

*Supporting and protecting you*

## **GUIDANCE NOTES ON RECORDS, MOVEMENTS AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF SHEEP AND GOATS**

The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009

### **IDENTIFICATION OF SHEEP AND GOATS**

**Identification of animals not identified before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

#### **SHEEP**

Sheep MUST be identified by two approved ear tags one of which MUST be electronic. The identification code on both must contain the letter "UK" OR on an electronic ear tag the numbers 826 and a 12 digit number.

The information MUST be IDENTICAL on both ear tags.

ALL electronic ear tags MUST be YELLOW (Apart from replacement electronic tags which MUST be RED unless replaced with a tag bearing the same UK number and individual number)

If a bolus is used instead of an electronic tag then the visual tag MUST be BLACK.

**NOTE:-** Animals identified in Scotland may use a different coloured electronic tag than yellow. (see attached suppliers information)

A Tattoo may be applied as the secondary form of identification when an electronic tag is applied but a Tattoo CAN'T be used in conjunction with a bolus or in animals involved in intra community trade.

This method of identification is FULL EID (electronic identification device)

This applies to :-

- sheep born before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 which are not identified before that date and are on their holding of birth
- sheep born on or after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

## **GOATS**

There is no requirement for goats to be electronically identified, however, if a keeper chooses to identify a goat by electronic means then the **same rules** as for sheep apply.

Where a goat is on the holding of birth and has not been identified before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2009 the keeper must, if they have not identified the animal as described above then they must identify it with either:-

- two ear tags
- an ear tag and a pastern tag
- an ear tag and tattoo

The identification code on the means of identification must be the letters UK and a 12 digit number as prescribed by the secretary of state and **MUST BE IDENTICAL** on the first and second means of identification.

### **The time limits for identifying sheep and goats are:-**

9 months from the date of birth, in the case of an animal kept in an extensive or free range farming conditions or 6 months from the date of birth, in the case of any other animal. And in any event before the animals leave the holding

### **Identification of animals intended for slaughter before 12 months of age and not intended for export.**

Where animals are **INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER BEFORE THE AGE OF 12 MONTHS** and are not intended for **EXPORT** only a single non electronic ear tag is the required means of identification. The ear tag **MUST** contain the letters "**UK**" and the flock mark of the holding of birth and no other number. (Slaughter batch ear tag) Management information can also be added.

Alternatively a single electronic slaughter tag can be applied.

Where an animal identified with a slaughter ear tag is **not slaughtered** before reaching 12 months of age OR the animal has become **intended for export** the animal **MUST** be re-identified by means of full EID and the original slaughter ear tag removed.

### **Upgrade of animals**

A keeper may only re-identify an animal, originally intended for slaughter and not intended for export under 12 months of age if:-

1. the animal is on its holding of birth;
2. the animal has been moved directly to its present holding either from its holding of birth or from its holding of birth through a market and is electronically ear tagged **or**
3. the animal has been moved directly to its present holding either from its holding of birth or from its holding of birth through a market and is electronically ear tagged
4. the keeper has a complete record of all the animals movements. this must include individual numbers

Where an animal has been identified with a **slaughter only batch** tag it may be re- identified with a single electronic tag as in para.2.above However it CANNOT be upgraded to full EID unless it is still on its holding of birth OR the keeper has a complete record of all the animals movements.

Where an animal with an electronic tag is re-identified under p.2, that unique identifier MUST be cross referenced with the new electronic tag in the holding register.

If the re-identification of an animal takes place on a holding that is no longer the holding of birth then the keeper must cross reference the old and new identification codes in the holding register.

## **Identification of animals identified before the 31<sup>st</sup>December 2009**

Where an animal is identified with an existing official ear tag which contains a unique number, no further identification is required.

Where an animal identified before the coming into force of this Order does not have a unique number on the ear tag then the keeper SHOULD re-identify the animal to FULL EID before the animal moves off the holding.

However, Defra guidance is that a keeper may re-identify an animal with non-electronic double tags

If the animal is NOT on its holding of birth the keeper MUST cross reference the old and new identification numbers in the holding register.

## **Removal or Replacement of Identification marks**

Where a keeper re-identifies an animal and that animal is no longer on the holding of birth they MUST use a red replacement identification device but this requirement does not apply to the use of boluses.

See Tables in Annex A for a summary of replacement requirements.

The keeper must replace a lost or illegible means of identification NO LATER than 28 days after it was discovered to be lost or illegible and before the animal is moved from the holding.

When an identification mark is replaced with one bearing a different identification code and the old identification code is known the keeper must cross reference the old and new identification codes in the holding register.

NOTE:- An animal tagged with a RED replacement ear tag bearing a different identification code to its original ID code is ineligible for export

## **RECORD KEEPING**

**NOTE:-** Some of these rules are different in Wales. The Welsh Authorities have issued an amended version of this document.

Keepers must keep a separate register for each different holding where they keep sheep and goats. (NOTE:- these registers may be kept at the main holding)

Important Changes to the 'five mile rule'

### **Moves within 5 miles to the same holding (Land under same CPH)**

If a keeper moves animals within 5 miles of their main holding, and to land with the same County Parish Holding (CPH) number there is no need to record or report the movement (i.e. record in their holding register or report on a movement document). Previously the 5 mile rule applied to **all** movements within 5 miles of the main holding.

### **Moves to a different numbered CPH (same keepership regardless of distance)**

If the animals are moved to a different numbered CPH (regardless of distance) and provided the keepership of the animal does not change then the keeper must batch record (in the holding register) and batch report the movement using a movement document. Either use the holding number of the land being rented or obtain a temporary holding number. Standstill rules apply.

### **Moves to a different numbered CPH (keepership/ownership changes)**

When the ownership or the keepership changes (regardless of distance) then all movement s must be recorded using individual numbers in the holding register and reported using a movement document.

**NOTE:- this does not apply to mixed batch recording of slaughter derogated animals.**

## **Holding Registers**

A keeper of sheep or goats must keep a holding register containing the following information:-

- The holding (CPH) number
- The address of the holding
- The type of production
- An annual inventory total as of 1<sup>st</sup> December each year
- The name and address of the keeper
- Details of any replacement tags or electronic devices
- The year of birth and date of identification
- The month and year of death of the animal on the holding of birth
- The race and if known genotype
- The identification code of the animal

## **For OFF movements**

- The name of the transporter and the registration of the vehicle
- Date of departure
- The number of animals moved
- The identification code of the animal (if born or identified after 31/12/2009 includes individual number except those animals under 12 months old intended for slaughter which are batch tagged)

- Name and address of Destination holding or CPH or in the case of a slaughterhouse the identification code or name **or a**
- Duplicate or certified copy of the movement document

### For ON movements

- Date of arrival
- The holding number from which the animals were transferred from
- The total number of animals
- The identification code of the animals (if born on or after 31/12/2009 includes individual number except those animals under 12 months old intended for slaughter which are batch tagged)

In respect of animals moving onto a holding the keeper must record the movement in the register **BUT** the individual identification codes for each animal may be recorded by retaining a duplicate of the movement document and cross referencing it to the relevant movement record.

All movements on/off a holding must be recorded within 36hrs of the movement taking place unless the movement has been via a central point of recording in which case an entry must be made within 48hrs of return from the CPR.

All deaths must be recorded within 36hrs.

If any tags are replaced then a record must be made within 36hrs of replacement. When animals are first identified on the holding a record must be made within 36hrs of its identification and the following information recorded:-

- Identification code of the animal
- Year of birth
- Date of identification
- Breed
- Genotype (If Known)

The register must contain the requisite information and retained for 3 years after the last movement has taken place.

General Rule – If the animal has an individual number then record it on the movement document and in you holding register (Movement Book)

## **MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS**

When an animal is moved to another holding the keeper **MUST** complete the approved movement document (AML1) before moving off the holding and the completed AML1 must accompany the animals throughout the movement. The identities of the animals may be recorded at the destination holding where that holding is a central point of recording.

The transporter must give the AML1 to the keeper at the holding of destination, who **MUST** send a copy of the AML1 to his Local Authority within three days of the animals arriving at the holding. If the animal is moved from a holding to a port for export then the keeper at the holding must send a copy of the AML1 to his Local Authority within 3 days of the animals leaving the holding.

The AML1 must be kept on the holding of destination for three years from the date of the movement onto the holding and these documents **MUST** be kept in chronological order.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MARKET OPERATORS**

A market operator **MUST**:-

- Divide animals into lots and number them accordingly
- Ensure that no person may purchase an animal at a market unless he purchases the entire lot to which that animal belongs.
- Ensure that no person may sell an animal at a market unless he sells all of the other animals in that lot to the same buyer.
- Not receive an animal into a market unless it is correctly identified (unless has approval of Local Authority) and accompanied by a completed movement document.

## **ANIMALS BROUGHT INTO ENGLAND**

Any person wishing to receive animals from another member state must ensure that it is identified in accordance with the council regulation and is accompanied by a movement document. Consignments will be accompanied by a health certificate. Upon arrival at the destination premises the keeper **MUST** complete an AML/1 and submit to the Local Authority within 3 days of arrival of the animals.

Any person wishing to receive animals from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland or other Crown Dependencies must ensure that the animals are identified in accordance with the council regulation and domestic legislation and are accompanied by a movement document.

Any person importing from a third country must at the holding of destination re- identify that animal within 14 days with Full EID bearing the letters UK and a 12 digit number as prescribed by the secretary of state. The keeper must record information about the new means of identification together with the full identification code of the new means of identification and the full code on the method of identification applied in the third country.

## **ANIMALS INTENDED FOR EXPORT**

**MUST** be identified in accordance with the council regulation and domestic legislation. Once an animal identified before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 is consigned for export the keeper must record it's individual identity in the holding register and may not export that animal until 30 days after its identity has been recorded.

**ANNEX A**

**Rules for Replacement /Removal of means of ID of animals NOT identified before 31/12/09**

<b>What tags should be attached</b>	<b>What tags are missing/illegible</b>	<b>Animal STILL on holding of birth</b>	<b>Animal NOT on holding of birth</b>
Double Tagged Full EID	One tag lost/illegible	Replace with same 12 digit number <b>or</b> remove remaining device and re- identify with full EID. Cross reference old and new in register.	Replace with same 12 digit number <b>or</b> remove remaining device and re- identify with full EID. Replacement tags must be red in colour. Cross reference old and new in register
Double Tagged Full EID	Both tags lost/illegible	Re identify the animal with full EID	Re identify the animal with full EID Replacement tags must be red in colour.
Single Tagged intended for slaughter before 12 months and not intended for export	Tag lost/illegible	Replace lost tag with an eartag bearing the same flockmark/herdmark.	Replace with a red eartag bearing the flockmark/herdmark of the holding the animal is now on.

- If a bolus is used as an identification method the requirement for a red identification device does not apply.
- Replacement of lost/illegible tags must be carried out within 28 days of discovery and before the animal is moved from the holding.
- An entry must be made in the holding register within 36hrs of replacement.

**Replacement of Identification relating to animals born before 31/12/09 and previously identified with a unique number.**

What tags should be attached	What tags are missing/illegible	Animal STILL on holding of birth	Animal NOT on holding of birth
Single /double tagged UK/R/S plus flock mark and indiv number	One tag lost/both lost/illegible	Replace with same number as lost/illegible <b>or</b> re-identify with two non electronic tags both bearing same number <b>or</b> re-identify with full EID	Replace with same number as lost/illegible <b>or</b> re- identify with two non electronic tags both bearing same number <b>or</b> re-identify with full EID Replacement tags must be red. Cross reference in register

- Where an animal identified before the 31/12/09 does not have an unique number the keeper must re-identify it according to the new identification rules (Full EID) before moving it from the holding. However, DEFRA guidance is that, keepers can apply non-electronic double tags. Either form of replacement should be accepted. If the holding that the animal is on is not the holding of birth then the old and new identification numbers must be cross referenced in the holding register.
- Replacement of lost/illegible tags must be carried out within 28 days of discovery and before the animal is moved from the holding.
- An entry must be made in the holding register within 36hrs of replacement.

**NOTE:-** for further and/or more detailed and comprehensive information on the Sheep and Goats (Records, Information and Movement) (England) Order 2009 please visit Defra web site at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13327-sheeps-goats-guidance-091209.pdf>

**ANIMALS ATTENDING SHOWS**

Animals including those for shearing **MUST** be identified in accordance with the requirements relative to their age as set out in this guidance, however they only need to be batch recorded.

Show organisers will **NOT** have to keep holding registers but will be required to keep records in a format agreed in advance with VO responsible for the AGO licence and in accordance with AGO.

Copies (pink copy) of movement documents must be retained by the show organisers for 6 months and the original (white copy) sent to the relevant LA within 3 days of the event

## Differences in sheep tagging and recording rules between the devolved governments

Difference	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Isle of Man
<b>EID tag colour</b>	Yellow	Yellow	Optional, yellow recommended	Yellow	Light Blue
<b>Match up tag colour</b>	Any – not red, yellow or black	Any – not red, yellow or black	Any – not red or black	Any – not red, pink, black or light blue (yellow recommended)	Light Blue
<b>Match up tag for bolus</b>	Black	Black	Black tag or pastern	Light blue	No bolus
<b>Tattoo</b>	Yes can go across both ears, must be matched with an EID tag, but not an EID bolus or EID pastern	Yes can go across both ears, must be matched with an EID tag, but not an EID bolus or EID pastern	Yes can go across both ears, must be matched with an EID tag, but not an EID bolus or EID pastern	No	Only acceptable in goats
<b>Pastern Tag EID or standard</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Only acceptable in goats
<b>Slaughter Options</b>	Voluntary EID – same rules for colours	Voluntary EID – same rules for colours	Compulsory EID – yellow recommended	No Slaughter tags all Full EID	No EID slaughter tags all lambs killed on the island with standard slaughter tags – yellow

This is not an authoritative document on the law, and is only intended for guidance