



BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF UNTAGGED AND NON COMPLIANT SHEEP AT SALEYARDS FOR STOCK AGENTS AND SALEYARDS.

Background

The NLIS Sheep and Goats Advisory Committee agreed that the Monitoring Committee should reactivate consideration of a verification program by agents of the NLIS sheep and goats system. This position was then endorsed at the SAFEMEAT Partners meeting in July 2011. ALPA strongly opposed a mandatory verification and auditable system be imposed on agents.

After further consideration of the earlier attempts to develop a verification model to apply to sale yards and agents across all states, the Monitoring Committee had agreed to consider a voluntary program developed jointly with ALPA and ALMA. To the extent possible, the States are keen to work with both Associations to design a program based on any existing systems for receiving, checking and penning incoming stock and for the management of records where corrective action for non compliant stock has been necessary. This might also involve consideration of how we might incorporate verification of NLIS requirements in to existing QA programs.

The Monitoring Committee agreed not to unreasonably or unilaterally impose an impractical or unworkable verification system on the saleyard and agent sector. However, those sectors need to make sure that they only sell livestock that can be traced to the National Livestock Traceback Performance Standards.

Issue

The NLIS (Sheep and Goats) National Business Rules and State Legislation require that all sheep and goats must be identified with an approved NLIS device/tag prior to being moved to another property with a different PIC. In this context, another property also means a saleyard, abattoir, feedlot, export depot or showground.

It is the producer's responsibility to ensure all stock being moved are checked to confirm that all are correctly identified. All stock born after 1 January, 2006 must have a breeder tag attached. Where transaction tags are required or have been used previously, introduced stock will have at least one other tag depending on how many times they have been transacted.

For traceability purposes, the vendor must indicate on the NVD or other approved documentation accompanying the stock whether or not all sheep have been vendor bred.

If so, all will carry a tag/device indicating the PIC of the property of birth. If there are non vendor bred stock in the consignment, the vendor has two options.

- They may apply a post breeder transaction tag (mandatory in WA) to the introduced stock which then links them to the PIC from which they are being consigned. OR
- If post breeder transaction tags are not used, space is provided on the NVD for vendors to provide details of all PICs for introduced stock. If there is insufficient space for all of these details, they must be recorded separately and attached to the NVD.

DESIRED OUTCOME REQUIRED

All sheep and goats offered for sale at saleyards must be identified with an approved NLIS device/tag prior to sale and if post breeder transaction tags are not used the vendor must provide full details of all PICs in the consignment on the NVD prior to sale.

General

1. An agent is liable to legal action along with the vendor for breaching state legislation which makes it an offence to sell, or present for sale, stock which are not correctly tagged or documented, linking them back to the NVD.
2. If an agent detects untagged sheep they must rectify this by obtaining saleyard emergency tags and apply prior to stock being offered for sale. Vendor breeder tags are not allowed to be applied on day of sale at saleyards.
3. If an agent has sheep consigned from a vendor that are non vendor bred (Question 3 on NVD) and the stock do not carry post breeder transaction tags, the agent must ensure that they obtain the PIC numbers on the tags in that consignment and attach to the NVD prior to stock being offered for sale.
4. If a checking system is not put in place by agents and saleyards to identify and take corrective action for untagged sheep and non compliant documentation, there is the very real possibility a mandatory verification system will be imposed onto saleyards and agents that will be onerous and legally binding.
5. Agents should adopt a NO DETAILS, NO TAG, NO SALE Policy or face possible prosecution from state regulators.