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ICAR recommends the National Competent Authorities responsible for animal identification, to only use ICAR certified animal identification devices.

The International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) has done extensive work over several years to design the testing protocols of ID devices and develop guidelines for animal identification.

These standards assure Competent Authorities (CA), ICAR member organisations and other concerned decision-makers, that the devices they select for animal identification for their territory meet all animal health, welfare and traceability requirements and they are durable in the large variety of production systems and environments.

ICAR believes that the newly introduced comprehensive certification of ID devices, which now includes material quality and environmental performance testing, in addition to the existing testing for electronic devices conformance with ISO standards 11784 and 11785, will be a powerful tool for authorities to choose the best products for their territory. ICAR certifications have the validity of five years from the date the certificate was issued. If a recertification test is not done prior to the expiry of the original, ICAR removes the product from its web list of certified devices and no more recommends the use of it.

The links to the ICAR webpages of certified devices are:

- [Conventional ear tags](#)
- [RFID devices with full certification](#)

ICAR further recommends that valid ICAR certification is always a standard requirement for public bidding of ID devices **together with a copy of the test report summary with assessment of the parameters**. To understand fully the potential value of the new ICAR standards for the Competent Authorities we recommend you to download from our webpage "[A Synthesis of the ICAR Guidelines on Animal Identification](#)" which provides a very good overview.

In response to several recent national CA requests, SERVICE-ICAR Srl (S.I.), the commercial subsidiary of ICAR, started to offer **device validation services** to check field product. The essence of the new service is to help the Authorities to periodically verify that the identification devices originally selected under long procurement procedures continue to meet the original ICAR certification criteria. Initially the test proposals are prepared based on individual CA requests but S.I. is in process of developing a standard suite of validation procedures including necessary standard forms for the applicant body to define the parameters to test/verify as required. The validation tests are carried out by the ICAR test centres which originally tested the devices concerned. In the next months, ICAR will further advise CA's on the details of this device validation service.

In the meantime the ICAR Secretariat staff will be happy to respond to any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,



Martin Burke
Chief Executive



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