

# NLIS Movement Quick-Reference

What records you need before stock leaves, who notifies NLIS, 48-hour and 7-day deadlines, and the seven mistakes that cost you sales.

NLIS (National Livestock Identification System) tracks every cattle, sheep and goat in Australia from birth PIC to slaughter. Get the records right and your sales go through cleanly. Get them wrong and your animals get rejected at the saleyard or your PIC gets a black mark.

## Before stock leaves your property

- Every animal has an NLIS-accredited device (RFID tag for cattle, NLIS visual tag for sheep/goats). Tag at the latest before leaving the property of birth.
- You know your source PIC (Property Identification Code). It's on your Property ID card from your state DPI. Format: state-letter then 7 alphanumeric characters (e.g. QABC1234).
- You know the destination PIC. From the buyer, agent, or saleyard. NEVER guess.
- You have the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) filled out. Required by LPA-accredited buyers (most of them).
- If selling cattle: NVD includes the 'Lifetime Traceability Declaration' (LPA NVD covers it).
- If selling sheep/goats: NVD includes mob count and any Mulesing/welfare declarations.

## Who notifies NLIS

Movement type	Who notifies	Deadline
Property to property (private sale)	BUYER (the receiver of stock)	Within 48 hours of stock arriving
Through a saleyard	Saleyard does it for you	Saleyard handles within their timeframe
To an abattoir / processor	Abattoir does it for you	On receipt
Between two of YOUR own PICs	YOU notify (you're both buyer and seller)	Within 48 hours
To agistment (different PIC)	Owner of receiving property notifies	Within 48 hours
Stock dies on-farm	No NLIS notification required	Record in your own herd register

## NVD vs NLIS movement - what's the difference?

**NVD (National Vendor Declaration):** the document YOU fill out as the seller. Travels with the stock. Covers food-safety, chemical-residue, and welfare declarations. Required by every LPA-accredited buyer.

**NLIS movement:** the database entry recording that animals moved from PIC A to PIC B. Done online at [nlis.com.au](https://nlis.com.au), or via a saleyard/abattoir's system, or via PaddockMate IQ's NLIS CSV export.

You need BOTH for every off-property sale. The NVD goes with the truck. The NLIS movement gets entered in the system within 48 hours.

## Common mistakes that cost you

**Wrong destination PIC.** Always confirm in writing before stock leaves. Saleyards have an internal PIC; auction-house transfer happens automatically.

**Tagging in the wrong order.** Cattle: visual tag in the LEFT ear, RFID in the right ear. Sheep/goats: NLIS visual tag in the right ear. Get it backwards and your buyer's reader can't find it cleanly.

**Missing the 48-hour window.** Late notifications stay on the PIC's record. Repeated late notifications draw biosecurity attention.

**Forgetting the lifetime traceability declaration on the NVD.** LPA NVD has a checkbox for cattle born and raised on your property. Untick it if any animals were bought in - and disclose the source PIC.

**Selling an animal that's still in WHP.** Withholding Periods (meat or milk) mean the animal can't enter the human food chain. Sell it and the abattoir will reject the lot. Track WHPs in PaddockMate IQ.

**Not keeping a copy of the NVD.** You must keep NVDs for 2 years minimum. Buyers can request retrospectively. Digital copies count if they're readable.

**Bobby calves with no tag.** Even calves < 1 month old need an NLIS device before leaving the property. Many people get caught out here.

**NLIS database:** <https://www.nlis.com.au> **Your state DPI for PIC issues:** 1800 numbers vary by state.