



Reading NLIS Tags Using a Panel Reader

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Installing a panel reader provides producers with the ability to read the NLIS tags of cattle on their property. Using an NLIS panel reader can offer producers the potential to improve herd management and performance recording of individual animals. In addition, an on-farm panel reader will also allow producers to quickly, accurately and easily complete internal property to property cattle transfers or private sales.

How does an NLIS panel reader work?

There are several different types of panel readers available to producers. A range of these are shown below.



Figure 1. Aleis panel reader



Figure 2. Allflex panel reader



Figure 3. Boontech panel reader

Read Range

Panel readers have a read range of between 55 and 150cm which extends 360° from the panel. It should be noted that panel readers are multi-directional and cannot be made to read in one direction only, however the distance they read can be adjusted. With this in mind, it is important that when installing a panel reader that care be taken to ensure that the panel will only scan the tags of cattle you want scanned.

Panel Mounting

Another important point to note is that for the panel's to work correctly, they must be properly installed. Due to the requirement of panels to emit an electronic signal in order to read the NLIS tags, metal mountings can interfere with the signal and severely impede accurate reading of tags. Before installing a panel reader you should check with the supplier regarding mounting requirements.

Using an NLIS panel reader

Panel readers differ from handheld readers in that they are fully automated and will automatically read any NLIS tag within their read range.

Most readers come equipped with an audible beeper and/or light which will be activated when a tag is successfully read.

Cost

Panel reader: \$2250 - \$4000*

It should be noted that these prices are for components only. Cost may be extra for installation.

* prices are estimates only. For more information on prices contact your local distributor.

Important to note

Most NLIS panel readers do not come with any means of number storage. Due to this, most panel readers need to be integrated with a scale indicator, laptop or palm as a means of downloading and retaining the electronic identification number of any scanned animals. For more information on integrated weighing and scanning systems please see the Information Note 'Setting up an integrated weighing and scanning system'.

Where can I find more information?**Department of Primary Industries NLIS Extension Team**

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NLIS scanning system manufacturers

For a list of suppliers of NLIS equipment and software, refer to the Information Note 'Who Supplies NLIS Equipment and Software'.

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)

NLIS Queries in Victoria

For the NLIS in Victoria call DPI's NLIS Helpline on 1800 678 779 during business hours.

DPI Website:

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 and following the prompts to *Livestock Tags Online*.

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