



Electronic identification (eID) for sheep & goats

Information for South Australian hobby farmers and lifestyle owners

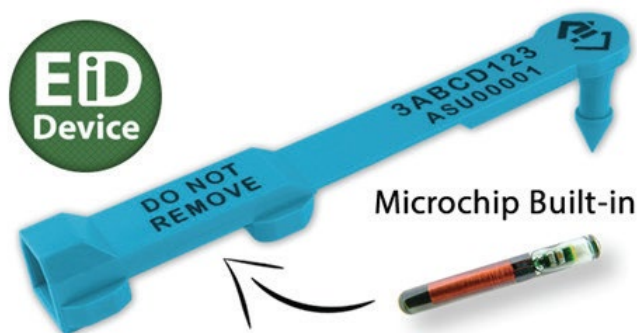
On 1 January 2025, new animal identification requirements came into effect for South Australian sheep and goat owners. The rules apply to anyone who owns **one or more sheep or goats**, even if kept as pets or owned for lifestyle purposes. eID tags are replacing the visual tag identification system, which has been operating for many years.

From 1 January 2025 - Sheep and goats **born on or after 1 January 2025** must be identified with a National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) accredited eID tag before leaving their property of birth.

From 1 January 2025 - Sheep and goats identified with eID tags moving to any property or premises must be recorded as individual animal movements on the NLIS database within two days of arrival.

From 1 January 2027 - All other sheep and goats must be identified with an NLIS-accredited eID tag before leaving any property.

What is eID and why is it needed?



Electronic identification (eID) tags allow animals to be individually identified and traced through the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database. This is a national database that stores livestock movement information and is used to track animals through the supply chain, from property of birth till death.

eID tags work differently to microchipping domestic animals (like cats and dogs), they cannot be implanted under the skin. Tags are usually applied to the animal's ear, but legbands are available for goats. eID devices contain a radio frequency identifier (RFID) microchip with a unique number that is used to link the animal to the owner's property identification code (PIC) through the NLIS database. *The tags do not store data.*

eID is being implemented nationally for all sheep and goats to improve efficiency in managing an emergency animal disease or food safety incident. Individual animal tracing will enable faster response and recovery times in the event of an outbreak.

eID tips for hobby farmers

- If you own livestock, including pet sheep and goats, you must be registered for a **property identification code (PIC)** with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) - freecall number **1800 654 688**.
- **eID tags must be NLIS-accredited**. Visit pir.sa.gov.au/eid for a list of approved tags.
- You can order tags online or through your local rural supply store.
- The species type is important - you can only **use sheep tags for sheep, and goat tags for goats**.
- When you purchase eID tags, they will be linked to your PIC on the NLIS database.
- You can use any of the year-of-birth colour eIDs for animals born on your property - as long as the tags are NLIS-accredited.
- Use pink eID tags only for animals that are missing an NLIS-accredited tag and have moved off their property of birth.
- Sheep and goats **must only be identified with one eID tag**. The tag must remain with the animal for life and cannot be removed or reused.
- If you purchase or are gifted sheep or goats, they must be identified with an NLIS tag and a movement document must also be provided. Sheep must also have a sheep health declaration.
- If an animal arrives on your property with an eID tag directly from another property, you are responsible for recording the individual movement on the NLIS database within two days of arrival. If you move sheep or goats to another property (with a different PIC) it is the receiver's responsibility to record the movement.
- Scanning equipment (e.g. handheld wand) may be useful if you receive large numbers of sheep and goats on your property.
- If you sell or move animals off your property, you must ensure that they are identified with an accredited eID tag and have the required movement documents.



How can I find out more?

Learn more about the NLIS: integritysystems.com.au/nlis | 1800 683 111

Find out how to register for a PIC: pir.sa.gov.au/pic | 1800 654 688

Learn more about South Australia's eID implementation: pir.sa.gov.au/eid

