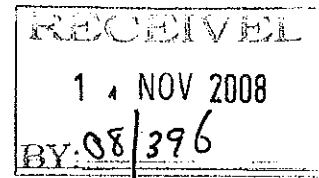




Reference: 01592/08

- 7 NOV 2008



The Chief Executive
Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies
Locked Bag 1010
Albion Qld 4010

Dear Sir/Madam

National Livestock Identification System (Cattle)

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) for cattle has been mandatory in Queensland for almost three years now. The role that the Agricultural Show Societies have played in the implementation of the system has been most important and I wish to express my appreciation of the way in which Societies have cooperated in this work.

The identification of cattle and the reporting of movements to the database are essential obligations of persons involved in the cattle industry. These obligations are defined in the *Stock Identification Regulation 2005* (the Regulation).

However, based on reports being received by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) inspectors, I understand that there may be some confusion over the intent of the Regulation in relation to Agricultural Shows in Queensland. In order to clarify the matter, I am writing to you to provide the DPI&F interpretation of the Regulation.

The Regulation refers to the owner of the cattle as the person responsible for applying a tag to the animal before it is travelled. There is, I understand, little confusion on this point. However, when untagged animals arrive at a place, an obligation then falls on the person responsible for cattle at the place to notify an inspector within 24 hours. In addition, before the cattle can be further moved, they must be tagged with a post breeder tag for the place where they are held.

The Regulation also requires the notification of the NLIS database when cattle move to a place such as a showground. As stated in section 68(2)(b) of the Regulation, the obligation for notification rests on the person receiving the cattle at the place. It is the Department's view that the practical interpretation of receiver is the organiser or organiser's representative at the showgrounds. Again, in practical terms, this would be the chief steward or steward of the cattle section for the show, but the ultimate responsibility is considered to rest with the Society Committee.

As further outlined in the Regulation and the NLIS rules, the person at the showgrounds must notify the NLIS database of the following:

1. the property identification code (PIC) of the place where the cattle have come from
2. the PIC of the showgrounds
3. the NLIS or microchip number
4. the date of the travel
5. the serial number of the national vendor declaration and waybill.

This task is most conveniently carried out via the entry of electronic data directly into an NLIS database account.

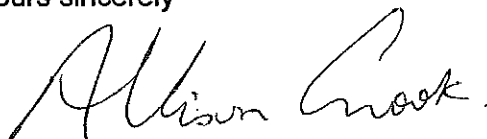
While the notification of travel away from the showgrounds is not the responsibility of the Show Society, the best outcome will be gained by the Society also carrying this out. In most cases, this notification is a simple reversal of the PIC data for the movement to the showgrounds.

Where auction sales of cattle are held in conjunction with a show, the obligations are largely the same, although the obligation for notification of movement from the place is clearly directed to the person responsible for the place, which in the case of a saleyard is the owner of the saleyard.

Thank you for providing this information to the members of your Chamber of Agricultural Societies.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Doug McNaught on telephone 0427 582 113 or email doug.mcnaught@dpi.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Allison Crook
**Chief Inspector of Stock
Biosecurity Queensland**