



**Summary of
Sheep and Cattle Tagging,
Recording and Reporting
Requirements
2015**

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Please ensure that you are using the most up to date
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Summary of Sheep and Cattle Tagging, Recording and Reporting Requirements 2015

SHEEP

TAGGING – LAMBS

- All sheep must be tagged by the time they are 9 months old (6 months if reared indoors) or when they leave the Holding of Birth (HOB) whichever comes first
- If intended for slaughter in the first year they can be tagged with a single slaughter tag
- Slaughter Lambs – **initial tagging options**
 - **Single EID Slaughter tag** – Flock number only on the tag (individual number in the chip – this does not have to be recorded by farmers. Only record the flock number printed on the visual part of the tag). Compulsory EID in England for lambs tagged after the 1st January 2015. Voluntary in Wales. Yellow in England and Wales, compulsory EID for slaughter lambs in Scotland since 2010 – recommended yellow in Scotland, but can be any colour except red or black
 - **Single Non EID Slaughter tag (Wales only)** – Flock number only – not yellow, black or red. We recommend that you only order sufficient for this year and check with your market or abattoir to ascertain if they require EID slaughter tags or not.
 - Both of the above can have **management information** with a letter or letters preceding the individual management number or can have management text
 - EID slaughter tags can have the last few digits of the EID number, again with a preceding letter/letters
 - You can still use **double EID** tags for slaughter lambs – optional but you will have to follow recording and reporting requirements for full EID – breeding sheep

TAGGING – BREEDING SHEEP

- Tagged on or after 31st December 2009 – **tag options:** -
 - Double Tags – one yellow EID, one visual not yellow, black or red (**England and Wales**), **Scotland** can use any colour except for black or red and can use two tags the same colour if they wish. (Yellow recommended) Red tags are reserved for replacements not on their Holding of Birth – see below
 - An electronic bolus and black visual tag or black pastern, or
 - A pastern and a tag (one of which must be electronic) – Not for intra-community trade or
 - A tattoo and an EID tag – Not for intra-community trade
- Historic Flock – tagged before 31st December 2009
 - It is OK to move sheep with existing tags providing they are tagged as follows: -
 - Single tag if born before 2008 (must have an individual number otherwise re-tag)
 - Double non-EID if born between 2008 and 2010

However if the animals are being sold through a market, Industry recommends that you replace existing non-EID tags with an **EID pair** (red only if not on the Holding of Birth). If replacing tags make sure that you record the replacements in your Holding Register (HR).

REPLACEMENTS

- **On Holding of Birth (HOB)**
 - Either replace with a like for like tag –
 - Identical EID pair (Breeding Sheep) or identical slaughter tag (Slaughter Lambs)
 - Or remove the existing tag and put your next pair of tags in and cross-reference in the HR
 - If no tags are left in and the animal is on the HOB put in a new pair (not red if on HOB – as above, Breeding sheep) and enter 'original unknown' in the HR together with the new tag number
 - **Historic Flock** – Recommended that tags are replaced with **EID pairs** for Historic Flock – yellow and another colour for sheep on HOB. Do not use EID slaughter tags.

- If no tags are left in and the animal is on the HOB put in a new pair of tags (not red) and enter 'original unknown' in the HR together with the new tag number
- **Not on HOB**
 - **Breeding flock** – Either replace with a like for like tag –
 - Identical EID pair (Breeding Sheep) or identical slaughter tag (Slaughter Lambs)
 - Or remove existing and put in a pair of **red tags** with your flock number and individual number and cross-reference in the Holding Register (HR) – **these must be red.**
 - **Slaughter tag** – replace with a **red** slaughter tag with your own flock number
 - **Historic Flock** – Recommended that these tags are replaced with **red EID pairs** for Historic Flock.
 - If no tags left in and animal is not on the HOB put in a new pair of **red** tags and enter 'original unknown' in the HR together with the new tag number

CROSS BORDER SLAUGHTER LAMBS – ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES

Providing the animal is tagged and recorded legally according to its country of birth, tags do not have to be replaced. However we would recommend that the receiving keeper check with his / her markets and abattoirs to ascertain if they are happy to receive non-EID slaughter tags. If not replace with red EID Slaughter tags.

2015 – SUMMARY OF TAG REQUIREMENTS

- **England** – mandatory EID in any lambs tagged from 1st January 2015
- **Wales** – optional EID slaughter tag until January 1st 2016
- **Scotland** – already mandatory EID in slaughter lambs – since 31st December 2009
- **Historic Flock** – no change however Industry recommends that any animals moving through a market are tagged with an EID pair

HOLDING REGISTER

- **No Change to what you have to record**
 - Movements, tag allocation (date and details of tagging), deaths, replacements and annual inventory total
- **Movements within keepership/ownership* – no change** – to a different CPH – Record the number of animals moving – no requirement to record individual tag numbers or different flock numbers at all
- **Movements not within keepership/ownership*** – buying and selling. In England this includes moving to grass keep not within your day to day care and control.
 - Double tagged (EID) sheep to a Central Point Recording Centre (CPRC / CCP) – quantity moved – providing you get a list of individual tag numbers back within 48 hours
 - Double tagged (EID) not moving to a CPRC / CCP – record individual tag numbers
 - Double tagged (EID) sheep from a market or another holding – record individual tags
 - Slaughter lambs – **quantity of each flock number**
 - Historic Flock – quantity of sheep moving if they have non-EID tags

It is your responsibility to have a list of tag numbers for any EID tagged breeding sheep that you buy and sell.

***NB: For Wales & Scotland where this document refers to 'keepership', this can be replaced with 'ownership'**

MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS (MD) – ENGLAND ONLY

- Movement Document (ARAMS1) now sent back to ARAMS, SouthWestern, PO BOX 6299, Milton Keynes, MK10 1ZQ
- MDs available from markets or on line – www.arams.co.uk
- **Electronic Options – this is optional:**
 - The receiving keeper can receipt online if the move has been created electronically on ARAMS by the sending keeper (still need a paper MD)
 - The receiving keeper can create and report a move online via ARAMS (still need a paper MD)
 - Option to electronically submit information for an MD to the haulier provided they, and receiving keeper, has the facility to print on request of an inspector

MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

- Movements **within keepership (ownership Wales and Scotland)**
 - Record the total number of animals moving – no requirement to record individual tag numbers or different flock numbers. No requirements for Historic Flock to have an EID pair of tags or to record individual numbers for the Historic Flock
- Movements **not within keepership** – buying and selling. In England this includes moving to grass keep not within your day to day care and control.
 - Double tagged (EID) sheep **to** a CPRC / CCP – quantity moved – providing you get a list back with individual numbers within 48 hours
 - Double tagged (EID) not moving to a CPRC / CCP – record individual tag numbers
 - Double tagged (EID) sheep from a market or another holding – requires individual tags numbers – you should receive a list with the MD – still your responsibility to make sure the numbers are correct
 - Slaughter lambs – **quantity only**
 - Historic Flock – see below

MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS FOR THE HISTORIC FLOCK – NEW FROM JANUARY 1ST 2015

- Historic Flock
 - Moves to slaughter – record as now – quantity of animals only on both HR and MDs
 - Moves within keepership (ownership Wales and Scotland) – as now, record the quantity of animals only on HR and MD
 - All other moves of the historic flock – **individual tag numbers on the MD**
- No change in how the Historic flock is recorded in the HR – **quantity moving only**
- No official requirement for these tags (Historic Flock) to be EID, but Industry recommends that you should electronically identify (double tags) these animals before they leave your holding. Some markets **may** require EID tags for the Historic Flock. If you replace your non-electronic double tags with an electronic pair follow the rules for replacements above.
- If tags are replaced with EID pairs, follow the rules for reporting and recording according to EID breeding sheep

MOVES TO AND FROM SHOWS

- **All** animals will need to be recorded individually on the MD – including the Historic Flock
- Animals born on or after 31st December 2010 (or the Historic Flock which have subsequently been tagged with EID tags) will have to be recorded individually in the HR.
- The Historic Flock – **England and Wales** only record number of sheep moved on the HR (unless retagged with EID tag), but record individual number on the MD. **Scotland** – record the individual number on both HR and MD

MOVES TO GRASS KEEP – TEMPORARY HOLDING NUMBERS – ENGLAND

- If you temporarily graze your animals on rented ground but the owner of that land doesn't let you use their CPH number, and your animals are kept separate from others, ask your local AHVLA office for a temporary CPH number. You can get their telephone number from the Defra helpline (08459 33 55 77).
- You will be responsible for the HR and any MDs
- You must keep an individual HR for all holdings that you use
- **Alternatively** keepers can use the same CPH as the landowner (with his permission) but will only be able to send in paper MDs to ARAMs – the ARAMs database will not allow electronic data submission from someone who is not the registered keeper for that CPH. Alternatively the registered land user can send in the movement information electronically
- Legally it is the responsibility of the keeper of the sheep to keep the HR. However, legislation refers to the keeper/holding/register (all singular) – not an issue when it is only the grazier with animals on that CPH. If two keepers keep animals on the same CPH they'd need to be aware of each other's

movements in order to comply with the standstill rules. So that particular scenario would suggest one holding register. An inspector will need to see records for all animals on the holding.

- Movement restrictions will apply for all animals moved on and off the holding if sharing a CPH (including any others using that CPH)

OTHER

- SOA (Sole Occupancy Authority)
 - This only relates to avoiding standstills
 - Moves to different CPHs – even within a SOA – have to be recorded and reported (batch if within keepership)
- Adjacent holdings
 - No need to report if animals moved on foot several times a week – enter in both HRs
- Common land
 - You must record and report the moves unless your land shares a border with the common and you have applied to the Defra helpline to have your holding 'linked' and thus avoid reporting.

GOATS

- No requirement to EID – voluntary
- EID only required if exporting
- Recording and Reporting rules are the same as sheep
- Can now use an injectable in the groin if not intended for the food chain (subject to a manufacture submitting one for approval)
 - Black ear tag as a match up (with an 'I' printed on it)
 - Not suitable for export

ARAMS – SHEEP MOVEMENT DATABASE – ENGLAND ONLY

- Animal Reporting and Movements Service (ARAMS)
- Compulsory for markets, abattoirs, collection and assembly centres to report electronically including all EID numbers
- **Farmers can continue to use paper records – MDs and HR**
- **Option** (not compulsory) to register with ARAMS and report and receipt moves electronically
- **Option** (not compulsory) to use the ARAMS on-line HR
 - It will use data received electronically – individual tags **not** read electronically (misreads, missing tags etc.) may not be shown
 - Farm to farm moves that you submit electronically will be included
 - Option to amend data on your on-line HR
 - You will be able to add your own movements through the portal
- Sheep, goats and deer only
- Records statutory ID/movement information only – no management information

WALES DATABASE / MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

Wales currently do not have a specific sheep database – all AML1 movement documents continue to be sent to the Local Authority Office

SCOTLAND / MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

All electronic movements recorded through markets are sent to the ScotEID database. MDs are sent to the SAMU office. Address: - SAMU, Government Buildings, 161 Brooms Road, Dumfries, DG1 3ES

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- **1st January 2015**
 - Slaughter Tags – electronic only from this point – for slaughter lambs (England and Scotland only)
 - Historic Animals moving in and out of keepership (buying and selling) but not to slaughter – individual recording on the MD (but not on the HR). If replace with EID tags record and report as per EID breeding sheep.

SUMMARY

- If you are happy to rely on a list of tag numbers from a CPRC / CCP then you do not need to read Electronic tag numbers before the animals leave the farm providing you tick the CPRC / CCP box on the MD
 - ***However, your records are your responsibility – there is no change here***

CATTLE

CATTLE TAGGING

- Beef cattle – must be tagged by the time the animal is 20 days old – one primary, one secondary
- Dairy cattle – at least one tag in first 36 hours and the other within 20 days
- EID can be used as a secondary tag
- All cattle must have both tags before they leave the holding
- Lost or illegible tags must be replaced within 28 days of discovery (with the same number for cattle born after 1 January 1998)
- No imminent changes
- Options to use a Tissue Sampling Tag as a Primary or Secondary Tag – many are joining BVD eradication schemes.
- Shearwell replace standard flag tags and BVD tags FOC (with standard tags)

CATTLE REPORTING AND RECORDING

- Notification of a move to BCMS within 3 days
- Notification of a death to BCMS within 7 days
- Notification of a birth to BCMS within 27 days
- Record in holding / herd register for cattle
- Linked holdings – must record in movement book, but no requirement to notify BCMS once link created
- Notifications can be sent by, CTS On-line or Farm Management Software, Self Service Line automated telephone service, or paper.
- Registering to use CTS Online or Self Service Line is easy; using them is quicker, cheaper and more accurate than paper. Contact BCMS on 0845 050 1234 for details.
- SOA (Sole Occupancy Authority)
 - This only relates to avoiding standstills.
 - Moves to different CPHs – even within a SOA – have to be recorded and reported to BCMS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ARAMS.....Animal Reporting and Movement Service

BCMS.....British Cattle Movement Service

CPHHolding Number

CPRC / CCPCentral Point Recording Centres/ Critical Control Point in Scotland – markets, abattoirs, collection and assembly centres that have been approved since 2010 to provide you with a list of animals

CTS..... Cattle Tracing System computer database (run by BCMS)

CTS Online..... Internet reporting channel for cattle (run by BCMS)

Historic FlockSheep and goats tagged before 31st December 2009

HOB.....Holding of Birth

HRHolding Register

MDMovement Document

SOASole Occupancy Authority (granted on application to AHVLA, often referred to also as a Sole Occupancy Agreement)

SSL..... Self Service Line automated telephone service for reporting cattle births, movements or deaths (run by BCMS)

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