

# NAIT Accreditation Standards consultation

**March 2026**

## **We're consulting on changes to the NAIT accreditation standards**

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We're proposing updates to the NAIT accreditation standards to make the programme more practical and sustainable for those people and organisations seeking accreditation, while still ensuring high quality data for traceability.

We welcome feedback on any section of the standards, including recommendations for wording changes, additions, or anything you feel should be included. Please email any feedback on the proposed amended standards to [NAIT.Team@ospri.co.nz](mailto:NAIT.Team@ospri.co.nz)

## **Background**

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OSPRI's accreditation programme allows information providers and entities working with NAIT animals to become accredited, helping ensure they deliver reliable NAIT services that improve data accuracy and traceability

Accreditation allows:

- **Information providers** (IPs) to provide services (such as recording animal movements, etc.) to farmers to help them meet their NAIT obligations, and
- **Entities dealing with NAIT animals** (EDNAs) at saleyards, meat processors, or export facilities to process animals moving through their locations.

Following consultation in 2021 we found the current accreditation programme was no longer fit-for-purpose. We refreshed the programme and included new requirements such as a pre-accreditation audit and stronger criteria for becoming accredited. These changes introduced new costs including, audit requirements as part of the accreditation application.

By 2025, we determined that the audit model was overly costly. It focused on policy and process at the application stage, without an effective monitoring programme to ensure accredited entities continued to meet the requirements of the standards.

As a result, the accreditation programme was paused to allow us to re-design the programme and update the standards so there is a better balance between upfront requirements and ongoing monitoring.

A strengthened accreditation programme will deliver clear benefits for the NAIT scheme and its participants.

## **Proposed changes and what it means for you**

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### **Updated accreditation model**

The most significant proposed change to the accreditation programme is a shift to a model where applicants provide evidence upfront as part of their application or renewal. Applicants will need to demonstrate their suitability and provide us with the information required to show they meet accreditation criteria.

We'll assess the application and evidence provided, and then may approve, provisionally approve, or decline the application. This removes the need for external audits on application.

*Why this change is needed:* The introduction of pre accreditation audits meant applicants had to use independent auditing agencies to complete site visits and checks to confirm their premises were fit for purpose. These agencies set their own fees, and many found the costs unsustainable.

There were also limited auditing providers available, which meant applicants had few options and were unable to “shop around” for a competitive price.

In addition, our Accreditation team raised concerns about the quality of some audits and whether the services provided met the standards required by the accreditation programme.

### Monitoring programme

We’re proposing to monitor compliance with NAIT obligations as part of the wider NAIT compliance monitoring programme, with a particular focus on entities dealing with NAIT animals. This approach means issues can be identified and addressed early.

If you’re a person in charge of animals, you’ll also be encouraged to give feedback on accredited providers so we can make sure they’re performing consistently.

*Why this change is needed:* there has been limited monitoring once an organisation becomes accredited. We found there was insufficient process in place to ensure we could monitor performance against the relevant standard. The tools needed to monitor the performance of an accredited entity (e.g., dashboards, NAIT data, etc.) were not fully developed to support our Accreditation team. This meant performance concerns were reported and handled manually, which delayed or limited our ability to respond.

Strengthening monitoring will ensure accredited entities continue to meet the standards over time and will support more consistent performance across the programme.

### Changes to standards criteria

We’re updating the Accreditation standards to change some of the upfront requirements and focus more on ongoing performance of accredited entities via monitoring and feedback from the entities and their customers.

The standards focus solely on the functions of the accredited entity that are directly related to meeting NAIT obligations.

### Accreditation period

The accreditation period is proposed to change to a 4-year term. As before, accredited entities will need to apply for re-accreditation at the end of this period.

*Why this change is needed:* a 4-year term ensures that accredited entities are still meeting the upfront requirements around criteria such as capability and capacity as well as assess historic performance.

### Cost

Removing the need for audits at the time of application means a substantial reduction in the overall cost for entities interested in NAIT accreditation.

We’re confident that the quality of accredited entities will not reduce with the removal of external audits, due to the strengthened ongoing monitoring programme.

*Why this change is needed:* In the six years since the accreditation programme was re-implemented, the number of accredited entities decreased from more than 150 to around 40. Although fewer than 5% of PICAs lost access to an accredited entity in their area, feedback from those leaving the accreditation programme highlighted cost as a major factor.

The cost of applying for accreditation increased significantly and the new pre accreditation audit introduced an extra fee on top of the application cost. Many of those who were seeking reaccreditation or looking to apply for accreditation withdrew from the programme.

The increase in cost had a significant impact on smaller or “independent” entities, such as stock agents. Many had previously been accredited as information providers to help a small number of PICAs with their NAIT obligations. However, they could no longer justify the cost of accreditation, and their clients found it more difficult to meet NAIT obligations as a result. This contributed to an increase in calls to our Support Centre.

## Why is accreditation important?

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Both types of accreditation offer a range of benefits for people using the NAIT system.

### 1. Entities dealing with NAIT animals

When a PICA (Person in charge of animals) sends animals to an accredited saleyard or meat processor, they are not required to record a sending movement, due to the accreditation “movement exemption.” The EDNA’s receiving movement is “one-legged” which creates and confirms both sides.

Since accredited saleyard and meat processor facilities are equipped with scanning software which records the RFID tag numbers of animals moving through the facility it delivers a better degree of data accuracy for recorded movements.

### 2. Information providers

When an information provider enters into a contract with a PICA, they are then assigned to the PICA’s NAIT number. This enables them to assist the PICA in meeting their NAIT obligations, including registering animals, recording movements, and keeping information up to date.

The use of information providers is especially useful for PICAs that are not confident using computers or may be time-poor, having a provider enter the information on their behalf to ensure their obligations are still met within the required timeframes. Information providers may also have access to scanning software, recording RFID tag numbers, and improving the accuracy of data provided to the NAIT system.

Some information providers may be in the form of third-party software such as LIC’s MINDA, CRV’s MyHerd, or FarmIQ. This type of software is often already used by PICAs and has added benefits that make it their preferred choice for recording their animal information. When these organisations are accredited under the NAIT scheme, it means they can send the information straight to NAIT, without having to perform these actions in both systems.

With a strengthened accreditation programme, we will see benefits realised for the NAIT scheme and its participants.

## Consultation documents

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1. **Accreditation Consultation document** - outlines the accreditation programme, the proposed changes and what this means for you
2. **NAIT Standard - Accreditation of entities dealing with NAIT animals** - the amended standard for entities dealing with NAIT animals. This includes Meat Processors, Stock and Station Agents, Saleyards, Import and Export Facilities.
3. **NAIT Standard - Accreditation of information providers** - the amended standards for Information Providers.
4. **EDNA Accreditation Application Assessment Policy and Information Provider Application Assessment Policy** - outline how each standard will be assessed, including which criteria require evidence at application and which will be monitored over time