

Property Identification Code (PIC) – Information for horse owners

It is a legal requirement to have a PIC if you own horses in Western Australia. Information regarding the application for a PIC can be found here:-

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/registration-forms-livestock-ownership-western-australia>

Horse owners' PICs are associated with the owner, not the property. This is to manage the complicated needs of racehorse stables, agistment centres, and the like. Horses move around a lot compared to other stock. The legislation requires horses to be permanently identified - this can be a microchip, freeze brand, tattoo, firebrand. If your horse had a brand or chip when you got him, you do not have to add another one.

PICs allow for traceability in the event of a disease outbreak. In the event of a disease outbreak, hours matter.

A Nationally consistent and functional traceability system is a requirement under the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) to allow government funding in the event of an emergency disease response. Without a National system and in the event of a new outbreak, the equine industry would be responsible for all the associated costs.

A PIC registration costs \$76 for 3 years.

At this stage, WA does not require waybills. But we are the only state that doesn't, and there is a National Horse Traceability working group, so no doubt we will need them eventually.

At this stage, the Department of Primary Industries is taking an extension approach, not enforcement, but technically you are breaking the law if you have horses and don't have a PIC.