

Mandatory cattle identification has been deferred to 2012 – what does this mean for farmers?

NAIT recently announced that the mandatory date for cattle identification has been deferred from November 2011 to mid to late 2012.

The deferral relates to the use of the NAIT RFID as a primary tag for all movements of cattle from 1 November 2011.

As of 1 November 2011, NAIT RFID tags will be approved as an optional primary tag, which may only be used for movements other than to slaughter.

LIC appreciates that this deferral will have an impact on some customers, and has prepared the following Questions and Answers to help you understand the impact of the change.

When will the NAIT scheme become mandatory for cattle?

Previously the NAIT scheme was set to become mandatory on 1 November 2011, this has now been deferred to mid-late 2012. NAIT will advise actual date in due course.

I will be sending some animals to slaughter, what do I have to do?

All cattle being consigned to slaughter must be identified with either a barcoded primary tag or a barcoded direct to slaughter tag.

I will be moving cattle from one property to another, what tags should they have?

For movements other than to slaughter, all animals must have both a primary and secondary tag (see overleaf for options). Currently the NAIT RFID tag is accepted as a primary tag for animals born from 1 March 2011. From 1 November 2011 the NAIT RFID tag may act as the primary tag for animals of any age.

I have tagged my stock with NAIT approved RFID tags, now that the mandatory date has been deferred will I be compensated for the expense incurred?

Mandatory ID will be compulsory – just not this year, so at some point you would be required to undertake the actions you have already.

LIC and our tag manufacturers have no control over the NAIT scheme or the date at which it becomes mandatory. We will continue to provide a choice of tag options so farmers may choose whether to use tags which are compliant under the current scheme or the new NAIT scheme.

Wherever possible we will feed updates from NAIT through to you and, if required, help you to choose the best option based on the information available at that time.

When do older stock (staying on farm) need to be tagged with a NAIT approved RFID tag as I know there was a grace period?

Previously the NAIT mandatory date was 1 November 2011, with a grace period of 3 years for tagging capital stock remaining on farm. We anticipate that a similar grace period will still apply but this will not be confirmed until the new mandatory date is set.



What happens with the tagging requirements for bobby calves?

Bobby calves are exempt from the NAIT scheme and there is no change to the way they are tagged.

What effect will the deferral have on LIC's tag offering?

Our range of tags will remain largely unchanged for 2012 as we continue in the NAIT 'transition phase' and continue to offer farmers a range of options.

I have tagged my animals with one of the combinations below and I want to send them to slaughter – are they compliant?

Primary – Official barcoded yellow birth ID tag with scheme logo and participant code.	Secondary – RFID tag OR double button OR brass tag
	
<p>Yes – they have the barcoded yellow primary tag so they are compliant and can be sent to slaughter without requiring any additional tagging.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: When NAIT becomes mandatory an RFID tag will need to act as a primary tag to be compliant.</p>	

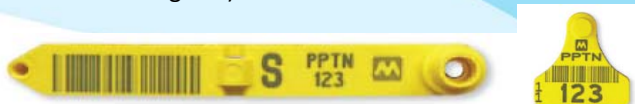
Primary – RFID tag	Secondary – Official birth ID tag (no barcode) OR double button OR brass tag
	
<p>No – until further notice all animals going to slaughter will need a barcoded direct to slaughter tag or a barcoded yellow primary tag.</p> 	

I have tagged my animals (born prior to 1/3/2011) with one of the combinations below and I want to sell them or move them to another property – are they compliant?

Primary – Official barcoded yellow birth ID tag with scheme logo and participant code.	Secondary – RFID tag OR double button OR brass tag
	
<p>Yes – they are compliant.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: When NAIT becomes mandatory an RFID tag will need to act as a primary tag to be compliant. The official barcoded birth ID tag would then become the secondary tag.</p>	

Primary – RFID tag	Secondary – Official birth ID tag (no barcode) OR double button OR brass tag
	

No – they are not currently compliant. An official barcoded yellow birth ID tag will be required for any movements before 1 November. From 1 Nov the RFID will become an acceptable primary tag for all stock, for all movements (other than to slaughter).



I have tagged my animals (born after 1/3/2011) with one of the combinations below and I want to sell them or move them to another property – are they compliant?

Primary – Official barcoded yellow birth ID tag with scheme logo and participant code.	Secondary – RFID tag OR double button OR brass tag
Yes – they are compliant.	
PLEASE NOTE: When NAIT becomes mandatory an RFID tag will need to act as a primary tag to be compliant. The official barcoded birth ID tag would then become the secondary tag.	

Primary – RFID tag	Secondary – Official birth ID tag (no barcode) OR double button OR brass tag
Yes – they are compliant. As they are born after 1 March 2011 the RFID tag may act as a primary tag, for older stock this will happen at 1 November 2011.	

Legislation for the NAIT scheme has not been approved, how do we know when it will become mandatory or what changes might be made to the tagging requirements?

NAIT has outlined tagging requirements for all cattle, the only question is around when the legislation will be passed to make NAIT mandatory. Currently NAIT advise this is expected to be mid-late 2012. We will continue to provide the latest information available on tagging requirements and our tag offering will reflect this.

I had planned to tag the whole herd with NAIT approved RFID tags, is there any point?

The NAIT scheme will still become mandatory so you still need to be ready. If you are planning to whole herd tag you will need to consider your situation and what tags will work best for you.

From 1 November 2011 RFID tags will become an optional primary tag for all stock (other than those going to slaughter). From mid-late 2012 it is expected that the RFID tag will become a mandatory primary tag for all stock, and all off-farm movements.

Please keep in mind that, until further notice, a barcoded 'direct to slaughter' tag or a barcoded yellow primary tag will be required for stock going to slaughter. NAIT is working to make the RFID a suitable alternative for stock going to slaughter.

The other advantage in tagging with NAIT approved RFID tags is that these can be used with a range of EID compatible technology.

Any other questions?

If you have questions which aren't answered here, please email them to madam@lic.co.nz and we will get the information you need.