



Department of
Agriculture and Food



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Livestock ownership - horses

The ownership and identification requirements of horse owners in Western Australia

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Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013

BAM (IMSA) Regulations

- Implemented from 1 May 2013
- Relevant to all owners of livestock and bees
- Provide a system for identification, movement and traceability of livestock



Which animals are considered livestock?

Cattle

Alpacas

Sheep

Llamas

Goats

Deer

Pigs

Buffalo

HORSES



Horse owners:

All owners of livestock – cattle, sheep, goats, deer, pigs, buffalo, alpacas, llamas and **horses** – are required to be registered.

Registration is valid for three years, at a cost of \$65.

Registration allows the owner to have any type or number of livestock animals.

Under the BAM (IMSA) Regulations:

**Horses do not have to be registered,
owners do.**



Property Identification Code - PIC -

In WA, the PIC indicates location
and ownership.

WDHY0123

Where are your horses kept?

That property's details form part of
the registration of ownership.

Add/delete properties – no charge.

Registration of ownership

- form
- factsheet

Livestock Identification &
Movement: Horses

- factsheet

Update of address and
property details

- form

Event management

- factsheet

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Property that you do not own:

you still get **your own PIC** for that property.

Lease:

- You have full control of the whole property, and all livestock on that property belongs to you.
- Generally longer term arrangement.

Agistment:

- You do not have full control of the whole property.
- Often livestock belonging to different people on the same property.
- Shorter term / renewable arrangement.



Horses that you do not own:

Lease:

- You have full management of the horse.
- You are required to be a registered owner of livestock.
- The horse should be already identified.
- You are required to hold proof of possession.

If the horse is not branded, speak to the owner.

Regulation 73: offence to be in possession of unidentified stock

Identification of horses:

Horses in the south west land division should be identified by the age of 6 months or before removal from the property, whichever occurs first.

(18 months of age for horses in the pastoral areas)

Registered **or** approved identifier.





Registered identifiers:

On registration, you will be issued registered identifiers – a stock brand, an earmark if required and a pig tattoo.

Your registered stock brand consists of 2 letters and a numeral in a specific order. First letter may be 'lazy', laying on its side.

e.g. **7BT** **B7T** **BT7** **♠T7**

Horses are to be fire or freeze branded on their left shoulder.
Use an experienced contractor to brand your horse.



Approved identifiers:

A particular body, such as a Breed Society or Association, can apply to the Registrar of Stock and Apiaries for approval to use a preferred identification system for their members' horses.

e.g. microchipping

The alternative system must show **details of the owner of each animal on a database** or recording system that is readily accessible.

People / horses using this approved identifier system must remain members of the particular group, or the horses are to be identified to satisfy the BAM (IMSA) Regulations.



Purchased horses:

If you purchase a horse that is already branded, you do not need to re-brand it if you have documented proof of possession.

You have the option to re-brand.

A second or subsequent brand should be placed below the existing brand, or on the right shoulder if there is no room on the left shoulder.

If you import a horse or **take possession** from a pound and the **horse is not identified**, it must be identified within 14 days of arrival or before it leaves that property, whichever occurs first.



Exemptions:



A foal under 6 months of age can travel without being identified if it is being moved with its correctly identified mother.

Mustered feral horses –
contact a stock inspector





Event management:



Locations where livestock are temporarily located for events are considered non-farming properties and often need a non-farming PIC.

Many showgrounds already have a registered PIC.

Horse only events:

It is recommended that event managers keep a record of attendees to allow rapid identification and location of stock exposed to risk in a disease outbreak.



Movement documentation:

Livestock require a waybill or equivalent to accompany them **whenever** they move off their property.

Horses are exempt from this requirement.

Using a waybill can be one way of keeping track of where your horse was and when;

They are an easy way for event managers to keep an attendance record as they are issued in triplicate.

You **WILL** need documentation in certain instances:



Movement documentation: continued....

Permits are required to move a horse off a quarantined property if within the 100 day liverfluke requirement of import, or any other quarantine that may be in place.

Permits are required to move identification equipment off the PIC it is registered to.

Health certificates are required to enter/leave the state.



Offences:

- removing your branding equipment off your PIC without a permit.
- using your equipment identify animals on a different PIC.
- having in your possession or on your property, branding equipment not registered to your PIC.
- removing existing identification from a live animal.
- being in possession of a unidentified animal.



Further assistance:

Visit agric.wa.gov.au

Livestock ownership, identification and movement
Movement of livestock into Western Australia

Brands office:

T: (08) 9780 6207 or E: brands@agric.wa.gov.au

Registrar of Stock and Apiaries:

P: (08) 9780 6100

M: PO Box 1231, Bunbury, 6231



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Thank you

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