



**Summary of
Sheep and Cattle Tagging,
Recording and Reporting
Requirements
2017**

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Summary of Sheep and Cattle Tagging, Recording and Reporting Requirements 2017

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 a UK abattoir in the first year they can be tagged with a single slaughter tag
- Scotland – this has to be the flock number of the HOB unless the land is within 5 miles of the main CPH and the keeper has registered a 5 mile seasonal/summer grazing with APHA
- England & Wales – see below 10 mile rule
- Slaughter Lambs – **initial tagging options**
 - **Single EID Slaughter tag** – Flock number only on the tag (individual number in the chip) – the individual number does not have to be recorded by farmers. You can record either the flock number printed on the visual part of the tag **or** the full EID tag number). Compulsory yellow EID tag in England and Wales, recommended yellow slaughter tag in Scotland, but can be any colour except red or black
 - 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

- Sheep born or identified on or after 31st December 2009 (England and Scotland) and born on or after 31st December 2009 (Wales) should have one electronic identification device and one visual identifier.
- Initial Tagging 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 for EID) 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 (expects in some cases) 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 (See above for Scotland – yellow EID not compulsory, but recommended). 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 – cross reference in the HR
 - **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

UPGRADING LAMBS TAGGED WITH A SLAUGHTER TAG TO FULL EID

- **On Holding of Birth (HOB)**
 - Remove the slaughter tag and put your next pair of tags in and cross-reference in the HR
- **Not on HOB**
 - **England and Wales** – Remove slaughter tag 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.**
 - **Scotland** - Remove slaughter tag and put in a pair of tags with your flock number and individual number and cross-reference in the Holding Register (HR) – **these do not have to be red.**
 - **Full traceability must be established – from HOB to current holding** – (England only – the slaughter tag must be read electronically to establish, and record, the full EID number)
 - If traceability cannot be established, the sheep cannot be upgraded

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.

2017 – SUMMARY OF TAG REQUIREMENTS

- **England** – mandatory EID in any lambs **tagged from 1st January 2015**
- **Wales** – mandatory EID in any lambs **tagged from 1st January 2016**
- **Scotland** – 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

- **You have to record**
 - Movements, tag allocation (date and details of tagging), deaths, replacement tags and annual inventory total
- **Movements within keepership/ownership*** – 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) – quantity moved – providing you get a list of individual tag numbers back within 48 hours (England and Wales)
- Double tagged (EID) sheep **to** a Critical Control Point (CCP) – quantity moved – providing you either get a list of individual tag numbers back within 48 hours or the numbers are recorded in ScotEID.
- 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 (Scotland – if the numbers are held in ScotEID, no requirement to hold those numbers on farm)
- 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 (or have access to a list on ScotEID) of tag numbers for any EID tagged breeding sheep that you buy and sell.

If you use a list from a CPRC/CCP it is your responsibility to check the accuracy of the tag numbers

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

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 (or if in Scotland the individual numbers are recorded on Scot EID)
 - 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. (Scotland – if the numbers are held in ScotEID, no requirement to hold those numbers on farm)
 - Slaughter lambs – **quantity only**
 - Historic Flock – see below

MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS FOR THE HISTORIC FLOCK

- Historic Flock
 - Moves to slaughter – 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 2009 (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

STANDSTILLS

Animals moving onto a holding will trigger a 6 day standstill (England & Wales), 13 day standstill applies in Scotland. Any land linked or under a TLA (England & Wales only), 'Linked holding' or 'Sole Occupancy' (SOA) is also subject to the standstill. (Linked holdings and SOAs being phased out)

10 MILE RULE (ENGLAND & WALES)

Using a staggered approach England and Wales are introducing the 10 mile rule option. Farmers may have the opportunity to either, link land parcels to the main CPH, create Temporary CPHs or join CPHs permanently.

- Temporary Land Associations (TLA)
 - Land within 10 miles of the main CPH can be linked on an annual basis to the main CPH
 - Farmers can specify the overall period that the land will be used solely by him (up to 365 days)
 - This can be individual fields, or a whole CPH
 - If a TLA is set up, no recording or reporting is required – no paperwork, no notifications to BCMS, ARAMS or Welsh Assembly Government – everything comes under the main CPH
 - Lambs and calves born on the TLA will be tagged with the main CPH flock/herd number
 - Movements to and from that land to another CPH would be recorded and reported against the main CPH.
 - All land covered by a single CPH, whether permanently or temporarily, will be treated as part of that CPH from a disease testing, restriction and standstill perspective.
- Temporary Holding Number (tCPH)
 - If a farmer uses fields that are not used by other livestock for a specified period (up to one year), they can apply to APHA (England) or Welsh Assembly Government (Wales) for a tCPH if they do not want to link it under a TLA, or if it is over 10 miles from the main CPH
 - A separate holding register has to be kept for each tCPH.
 - The herd / flock number will be the same as the herd /flock number of the main CPH
 - All livestock movements on and off the tCPH, including movements between the tCPH and any other CPHs you hold, must be recorded and reported (currently by batch if within keepership).
 - All livestock movements on or off a tCPH will trigger standstill on the receiving holding, including movements to or from the main CPH.
 - For disease testing/restrictions the land included in a tCPH will be treated by default as part of that tCPH and not the main CPH or that of the person the farmer is renting the land from.
 - A renewal tCPH must be applied for every year – if there is a break between the end date and the renewal date, it is likely that this will be a different CPH number each time
- Permanently Linking Holdings
 - Farmers may wish to permanently join two holdings that they own – they need to phone up the RPA (England) or Welsh Assembly Government (Wales) for this.
- No Change
 - Farmers can continue as they are now if they wish
 - If they share the same land / fields with another livestock producer and cannot define a period when it is solely theirs, they must continue as before.
 - All users of the land need to be aware of all movements on and off the land – ideally only one holding register should be kept with all of the movements
 - Animals born on that holding will need to be tagged with the flock / herd mark associated with that CPH
 - Standstills and disease testing / restrictions will apply to all livestock on the land
- Existing SOAs and Linked Holdings
 - These will cease as soon as the farmer has been offered the option of the TLAs etc.
- Cross Border Land

- With Wales – tCPHs and TLAs can be set up if the land straddles the Welsh border. The land may be associated with an English CPH at the discretion of Defra and Welsh Government
- With Scotland – tCPHs and TLAs **cannot** be set up with land straddling the Scottish border.

MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS (MD) – ENGLAND ONLY

- **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

ENGLAND – ARAMS – SHEEP MOVEMENT DATABASE

- Movement Document (ARAMS1) sent back to ARAMS, SouthWestern, PO BOX 6299, Milton Keynes, MK10 1ZQ
- MDs available from markets or on line – www.arams.co.uk
- 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

WALES DATABASE / MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

The white copy of the new version of the movement licence must be returned to EIDCymru or you can report the move / accept the move from a CPRC on www.eidcymru.org.

If you need a supply of the licence, please contact the EIDCymru office on 01970 636959 or email contact@eidcymru.org. The address is: EIDCymru, Ty Merlin, Parc Merlin, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3FF

SCOTLAND / MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

All electronic movements recorded through markets and abattoirs 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 AND PENDING 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.
- **1st January 2016**
 - Slaughter Tags – electronic only from this point – for slaughter lambs (Wales)

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
 - ***However, your records are your responsibility – there is no change here***

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 (England only)
 - Black ear tag as a match up (with an 'I' printed on it), not suitable for export

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)
- 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 – passports must be returned to BCMS
- Notification of a birth to BCMS within 27 days
- Record in holding / herd register for cattle
- 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.
- Linked Holdings are being phased out (England only?)

SCOTMOVES (SCOTLAND ONLY) – 2017

- New database for Scotland run by ScotEID
- Linked holdings have ceased
- Farmers have the option to report the cattle **grass keep moves** to ScotMoves instead of BCMS
 - If they do, there is no need record the move on the passport
 - Entry is required in the movement book / herd register
 - Moves must be reported to ScotMoves within 48 hours
 - Can report on-line
 - ScotMoves will receive nightly feeds from CTS with the births and moves to and from markets, abattoirs and private sales
 - ScotMoves will have a more accurate idea of exactly where animals are in the event of a disease outbreak.
- If farmers do not wish to register with ScotMoves
 - They will have to notify BCMS/CTS of all moves to and from grass keep
 - They will be required to make an entry of the move on the passport
 - Entry is required in the movement book / herd register
 - The passport and CTS will show multiple moves if several moves backwards and forwards to grass keep

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- ARAMS**Animal Reporting and Movement Service
- BCMS**.....British Cattle Movement Service
- CPH**Holding Number
- CPRC / CCP**Central 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 Flock**Sheep and goats tagged before 31st December 2009
- HOB**.....Holding of Birth
- HR**Holding Register
- MD**Movement Document
- SOA**Sole 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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