



Livestock identification requirements in laboratory test reports

Live Animal Export Branch

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide policy guidance for livestock identification requirements in laboratory test reports in accordance with standards 1.1.3 (e) and 6.1.3 (e) of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL) version 3.3 that come into force on 3 April 2024.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to exporters sending livestock consignments by air and sea. It outlines how testing laboratories, exporters, accredited veterinarians (AAVs) and registered veterinarians must identify individual livestock in laboratory test reports.
- 2.2 For the purposes of this policy, a laboratory test report is a document produced by a testing laboratory that reports on the outcomes of testing completed by them for the purposes of complying with importing country requirements.
- 2.3 This policy should be read in conjunction with relevant export legislation and standards listed under [related material](#) and the importing country requirements for the relevant destination market(s).

3 Background

- 3.1 Exporters are required to ensure livestock are prepared in accordance with importing country requirements. Many destination markets require laboratory testing prior to export.
- 3.2 For continued market access all relevant industry participants, especially exporters and AAVs, must be able to rapidly and accurately identify livestock that have been tested, their test results and determine their eligibility for export.
- 3.3 For some markets, a positive or inconclusive test result will render all animals from a property of origin (the cohort) ineligible for export. Industry participants must also be able to rapidly and accurately identify cohorts of livestock that are ineligible for export.
- 3.4 Australia's trading partners routinely conduct post-arrival testing of exported livestock. Trading partners may write to the department when they detect animals that may not comply with their importing country requirements and request an investigation.
- 3.5 The export of livestock that do not comply with the importing country requirements has the potential for serious adverse animal health and welfare consequences, may cause market loss and could damage Australia's reputation as a trading nation.
- 3.6 The results of laboratory tests conducted for the purposes of export may also be relevant to disease surveillance undertaken by state and territory authorities. Accordingly, the

rapid and accurate identification of livestock that have tested positive and the geographic location where the sample was collected are essential.

4 Requirements

- 4.1 In accordance with ASEL standards 1.1.3 (e), for sea, and 6.1.3 (e), for air, laboratory test reports issued by testing laboratories must include the following information about each animal that has been tested in a single report:
- i) the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) identification number of the animal(s) where individual identification is required by state or territory legislation; and
 - ii) the Property Identification Code (PIC) where the animal(s) was located when sampled; and
 - iii) the corresponding visual tag number of the animal(s) (if applied).
- 4.2 The department accepts that testing laboratories may have different reporting formats.
- 4.3 The department accepts that for testing laboratories to issue reports that include the identification information required above, the AAV, registered veterinarian or exporter must provide this information to the laboratory for inclusion in the report.

5 Instructions

- 5.1 Exporters must provide all the required identification information of livestock to be tested to the AAV(s) or registered veterinarian(s) collecting the samples. This will include:
- i) the NLIS identification number of the animal(s) where individual identification is required by state or territory legislation; and
 - ii) the PIC of the premises where the animal(s) to be tested are located; and
 - iii) the corresponding visual tag number of the animal(s) (if applied).
- 5.2 The AAV or registered veterinarian must collect the required samples from the livestock and submit the samples directly to the testing laboratory in accordance with the laboratory's sample submission process.
- 5.3 The required identification information corresponding to the samples must be submitted directly to the testing laboratory in accordance with the laboratory's submission process. The identification information may be submitted by an AAV, registered veterinarian or exporter.
- 5.4 The laboratory report produced by the testing laboratory must include the results of the testing undertaken in accordance with their normal processes and all the required identification information for each sample tested.

All preliminary, interim and final laboratory test reports must include all the required identification information.

There are two approaches available to testing laboratories, though the order that the required identification information is presented may differ and other information may be included as required:

Option A: The testing laboratory may produce a report that includes the test results for each sample and the required identification information in one table.

Sample ID	NLIS ID	PIC	Visual ID	Test result 1	Test result 2 (etc.)
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Option B: The testing laboratory may produce a report that includes two tables of linked information. If required, the report may be comprised of multiple documents.

Table 1

Sample ID	Test result 1	Test result 2	Test result 3 (etc.)
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Table 2

Sample ID	NLIS ID	PIC	Visual ID
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- 5.5 It is the responsibility of the AAV, registered veterinarian or exporter to provide the required identification information to the laboratory in a timely manner.
- 5.6 Testing laboratories may begin processing samples in accordance with their normal procedures prior to receiving the required identification information.
- 5.7 For the purposes of livestock export, laboratories must not issue any type of laboratory report that does not include all required identification information for the animals that were sampled. Where a report comprises of multiple documents, all documents must be issued together.

6 Related material

For more information see:

- [Export Control Act 2020](#)
- [Export Control \(Animals\) Rules 2021](#)
- [Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock \(ASEL\)](#)
- [Manual of Importing Country Requirements](#)

7 Version control

Version	Date of issue	Author	Reason for change
1.0	December 2023	Live Animal Export Branch	ASEL Version 3.3