



## What is LPA and How Does it Relate to the NLIS

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*The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) and Livestock Product Assurance (LPA) are complementary from a food safety and product integrity perspective. LPA is an important component of arrangements for protecting and enhancing Australia's reputation as a supplier of safe wholesome beef and dairy products. The NLIS provides a mechanism for establishing a link between individual cattle and completed National Vendor Declaration (NVD) forms.*

### Livestock Product Assurance (LPA)

LPA is a Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) on-farm program to assist in strengthening food safety systems and will help Australia maintain its reputation and competitive advantage for selling safe red meat and livestock both domestically and internationally.

LPA provides a set of guidelines and a revised NVD to help producers declare the food safety status of their livestock. LPA guidelines present producers with very basic animal production and record keeping requirements designed to ensure the production of safe food. In many cases producers will not need to change their on-farm management practices. Independent audits will be conducted to ensure the program's integrity is maintained. NVD's have always been voluntary, however major livestock buyers indicate they will be requiring the LPA NVD Waybill.

There are two levels to LPA, LPA Level 1 has five requirements and has a 'food safety outcome' that asks producers to 'back up' the claims they make on the NVD Waybill. To maintain LPA accreditation, producers must comply with all five elements. These five elements are:

1. Property risk assessment.
2. Safe and responsible animal treatments.
3. Stock foods, fodder crops, grain and pasture treatments
4. Preparation for dispatch of livestock.
5. Livestock transactions and movements.

Abattoirs will not purchase stock from producers without accreditation. Provisional accreditation has been in place,

however, these provisional accreditations will expire on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2008. After this time, all producers using an LPA NVD will require full accreditation. Full accreditation includes independent audits to ensure producers are meeting the requirements.

LPA QA is the next step. It is not a quality assurance (QA) program as such, rather it recognises existing QA programs of Cattlecare and Flockcare. It exceeds the requirements of Level 1. These programs are classed as quality assurance (QA) rather than food safety programs. LPA QA also includes two levels – Systems Management and Livestock Management. Each of these have their own five elements of compliance that may be audited. They are:

### Systems Management

1. Training
2. Internal auditing and document control
3. Quality Records
4. Document Control
5. Chemical Inventory

### Livestock Management

1. Livestock Husbandry and preparation
2. Livestock handling facilities
3. Livestock Transport
4. Animal Welfare
5. Accredited Livestock

The LPA NVD Waybill will cost \$27.50 (incl. GST) per book of 20.

For more information visit MLA on-line at website on [www.mla.com.au](http://www.mla.com.au), or by contacting the LPA Helpline on 1800 683 111.

### National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)

The NLIS is Australia's system for identifying and tracking beef and dairy cattle for food safety, disease control and market access purposes. The NLIS is being

implemented nationally under the auspices of SAFEMEAT, the national industry/ government partnership responsible for developing and implementing food safety policy within the Australian red meat industries. All States and Territories have agreed to progressively implement the NLIS.

The NLIS enables cattle to be reliably identified and tracked from their property of birth to slaughter, protecting the reputation of Australia's cattle industry as a supplier of 'clean' wholesome beef and dairy products.

NLIS compliments the aims of LPA in that it allows rapid identification of animals on-farm, in the sale yard and in the abattoir. NLIS can help producers streamline the record keeping requirements of LPA Level 1 and LPA QA through the use of panel or handheld tag readers and appropriate complimentary software packages.

For more information about the NLIS, call the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) NLIS Helpline on 1800 678 779 during business hours.



Figure 1: LPA Logo

Figure 2: NLIS Logo

## Where can I find more information?

### Department of Primary Industries NLIS Extension Team

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### **General Information:**

The following are useful contacts for further information:

#### **Specific NLIS Database Queries for the MLA:**

NLIS Hotline: 1800 NLIS ID (1800 654 743)

#### **To access the NLIS database**

visit [www.nlis.mla.com.au](http://www.nlis.mla.com.au)

#### **NLIS Queries in Victoria**

For the NLIS in Victoria call DPI's toll-free NLIS Helpline on 1800678 779 during business hours.

#### **DPI Website:**

[www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis)

### **NLIS Workshops**

To attend a workshop on NLIS contact one of the NLIS extension team.

### **Ordering NLIS Devices Online**

You can now order NLIS devices on-line using a credit card by going to the DPI web site [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/nlis) and following the prompts to *Livestock Tags Online*.

*This Information Note was originally developed by Kellyanne Semple and was published in May 2007.*

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