatory requirements of the NLIS Sheep & Goat mob based movement system.

3 Do you have management systems in place for identifying individual livestock and mobs?

Producers must have a management system in place that allows them to identify which stock have been exposed to chemical residues or physical contaminants.

4 Do you keep records of livestock you introduce to your property?

Producers should ensure they keep sufficient records, to enable the traceability of stock purchased and introduced onto the property with respect to chemical treatment status and their potential exposure to physical contaminants. The management system must demonstrate the identification of all introduced livestock (and the relevant food safety status) through to dispatch of the livestock.

These records should include:

- Date of purchase or introduction
- Vendor's name, address or property identification code (PIC)
- Description of livestock (number, age, sex)
- Name of selling agent and sale, if purchased at auction
- Record of paddocks grazed
- Records of exposure to physical contaminants

5 Do you keep records of livestock that leave your property?

A system of recording details of all stock that leave a property is essential. This enables stock to be traced if a food safety issue occurs. Details that should be noted down include:

- Description of livestock (number, age, sex)
- Transaction date
- Name of purchaser/selling agent
- Name of transport operator and vehicle registration
- Record of paddocks grazed

6 Do you review the chemical residue status of all animals before dispatch?

Producers must be able to show that they review the chemical status of livestock prior to sale and slaughter through the accurate completion of LPA NVDs/eNVDs.

Where stock are sold within a WHP or ESI, producers must be able to show they have advised the buyer in writing of the relevant periods and intervals. This can be through filing written correspondence or the relevant LPA NVD/eNVD.

Once the eNVD central system is fully operational, producers will no longer need to keep their own separate copies. The central system will maintain copies in perpetuity.

7 Do you update the NLIS database for livestock movements onto your PIC?

All livestock moving onto your property must be recorded on the NLIS database. If those livestock are bought through a saleyard, the saleyard notifies the database. If you purchase livestock privately, through an on-line auction, or move them between properties you own which have different PICs, as the buyer/receiver you are responsible for recording their movement on the NLIS database. Movements of livestock with electronic RFID tags are recorded using the 'Livestock moved onto/off my property' function; those with visual tags are recorded using the 'Mob-based movement onto/off my property' function.

Advice on how quickly this must be done is available from your state or territory NLIS authority.

8 Do you ensure livestock are identified in accordance with NLIS requirements?

All animals leaving a property must be identified with an NLIS-accredited electronic or visual device before they are moved or sold; the only exception occurs when a permit allowing untagged movements has been obtained from your state or territory NLIS authority. Exemptions are in place for harvested (feral) goats and dairy goats in some states.

Devices accredited by NLIS have the NLIS logo printed on them. Cattle devices also have the words 'Do not remove' printed on the 'male' button.

NLIS tags and devices should be ordered for your PIC through your state/territory's nominated authority; the list appears in the NLIS 'Tagging livestock' section of the MLA website (www.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/red-meat-integrity-system/about-the-national-livestock-identification-system-2015/tagging-livestock/).

Information on tagging EU cattle is available from EUCAS on **1800 305 544**.

When?

Every time animals are introduced to or leave a producer's property, records must be completed. Where chemical contamination occurs, animals involved must be identified and the details of this passed on if they leave the property. If animals may have been exposed to potentially injurious physical contaminants, this also needs to be noted in the records.

Why?

Australia's food safety record is essential to consumers of red meat, both locally and in the 100-plus countries we export to. This means it's fundamental to the future of our red meat industry.

If a food safety issue occurs and livestock are not fully traceable, the source of the problem may be impossible to identify. This will put the entire industry at risk.

At a producer level, repercussions may include failure to be paid for the livestock, and possible legal liability for the resulting costs faced by processors and the rest of the supply chain.

Learn more

A dedicated module within LPA Learning explains what you need to know regarding LPA's requirements for livestock transactions and movements. Information is also provided on the LPA website (www.mla.com.au/lpa).

