

Electronic Identification (eID) Transition: Tag talk



Tasmania is replacing its mob-based visual tag traceability system with individual electronic identification (eID) of sheep and goats.

eID tag types

eID tags are used to identify livestock and record movements on the NLIS database so that animals can be traced individually.

It is important that sheep and goats are identified with the correct NLIS accredited eID tag. If not, it will inaccurately reflect the breeding and life history of the animal, and this will lead to misinformation and errors in tracking animal movements.

Sheep and goat should only be identified with one NLIS accredited eID tag.

- **NLIS accredited breeder eID tags** are used to permanently identify sheep and goats before they leave their property of birth. Sheep and goats already identified with an NLIS accredited breeder visual tag can be identified with an eID.
- **NLIS accredited post breeder eID tags** are used to permanently identify introduced sheep and goats not already identified with an eID tag, have lost their tag, or the tag is not readable electronically.

eID tags come in different colours

- NLIS accredited breeder eID tags are supplied according to a year of birth (YOB) colour system, the default colour is yellow. Tasmania will continue to strongly recommend use of the year of birth colour system for eIDs breeder devices.
- NLIS accredited post-breeder eID tags are pink.

Year	Tag colour	
2024	Black	Any year post breeder tags must be pink
2025	White	
2026	Orange	
2027	Light green	
2028	Purple	
2029	Yellow	
2030	Red	
2031	Sky blue	

eID tags are species specific

NLIS accredited sheep and goat eID tags can only be used to identify sheep and goats.

How can I tell if an eID tag is NLIS accredited?

All devices that are NLIS accredited will have the NLIS logo printed on them.

Can I remove an NLIS accredited tag?

It is an offence to remove an NLIS tag from an animal and apply another tag. If an animal has lost a tag and is no longer on its PIC of birth, tag the animal with an NLIS-accredited post-breeder device.

NLIS accredited eID tags have two unique numbers

1. **Radio frequency identification (RFID) number** – a non-visible 16-digit electronic microchip number that can be scanned with an RFID handheld wand or panel reader.
2. **NLISD number** – a visual number printed on the outside of the tag representing the property identification code (PIC) of the property it was issued to, a reference to the tag manufacturer, the device type (breeder or post breeder) and species, the year of manufacture, and a device serial number.



eID tags and the NLIS database

- The tag RFID and NLIS ID numbers are linked. Either number can be used to transfer livestock on the NLIS database.
- When you purchase eID tags, the manufacturer automatically registers them to your PIC in the NLIS database.
- To keep track of your tags and to transfer livestock on the NLIS database, you need an NLIS account at www.nlis.com.au

Example: black 'breeder' eID tag for sheep manufactured by Allflex and printed for this PIC in 2024

