

Background

The PigPass National Vendor Declaration (NVD) serves two key purposes: it enables traceability of pigs in the event of an animal disease outbreak; and it identifies areas of potential risk for processors in supplying their markets. Pig consignments should be accompanied by a PigPass NVD when travelling to saleyards or abattoirs or for vendor sales.

Completing the declaration

Any false or misleading statements made in a completed Declaration may lead to prosecution and/or attract civil action by the purchaser. The form is to be completed in triplicate by the owner or person responsible for the consigned pigs. The original goes with the pigs to the purchaser or destination. Agents completing Part E should retain the original for 3 years and supply a copy or summary to any buyer on request.

The first copy goes to the person named in Part D responsible for the transport of the pigs. The second copy should be retained with the vendor's records for 3 years.

Part A – To be completed by the owner or the person responsible for the husbandry of the pigs.

The owner of the consigned pigs, or the trading name, is to be shown on the form together with the full address and phone number of the owner. The property identification code (PIC) of the property where the journey is to commence is to be recorded, together with the PIC for the destination of the consignment of pigs if the pigs are sold to another producer. Ask the buyer for his/her PIC. The PIC is the number allocated to your pig producing property by the relevant State/ Territory authority. If you do not know your PIC, you will need to contact your State/ Territory authority. Your brand/ tattoo number is also to be recorded.

Description of the pigs is to be shown on the form including number of pigs in the consignment, type of pigs (pork, bacon, cull sow/ cull boar, heavy gilt, sow, gilt, boar, grower, weaner), buyers if known and tattoo number(s). Indicate any individual pigs treated separately from the batch eg broken needle or other foreign object under 'special risks and ID' and indicate how these pigs have been clearly identified for the buyer.

All pigover a specified weight (NSW 25kg, SA 20kg, VIC 25kg, QLD 30kg) or age (WA and TAS 10 weeks) are required to be branded before sale or slaughter. Any variation to this arrangement eg individual pig identification, must be approved by the relevant State or Territory authority. Pigs under the above limits are normally required to be identified with an ear tag or ear tattoo.

You should check with the relevant authority about identification requirements if you are unsure.

Part B – To be completed by the person responsible for the husbandry of the pigs.

Q1 (On-farm QA): The PigPass NVD includes key questions relating to on-farm practices, supported by an appropriate on-farm records system. Supply chains and markets may require the PigPass NVD to be linked to a certified QA program. Supply chain members recognise the Australian Pork Industry Quality (APIQ) Program and PigPass QA as providing the appropriate level of food safety assurance for their market needs. However, other recognised QA programs such as ISO9002 or SQF1000 may also be acceptable if they address risks associated with chemical residues, either from direct use or exposure to contaminants, and are subject to independent audit. You should advise the PigPass Helpdesk (1800 001458) of the name and expiry date of your QA program if it is not administered by APL (ie if it is a QA program other than APIQ or PigPass QA). Contact APL on 1800 789099 or www.pigpass.com.au for information on achieving APIQ or PigPass QA certification. Check with your buyer if you are unsure of requirements.

Q2 (History of consigned pigs): National Performance Standards for Livestock Traceability, approved by Federal and State Governments, require the ability to trace individual animals and their companions back to their property of birth in the event of a suspected exotic disease in one or more pigs in the consignment. You are therefore required to indicate whether pigs in the consignment have resided on the property since birth or, if not, the period they have resided on the property.

Q3 (ESIs and WHPs): Export Slaughter Intervals (ESIs) and Withholding Periods (WHPs) for commonly used veterinary medicines are listed in the attachment (see list 1). ESIs refer to the period following treatment when pigs are unsuitable for export processing. ESIs are an industry standard to ensure export market requirements are met. WHPs refer to the periods following treatment when pigs are unsuitable for processing for domestic consumption.

APL has provided information on ESIs and WHPs on the APL website and at www.pigpass.com.au to assist industry. However APL is not an authority on pesticides and veterinary medicines and is merely facilitating the availability of that information for industry. APL therefore takes no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of the information on its website and for certainty you should check with the relevant authorities for up-to-date information (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority at www.apvma.com.au).

Veterinary medicines must be used according to label instructions unless an alternative use is prescribed by a registered veterinarian. The prescription must include a recommended WHP and ESI that ensures that Australian and overseas meat residue standards are met.

Q4 (Prohibited compounds): Compounds in List 2 are not registered for use in pigs in Australia or overseas and must not be used under any circumstances.

Q5 (Feedstuffs): Any feed used for pigs should ideally be purchased from a QA certified supplier, supported by a declaration that the feeds do not contain any chemical or other residues which may be of concern to pork markets (see List 1 below).

For those pork producers who use non-proprietary feeds, the APIQ program may be adapted to provide assurance that diets and feed ingredients are unlikely to be sources of any chemical residues. Contact APL on 1800 789099 for advice on changes to your APIQ program, where appropriate, to address risks associated with use of non-proprietary feeds.

Q6 (Welfare and processing): It is important to indicate when the consigned pigs were last fed and watered for welfare and abattoir scheduling purposes, and also to ensure compliance with medicated feed withholding periods.

Part C – To be completed by the person responsible for the husbandry of the pigs.

Signing Part C has legal significance. Regulatory authorities may take legal action and purchasers may seek damages if any information in Parts A and B is incorrect. Before signing you must be absolutely satisfied you understand all elements of the document and these explanatory notes.

The declaration you are signing also states that the consigned pigs have not been fed swill and that they are fit to travel. Swill is anything (including food scraps) containing meat or other matter from placental mammals and any other substance prohibited by State or Territory legislation, but generally does not include tallow, gelatin, dairy products or commercially rendered meat, bone or fish meal.

Part D – To be completed by the person responsible for the pigs while they are being transported.

The carrier should complete and sign Part D. The PigPass NVD version 3 and above also serves as a waybill in those states where a waybill is mandatory (WA & QLD). Completion of Part D is voluntary in States other than WA & QLD.

When more than one truck is carrying the pigs all vehicle registration numbers are to be recorded; an additional document should be attached if there is insufficient space on this form.

Part E – To be completed by the person responsible for receiving the consignment of pigs.

The receiver of the consigned pigs should complete Part E. For saleyard agents, copies of PigPass(es) should be attached to the Post Sale Summary prior to consigned pigs leaving the saleyard or subsequently faxed to the buyer. Agents should supply a copy of the PigPass or post sales summary to any buyer on request.