

NATIONAL VENDOR DECLARATIONS AND WAYBILLS- A QUICK GUIDE

The North Coast LHPA continues to receive enquiries about the use of National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) and Waybills. This is probably because some time ago our offices were involved in distribution of these documents. However since 2004 there has been a system where producers obtain the documents not from an LHPA office but through the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) scheme of Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

What is the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)?

LPA is a livestock program that helps Australia's red meat to be safe for consumers. The program greatly assists the marketing of Australian meat. The LPA is owned and managed by the red meat industry through AUS-MEAT Limited which comprises representatives from cattle, sheep, goat and dairy producers as well as processors and livestock agents.

In general to sell cattle it is necessary to be accredited with the LPA. It is not compulsory to be accredited but it is very difficult to sell cattle if you are not. To be accredited you must comply with LPA standards in particular 5 key elements of food safety. Accredited producers can be audited to make sure they meet the requirements. For more information see the website:

<http://www.ausmeat.com.au/auditing--accreditation/livestock-production-assurance/order-nvd's.aspx>

What is an LPA NVD/Waybill for?

Filling in an LPA NVD/Waybill is the main way you show that the meat produced on your farm is safe according to the LPA Standards. Although filling in an NVD is voluntary it is very difficult to sell cattle without one. If you do fill one in you must remember that a NVD is a legal document that must be filled in correctly. Serious penalties can apply for supplying incorrect information. The manager of the cattle must fill in the document not a third party. It is necessary to put all your details in the NVD and answer all nine questions. If you need help filling in an NVD contact the NVD hotline on 1800 683 111.

Where do I get NVDs from?

To get an NVD you need to be accredited with the LPA and then you can either buy NVDs as a book or get them electronically. They can be ordered by phoning or ordering over the internet. For producers with access to the internet it is much cheaper to get the NVDs electronically. It is \$33 for a book of 20 but only \$19.80 for 20 electronic ones. For more information contact the NVD Hotline or see <http://www.mla.com.au/TopicHierarchy/IndustryPrograms/LivestockQualitySystems/NationalVendorDeclarations/ObtainNVD.htm>

What about Waybills and Travelling Stock Statements (TSS)?

In NSW you must have certain travel documents when you transport cattle. This is mainly to reduce stock theft. To reduce paperwork a LPA NVD/Waybill qualifies as a valid travel document. However if you are not selling your stock but are simply moving them you can save money and instead buy a book of 10 TSS's for \$3.50 or if doing it regularly a yearly Routine Stock Movement Permit for \$11. These are available from your local LHPA office.