

NLIS Trials Information Pack for Field Trial Supervisors

The assessment of animal identification technologies for use under the NLIS is of critical importance. A three-year field trial is required to assess any devices suitability in relation to retention, readability (visual and electronically) and welfare.

NLIS identification must be able to remain with an animal for its lifetime to ensure lifetime traceability which underpins biosecurity, food safety and access for Australian red meat to over 100 export markets. Under the NLIS AIT Program, this is for eight years.

Three-year field trials are a very important step and the tolerances for failure are absolute. Trials will terminate immediately if the following are not met:

- 2% of devices fail to apply.
- Limit of 3.5% of trial devices can be lost over the three-year trial period.
- Of the 3.5% - a maximum of 0.5% can be from non-reading transponders.

This document provides information on duties of a Field Trial Supervisor for NLIS trials.

GETTING STARTED	
Before starting a trial	You must have a Field Trial Supervisor Appointment Letter from ISC. You will need: • Details of the Field Trial Properties. • Field Trial Plan. • Property Details & Device Application Report template. • Device Assessment Report Template. • Access to a reader. Requests to start a field trial must be made to ISC at least 6 weeks before a trial starts. The Device Supplier will coordinate the timing with you and the Producer.
Field Trial Properties	• Annex B of the NLIS AIT Rules contain the number and types of properties required for each species. • Young female breeding animals are the preferred choice as they are most likely to be retained for the duration of the trial. • Details on the fencing, property, conditions and anything else are important to include in the Property Details & Device Application Report.
Field Trial Plan	A Field Trial Plan will include details on: • Property locations. • Number, breed and age of the animals in trial. • Period of time over which initial application of the devices will occur. • Proposed dates of application on each Field Trial Property. • Method of cross referencing between the trial device and a uniquely numbered reference device. • Name and contact details of personnel responsible for the Field Trial.

Bucket files	- At least five (5) working days prior to the application of the devices, the Device Supplier should provide you with an electronic file listing the RFIDs, NLISIDs and corresponding uniquely numbered reference devices to be used for the property. - You can use this file to track which devices are applied under your supervision and then throughout future assessments.
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STARTING THE TRIAL

Applying devices to livestock	• Trial devices can be applied by you as the Field Trial Supervisor, the Device Supplier personnel or producer in accordance with the application instructions provided. • The goal is to have the best application and placement to ensure the best results during the trial. • Your role as the Field Trial Supervisor is to apply some devices to assess the applicator, instructions and application process. • Pay close attention to device application failures and keep a tally. • If more than 2% of devices fail to engage/apply correctly during device application, then the trial will terminate. • Hygiene is very important to ensure welfare, be sure to check with the Device Supplier and Producer on antiseptic use and record this on the Device Application report. <table><tr><th>Species</th><th>Location RFID trial device</th><th>Ear for visual reference</th></tr><tr><td>Cattle</td><td>Right Ear</td><td>Left</td></tr><tr><td>Sheep</td><td>Either ear</td><td>Opposite</td></tr><tr><td>Goats</td><td>Either ear</td><td>Opposite</td></tr><tr><td>All</td><td>Internal</td><td>Right ear</td></tr></table>	Species	Location RFID trial device	Ear for visual reference	Cattle	Right Ear	Left	Sheep	Either ear	Opposite	Goats	Either ear	Opposite	All	Internal	Right ear
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Cattle	Right Ear	Left														
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Readers	• A panel reader must be used for at least one assessment throughout the three-year trial on each property. • An Aleis brand reader is preferred due to operational bandwidth. • An Aleis brand reader must be used for at least one assessment throughout the trial on each property. • If you need an Aleis branded reader, ISC have some available for use. • Make sure the reader is charged and working before getting to the property. • Make sure the session is cleared before starting. • Make sure the file is downloaded after the assessment.															
Scan applied devices with the reader	• After devices are applied, you must scan the devices to ensure they are reading. • Any unused trial devices should not be provided to the producer for further use. • The scan file from the reader must be provided to ISC within 5 days of the device application. • Any failed applications, slow or non-readers must also be reported.															
Reporting to ISC	You acting as the Field Trial Supervisor (not the Supplier) must provide to ISC in 5 days: • Completed Property Details & Device Application Report. • Scan file from the reader. • Pictures and any additional information collected during the application. Email for reports: operations@integritysystems.com.au															

TRIAL ASSESSMENTS

6, 12, 24, 36 Month Assessments

- At the required intervals, assessments must take place.
- The Producer will muster the trial animals for your assessment and scanning.
- The first assessment at six months is critical for determining conditional approval status.
- All trial properties must be assessed at the six-month mark to enable any consideration of conditional approval.
- All properties are assessed collectively at each interval for a retention rate so all properties must have undergone that interval assessment for that calculation to occur.

Reader for assessments

- Alies brand preferred.
- Make sure it is charged and working.
- Make sure the session is cleared before starting.
- Make sure the file is downloaded after the assessment.

Animals not presented for assessment

- Where the Producer does not present all trial animals for assessment you need to record reasons why they were not presented.
- This could be due to sales, movements, lost stock, mis-mustering.
- Discussions with the Producer are important.

Assessment Process

- On arrival, the livestock should be penned/yarded.
- As the Field Trial Supervisor you will need:
 - Reader – charged and new session.
 - Device Assessment Report template.
 - Photo/Camera.
- Producer will help the livestock through the race.
- The Field Trial Supervisor shall:
 - Tally/count animals assessed.
 - Scan each device.
 - Check for signs of infection, rips, damage, missing devices or deterioration.
 - Record reference or RFID numbers of any non-readers, slow readers, infection/damaged ears and lost devices.

Lost Devices

- Are physically missing for any reason (i.e. ripped or otherwise).
- Regardless of why they are lost they are counted as lost.
- If a single piece device (i.e. a loop) remains in-situ but has split on the bend, this is not counted as lost if it still scans.

Non-Readers

- If a device does not read on the first scan, a second scan should be conducted.
- A different reader can be used if available.
- Failure to read a second time is a non-reader and needs to be carefully removed and sent to ISC for testing.
- The RFID / Visual Ref number needs to be noted in the Device Assessment Report.

Slow readers

- If a device does not read on the scanner on the first scan, but scans on the second time or on a different reader, it is a slow reader.
- Ensure the RFID number or the visual tag number is noted as a slow reader on the report. These devices can stay in trial.
- Record as a slow reader in the Device Assessment Report.

6, 12, 24, 36 Month Assessments	Infections/damaged ears • During the assessment, take note and pictures of any devices that correlate to infected or damaged ears, not if they appear as a rip or there is just a hole and no rip. • Photos should be taken to demonstrate/show this. • Record in the Device Assessment Report. Device Assessment Report • Field Trial Supervisor shall complete the Device Assessment report in full. • Using the scan file and count, total the number of animals presented for assessment. • Detail all non-readers, slow readers, lost devices, damaged ears. • Total number of animals scanned. • Add notes about assessment and any trial animals not presented for assessment and why. • Photos of any lost or infected/damaged or even well-functioning devices are encouraged. Scan File • The file from the reader must be obtained. • The original scan file should be supplied to ISC. • You should compare the scan file to the list of devices applied. • If animals are not presented but appear at a later assessment that is okay.
Field Trial Supervisor Report	The Field Trial Supervisor (not the Supplier) must provide to ISC in 5 days: • Completed Device Assessment Report. • Scan File from the reader. • Comparison between device list and scanned devices. • Pictures and any additional information collected during the application. Email for reports: operations@integritysystems.com.au