

# General Circular

## ***General Circular 01/2014***

An important update from the NSW Food Authority for all NSW egg, poultry meat and dairy primary production licensees.

### **Requirement for obtaining a Property Identification Code (PIC) and notifying the Authority of this code.**

From 1 September 2012, anyone keeping livestock must obtain a PIC for the land on which the livestock are kept.

The change in PIC rules for NSW is provided for under clause 37 of the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*, which requires that all livestock owners, managers, and occupiers of land that carries one or more cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, buffalo, equines (horses, donkeys etc), deer, camels and poultry must ensure the property has a PIC. This clause was subject to an exemption from 1 September 2009 which expired on 31 August 2012.

The requirement for poultry includes any property that has 100 or more chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, and 10 or more emus and/or ostriches. The threshold for 100 poultry includes properties keeping 100 mixed species of poultry.

PICs are integral to trace the movement of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs between properties and to sale or slaughter under the National Livestock Identification System.

PICs allow the NSW Food Authority (the Authority), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Local Land Services (LLS, previously LHPA) to quickly identify the location of a property and its associated livestock, its owner/occupier contact details and its boundary details (Lot / DP) in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

All other jurisdictions already have a property identification code system so as they can identify properties with livestock. The expansion of the PIC system in NSW will provide similar information and is a critical component of the NSW Biosecurity strategy. Prior to 1 September 2012, LHPA District Codes were frequently used at abattoirs and saleyards as the PIC of consignment; this is now unlawful. It is an offence to slaughter animals without a PIC under the *Stock Diseases Regulation 2009*, though slaughter may occur with approval on humane grounds.

## Obtaining and reporting a PIC

PICs can be obtained by contacting the LLS on 1300 795 299 from Monday to Friday during business hours. The LLS website is: <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/livestock/pics>

Once a PIC has been issued, all NSW egg producers, poultry meat and dairy primary production licensees are required to notify the Authority of this code. The Authority intends to record the PIC numbers to enable better correlation of PICs and licence numbers issued by the Authority, which will assist with traceability and identification of areas where livestock are located.

**To notify the Authority of your code/s, please contact the Authority's Licensing & Accreditation Unit on either:**

- Fax to 02 6552 7239
- Post to PO Box 232, Taree NSW 2430
- Email to [licensing@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](mailto:licensing@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au)

## Enquiries

Please direct any enquiries to:

Contact	Phone	Fax
<b>NSW Food Authority Consumer &amp; Industry Helpline</b>  <a href="mailto:contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au">contact@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au</a>  <a href="http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au">www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au</a>	1300 552 406	02 9741 4888