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Released by: Dom Kalasih

## MPI compliance crackdown - Animal Status Declarations

### Purpose

To urgently remind our members to ensure their drivers are carrying a completed NAIT (National Animal Identification and Tracing) declaration when transporting cattle or deer, in order to avoid a \$400 infringement fine per untagged animal. The Ministry for Primary (MPI) Industries have told Transporting New Zealand they will be taking a more proactive approach to enforcement over the coming months.

### Background

The NAIT Act 2012 sets out legal requirements about the transport of cattle and deer. It is an offence under the NAIT Act to move cattle or deer unless the animal is fitted with the prescribed NAIT device (an ear tag), or an exemption applies.<sup>1</sup>

Although it is farmers' (or other animal owners') responsibility to ensure their cattle and deer are tagged and registered before they leave their location (or apply for an exemption), transport operators can still be liable where a farmer has failed to do so. The infringement fine is \$400 per untagged animal. MPI and OSPRI are continuing to remind farmers that they are primarily responsible for tagging animals

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<sup>1</sup> An exemption can be granted by OSPRI (the organisation managing NAIT) where animals are being moved directly to slaughter; to a game estate, safari park or zoo; or if they are fallow deer.

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In order to avoid being fined, transport operators must ensure:

1. the person in charge of the animals has provided a declaration to the transport operator that the animal/s have been fitted with a compliant ear tag and properly registered with NAIT; **AND**
2. the transport operator carries or has access to the completed animal status declaration form at all times while moving the animal (either in hardcopy or electronic form).

Livestock operators may have observed MPI officers inspecting stock trucks unloading at saleyards over the last 12 months. MPI has been completing checks for any untagged NAIT animals and it will be continuing this proactive approach to ensuring compliance over the next few months.

### What transport operators need to do

1. Take extra care to ensure that farmers or any other people in charge of animals provide them with a completed animal status declaration prior to transporting cattle or deer:

**Declaration to Livestock Transporter that NAIT animals are tagged and registered**  
Please complete this form upon request from your transport operator.

**I declare I am**  
the registered NAIT person in charge of these animals consigned for transport from this NAIT location ☐ yes  
**or**  
the person in day-to-day charge of these animals consigned for transport from this location ☐ yes

**Tally** ☐ animals are tagged and registered ☐ yes  
**Tally** ☐ animals are unsafe to tag, are visibly marked, and comply with the conditions of the exemption ☐ yes  
**Tally** ☐ fallow deer are exempt from tagging and comply with the conditions of the exemption ☐ yes  
**Tally** ☐ animals destined for a game estate, safari park or zoo have had their NAIT devices removed in accordance with the conditions of the exemption ☐ yes

In accordance with the National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) Act and Regulations.

Signature  Date  /  /

[SAMPLE ONLY – extract from the more comprehensive Animal Status Declaration form]

2. Take extra care to ensure that they carry or have access to this animal status declaration, either in hard or electric copy.
3. If they haven't already, familiarise themselves with the animal status declaration form: <https://www.ospri.co.nz/assets/Documents/ASD-Form.pdf>

**NOTE:** This is not a change in process – we are just providing this reminder to operators in light of the additional inspection and compliance action being taken by MPI.

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