

# Change in how meat processors declare untagged animals



To date, meat processors have treated **all untagged animals** they receive as 'unsafe to tag exempt' and charged the \$13 NAIT unsafe to tag levy.

From 1 July 2021, when recording untagged animals in NAIT, meat processors will specify if the animals have been declared in NAIT and marked by the sender as unsafe to tag or not. This means you will see different NAIT levies being applied by the meat processor.



## What this means for you

Remember to tag and register your animals. Only animals that are unsafe to tag are exempt from tagging when sending to a meat processor.\*

From 1 July, your meat processor will apply the following NAIT levies per head\*\*:

- **\$13 Unsafe to tag levy** only for animals that are declared unsafe to tag and marked by the farmer.
- **\$0.50c Slaughter levy** for other animals. However, any untagged animals sent to a meat processor that are not declared and marked as unsafe may be investigated for an infringement fine.

We will monitor animals that are moved untagged without an exemption as reported to NAIT by meat processors.

**Note:** Your meat processor may charge additional fees for **both** unsafe to tag exempt and other untagged animals. These fees are associated with the risks of handling unsafe animals and/or the loss of revenue due to untagged animals being ineligible for export markets.

To qualify for export to some overseas markets (e.g. European Union), animals received for processing must be correctly NAIT tagged and registered.

\* All fallow deer and animals born at game estates/zoos are also exempt from tagging.

\*\* Current NAIT slaughter levy rates since March 2014.



## Why the change?

Because all untagged animals have been recorded by meat processors as exempt, there has been no clear accountability for people who are moving untagged animals that are not exempt, which is an offence under the NAIT Act.

It's also been difficult to understand any issues with NAIT tag retention. It's not clear if animals are arriving untagged because they are truly unsafe, non-compliant, or if they have potentially lost their tag in transit. This change will help to collect better information about tags and tagging practices.



## Tag once - tag right

To reduce the risk of an animal losing its tag in transport, make sure your animals are tagged properly following tagging guidelines, and long before sending them to reduce irritation and rubbing.

If you notice a high number of your tagged animals arriving at the meat processor untagged, we recommend scanning them as they leave your farm so OSPRI can update the NAIT records for you.

# Sending unsafe to tag animals to a meat processor?

## Remember to declare the animal in NAIT and mark it before it leaves

Untagged animals that are large and/or aggressive and present a risk to you or your staff may be considered 'unsafe to tag' for NAIT purposes. You can get an exemption from tagging these animals.

### How to get an exemption for an unsafe to tag animal

You must meet the following conditions to get an exemption from tagging:



The animal must only be moved to a location that is a meat processor.



**Declare:** You must record an unsafe to tag movement declaration in your NAIT account before the animal is sent. This can be done any time before sending the animal.



**Mark:** The animal must be clearly marked with a red X so it can be identified by meat processor staff or inspectors.



**Pay:** You must pay a \$13 (excl. GST) unsafe to tag levy for each declared unsafe to tag animal. This levy is deducted by the meat processor.

*You must also note unsafe to tag animals when filling out a declaration to your livestock transporter (DLT) and it is recommended mentioning this in the notes section on your animal status declaration (ASD).*



### Further information

Find out more at [ospri.co.nz/unsafetotaganimals](https://ospri.co.nz/unsafetotaganimals)

