

Property Identification Codes (P.I.C)

Fact Sheet series for the
Small Rural Landholder

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The Issue

Many small property owners with livestock are unaware they are **REQUIRED** by **LAW** to register their properties for a Property Identification Code (PIC); including single pet animals such as horses and goats.

A PIC is the eight character alphanumeric code allocated by Agriculture Victoria to a property used for agricultural purposes. Victorian PICs begin with the numeral 3, followed by four letters and three more numerals, e.g. 3ABCD123. The first two letters identify the municipality of the property.

Who Needs a PIC?

Anyone who owns sheep or cattle and sell their stock through saleyards, direct to abattoirs or other alternatives will be familiar with the need to supply both a vendor declaration and PIC for a sale to take place. Livestock owners are not able to access the services of local saleyards without a PIC; however not everyone sells livestock through a saleyard.

If you have livestock, you are required by law to have a PIC for the properties on which you graze these animals. The term **Livestock** encompasses cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camelids (alpacas or llamas) deer, horses, more than 100 poultry, or 10 emus or ostriches. The term poultry in this instance refers to domesticated fowl, chickens, ducks, geese, turkey, guinea fowl, pigeons, quail or pheasants.



Purchasing ear tags for livestock identification

Once you have a PIC number you can then order ear tags for your livestock with your PIC number printed on them. For cattle, the tags are electronic for easy scanning; and for sheep and goats, they can be either visual or electronic tags.

The electronic tags can be ordered online through the AGVIC website; whereas the visual ear tags for sheep can only be supplied by ordering through your local farm supply retailer.



Horses are included

Horse owners, running horses on their own property and owners of properties where horses are agisted, are required to have a PIC. Ear tagging is not required for horse identification.

Agisting or Leasing

Where a livestock owner is leasing land or agisting livestock, they need to apply for a PIC to cover the animals they are responsible for managing. In these situations, PIC's are allocated to a parcel of land that may consist of more than one block, within the one locality, operating as part of one livestock enterprise. As long as the land on which the livestock are agisted and leased is in the same locality i.e in the same shire or in a neighbouring shire, then both blocks of land can be covered by the one PIC.



Property Identification Codes

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16

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The purpose of a PIC, issued by Agriculture Victoria is partly for tracing residue problems, but also for locating properties and owners who have livestock in an area threatened by a disease outbreak.

Domestic and overseas markets are demanding traceability of production systems. This process provides confidence for consumers that the products they purchase are of good meet quality and safety specifications. The PIC system helps facilitate that traceability back to an individual farmgate.

Horticulture

The PIC system has also been partially implemented in horticulture and viticulture for some prescribed crops. If you own 0.5 hectares or more of grapevines or 20 or more chestnut trees, you should apply for a PIC. If the property already has a PIC for livestock then that PIC can be used with the particular crop being registered against it.

Plant PIC's enable the Agriculture Victoria to quickly alert producers of a plant pest or disease outbreak that may impact their business. This assists the authorities, producers and industry to respond to plant pest and disease outbreaks more effectively; and minimise disruptions to production and trade.

It also allows Agriculture Victoria to provide advice on how to:

- monitor a property for an outbreak;
- minimise its spread if detected; and
- determine any market access requirements affecting the business.

More information

Visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au & search "***Property Identification Codes***"
Phone 136 186



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