

Property Identification Codes

Our frontline strategy against animal diseases



New requirements for horse owners

From 1 September 2012, anyone who keeps horses in NSW will be required to obtain a Property Identification Code (PIC) for the land on which the horses are kept. Even if you only have one horse, you will still need a PIC.

During the Equine Influenza (horse flu) outbreak in 2007, NSW Department of Primary Industries' and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities' efforts to control the disease were hampered by not knowing where and how many horses were located in different areas. The need for a register of the location of all horses and other livestock in Australia was recognised.

Knowing where horses (and other species) are located through PIC information will improve traceability and response times in the event of future disease outbreaks or other emergencies.

Victoria and Queensland already require a PIC to be quoted before any health certificates are provided for the export of horses, and NSW will also be adopting this approach. In Queensland it is also mandatory to provide a PIC in order to enter a horse in an event and event organisers in other states are increasingly imposing the same requirement.

Note that it is not mandatory to identify horses by microchip, although some industry groups may require it.

PICs are assigned to individual properties and allocated by Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPAs), who maintain the register of more than 90,000 PICs and keep information related to PICs current.

Many rural horse owners will also own cattle, sheep, goats or pigs, as well as horses, so will already have a PIC, and may not need to apply for one. However other horse owners will need to apply for a PIC to their local LHPA.



For more information or to register for a PIC please visit www.lhpa.org.au, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or contact your local LHPA or NSW DPI office.