



# Integrity Systems

red meat customer assurance



## Integrity system — for sheep producers

A system of food safety measures, quality assurance and traceability from paddock to plate guarantees the integrity of Australia's \$22.9 billion red meat industry — including the \$5.2 billion sheepmeat industry — to our customers. This integrity system protects the disease-free status of Australian red meat and underpins the marketing of our product as clean, safe and natural.

Adhering to the requirements of the integrity system means producers can **stand by what they sell**.



### The integrity system is made up of three elements:

#### 1 Livestock Production Assurance



The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian red meat industry's on-farm assurance program underpinned by seven key elements covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity. It provides evidence of livestock history and on-farm practices when transferring livestock through the value chain. Visit [www.mla.com.au/lpa](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa)

#### 2 National Vendor Declaration



The LPA National Vendor Declaration (LPA NVD) certifies Australia's reputation as a reliable supplier of safe red meat to domestic and international markets. It asks a series of questions about the livestock's history, and contains a declaration from the livestock owner that all information provided is correct. The current LPA NVD is required for all livestock movements, including property to property, through saleyards, to processors and to feedlots. It is available electronically (the eNVD) free of charge or in hard copy. Visit <https://lpa.nlis.com.au>

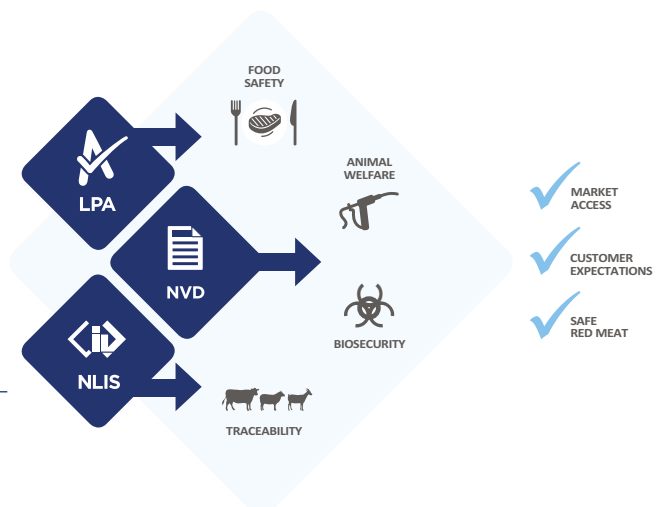
#### 3 National Livestock Identification System



The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is Australia's system for the identification and traceability of cattle, sheep and goats. The NLIS combines three elements to enable the lifetime traceability of animals: a visual or electronic ear tag, a Property Identification Code (PIC) for identification of physical location, and online database to store and correlate the data. Visit [www.nlis.com.au](http://www.nlis.com.au)



National Vendor Declarations are now available electronically (the eNVD).



Australia's red meat integrity system



## Meeting NLIS requirements

As sheep move along the supply chain, each movement is recorded centrally so that animals can be traced as required by National Traceability Performance Standards. A valid Property Identification Code (PIC) is needed to buy, sell or move sheep and to complete National Vendor Declaration forms. PICs are allocated to properties on which livestock graze and are issued by the State agriculture departments.

**New requirements (Victoria):** Victorian producers must record movements of individual animals whenever they receive sheep fitted with electronic identification (eID) tags from another property. Producers are required to record these movements in the NLIS database. All lambs or kids born since 1 January 2017 must be fitted with individual eID tags before they leave their property of birth.

## Meeting LPA requirements

The seven requirements of the LPA program cover property risk assessment; safe and responsible animal treatments; stock foods, fodder crops, grain and pasture treatments; preparation for dispatch of livestock; livestock transactions and movements; biosecurity; and animal welfare.

For details on how to meet each requirement, download the *LPA Guidebook* from [www.mla.com.au/integrity](http://www.mla.com.au/integrity) (see Tools & Resources) or complete the LPA Learning training modules at [www.mla.com.au/LPALearning](http://www.mla.com.au/LPALearning).

**New requirements (biosecurity):** Biosecurity relates to measures taken to reduce risk of infectious sheep diseases, invasive pests or weeds. Under LPA, producers must have a Farm Biosecurity Plan. A template is available at [www.mla.com.au/integrity](http://www.mla.com.au/integrity) (see Tools & Resources). The five most costly diseases for sheep are perinatal mortality, internal parasites, dystocia, weaner ill thrift and mortality and flystrike, costing the sheep industry an estimated \$1.5 billion per year<sup>1</sup>.

**New requirements (animal welfare):** Producers must be able to demonstrate that on-farm systems have been implemented to ensure handling of livestock is consistent with the requirements of the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Sheep*. Download at [www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/sheep](http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/sheep)

## LPA accreditation

To access LPA NVDs for their livestock, producers must be LPA accredited. Producers seeking accreditation for the first time are required to work through LPA Learning (online training modules), complete a short assessment and declaration, and pay a fee. All producers need to renew accreditation every three years.

<sup>1</sup> Priority list of endemic diseases for the red meat industries, GHD Pty Ltd (2015)

## Fast facts: Australia's sheep industry

**2nd largest**  
producer of lamb &  
mutton worldwide

**57%**  
of lamb production  
exported

**67.5 million**  
head of sheep

**92%**  
of mutton production  
exported

**31,136**  
agricultural businesses  
with sheep & lambs

**200,000**  
people employed

**36%**  
of all agricultural  
businesses sheepmeat-  
related

**9kg**  
of lamb consumed per  
person per year

**3rd highest**  
share of domestic retail  
meat sales held by lamb

**0.5kg**  
of mutton consumed per  
person per year

(reference: MLA fact sheet *Fast Facts 2017: Australia's Sheep Industry*)

They must also complete a short assessment and declaration online, and pay a fee. A hardcopy accreditation pack is also available.

## Livestock Data Link

Livestock Data Link (LDL) is an online feedback system which allows producers to efficiently receive, analyse and compare results about their livestock's carcass compliance and animal disease information. This information helps producers understand opportunities to improve their business performance.

Sheep producers can compare carcass performance and find information about addressing issues on farm, and access sheep health information and data collected through the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project.

## myMLA

myMLA is a customised online dashboard that provides personalised, relevant content to each user. It allows sheep producers to have just one user name and password to access key integrity systems — NLIS, LPA, NVDs and LDL. Visit [www.mla.com.au/myMLA](http://www.mla.com.au/myMLA)

## Where can I find out more?

Producers can access a range of resources to help them meet integrity system requirements. Visit [www.mla.com.au/integrity](http://www.mla.com.au/integrity), email [lpa@mla.com.au](mailto:lpa@mla.com.au) or call 1800 683 111.

