



To Complete is to Win

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODE (PIC)

Policy number	PIC	Version	V2
Drafted	2011	Approved by SMC on	pending
Responsible person	Horse welfare officer	Scheduled review date	2020

INTRODUCTION

As of July 1st, 2010, Victorian property owners who have horses residing on their land must obtain a Property Identification Code (PIC). The PIC is applied for by the land owner and allocated by the Department Environment and Primary Industries.

WHAT IS A PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION CODE (PIC)?

PICs identify parcels of land and link those with owners and livestock present on that land. The Department Environment and Primary Industries maintains a database of PICs and contact details of PIC applicants.

WHAT ARE HORSE PICs USED FOR?

The information is used to plan for and respond to emergency animal disease (EAD) events and assists with responses to emergencies such as bushfires.

WHY DO HORSE OWNERS HAVE TO APPLY FOR A PIC?

Following the successful eradication of equine influenza in 2007, the horse industry and government realised the benefit of having a comprehensive knowledge of where horses were kept and contact details for their owners. It has been agreed between industry and government nationally that horses should be required to reside on properties that have PICs. This has received strong industry support. Subsequently the legislation in Victoria was changed to require horse property owners to have a PIC, effective from 1 July 2010.

Property identification is required in order to trace animals for disease control purposes. In the event of an emergency horse disease being detected, it is critical to identify properties in the surrounding area with horses.

This enables the disease to be isolated and managed rapidly, as well as providing a means of contacting horse owners to keep them well informed about the situation.

POLICY

It is an entry requirement for all riders (full members and day members), when entering any endurance event (introduction, training, endurance) to have a PIC for the property where their horses are kept.



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Procedures number	PIC	Version	V2.2014
Drafted	2011	Approved by CEO on	2011
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RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all members of VERA Inc. who compete with horses to be able to provide a PIC on VERA Inc. horse registration and event entry forms.

It is the responsibility of the owner of a property on which horses reside to meet their legal requirement in obtaining a PIC.

VERA Inc. has included a PIC Information Sheet and a PIC Application Form on the VERA Inc website for member convenience.

The following information is taken from the DEPI information sheet.

How can I apply for a PIC?

A PIC is allocated free of charge. To apply for a new PIC please complete the online application form at www.depi.vic.gov.au.

You will need to supply on your application your name, address and other contact details, and also the council property number or rates assessment number of the property at which the horse is to be kept (found on the rates assessment notice from the local council).

You must indicate on the form both that the property is used for horses, by ticking under "Horses" in the "Livestock Type" box, and entering the number of horses on the property. In the case of properties where horses are kept occasionally (e.g. showgrounds or pony clubs), simply indicate on the form (by a tick) that horses are kept there from time to time, but enter "0" (zero) for the number at present.

Applicants will subsequently receive a credit-card style card which details their PIC through the mail, sent out each month.

There is no need for properties that have an existing PIC to apply for another. If you are not sure, call the DPI Helpline on 1800 678 779 - if there is already a PIC, you can advise that horses are running on it.

Alternatively, email nlis.victoria@dpi.vic.gov.au with your PIC details and new information to update the database.

What does an application cost?

There is no cost to apply for or receive a PIC.

Do I have to advise anyone of movements of my horse?

No – there is no requirement to record the movement of horses between PICs.

What if I have several blocks of land upon which I keep or have agisted horses?

A person may apply for one PIC to cover all of the blocks that they own and run horses on. There is no need to apply separately for each block, as long as they are in the same locality.

To provide DPI with the most up to date information about the location of horses in Victoria, and their numbers, horse property owners need to regularly supply DPI with updates about the number of horses on their property/s and any changes to the land to which the PIC applies.

How can I update DPI with details of changes to my PIC information, such as the numbers of horses I now run?

DPI can be contacted via the DPI helpline on 1800 678 779 or by emailing nlis.victoria@dpi.vic.gov.au

How will the information be used, and is it secure?

The information collected is held in a secure password protected database accessed by DPI staff. Its use is restricted by the Information Privacy Act 2000 and the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994, under which certain specified people have access to its details. PIC applicants may access limited contact details of other PIC applicants. Information held is used disease planning, prevention and response and to assist responses to emergencies such as bushfires and floods.

What legislation underpins this PIC requirement?

A broad range of livestock is required to have a PIC under section 9B of the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 and regulation 22 of the Livestock Disease Control Regulations 2006. Penalties apply for non-compliance

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Ride entry form
- VERA Inc. Horse Registration form
- Livestock Disease Control Act 1984