

ICAR Sub-Committee for Animal Identification

Teleconference meeting
12 May 2016, 15.00 CET

Minutes

Attendance:

SC Members:

Martin Burke (acting Chairman)
Kaivo Ilves
Jay Mattison
Folkert Onken
Henry Richardson

Jussi Maki-Hokkonen (ICAR Secretariat)
Andie Dimitriadou (ICAR Secretariat)

Invitees:

Susanne Gäckler (DLG)
Robert Davies (SAIT)
Aude Didier (CETIM)
Lilian Hennecon (CETIM)

Apologies:

Erik Rehben
Pieter Hogewerf (IMA)
Jonas Persson (RYK)

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

Martin welcomed the participants and the agenda was approved as circulated. Jussi Maki-Hokkonen and Andie Dimitriadou of ICAR Secretariat were appointed as rapporteurs.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the SC meeting of 25-26 January 2016 in Wien

The minutes were unanimously approved. Susanne asked for the notes of the discussion held in Wien about preliminary testing for pig tags. Jay noticed that item 4.4. (re-editing of Guidelines Section 10) of the Wien minutes required some sorting out. Martin invited the SC members to identify specific issues for which they need more information. Jay also requested a list of action items to be circulated together with the minutes of each meeting.

Action/Decision: ICAR Secretariat has checked the Wien recording. The summary of the discussion on pigs was that Susanne and Jonas would investigate if any countries had measurements for breaking force of pig tags already in place. If not, the breaking force for cattle would be maintained. Susanne and Jonas to report back.

Action/Decision: ICAR Secretariat decided not to do an overall re-editing of the Guidelines for the moment, but to take care of specific aspects which require tighter definition, e.g. validation.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to ensure that relevant Action Items follow each Item in the Minutes.

3. Follow-up to resignation of Ken as the ID SC Chair

Martin invited the SC members to consider Ken's resignation as an opportunity to identify better the requirements of the Chairman position. The Secretariat drafted TOR for the SC. This is now an opportunity to open the Sub-Committee to more people. Henry noted that it would be important

to have more people whose regular employment is in animal identification. There was agreement of the need to have good balance between business and technical people. Folkert asked if it would be the case to have two chairs, one technical and one from business. Susanne wondered if ICAR could contact the person who succeeded Ken as a possible candidate. Jay mentioned that Daniel Abernethy and (*add name*) did not know about Ken's resignation. It was agreed that communication need to be more consistent.

Action: Martin to circulate the TOR to the SC for comments.

4. Revised web pages of certified RFID devices and conventional ear tags

All SC members have been notified of the revision. Andie asked the SC members about any comments or questions on the new pages of certified RFID and conventional ear tags. She noted that the distinction between livestock and pet animals was implemented as requested in Wien. Henry commented that all was fine with the new pages. Folkert asked if ISO WG3 had been advised about the revised pages. Martin asked if it would be advisable to include pictures of the locking mechanisms. Jussi advised that it could be done for future insertions. SC members were thanked for their feedback.

5. Develop standard procedures for ID device validation for CAs.

There was discussion around the term 'retesting' or 'validation'. Martin suggested that retesting could be confused with recertification. A little glossary would be useful. Folkert commented that the issue of 'different' results as per Kaivo's draft is not clear. Jussi explained that validation is always against a previous certification report and results are compared to that. Martin thought that manufacturers should get a copy of the validation report, while Jay did not agree given that the validation was requested by a third party. Jussi suggested that ICAR should let manufacturers know about upcoming tests. It was agreed to include the standard procedure in the Guidelines as an annex and also post it on the ICAR website. Susanne suggested that the validation procedure should include preliminary assessment plus barcode testing option. Jussi advised that a new write-up of the document was needed for the SC to comment on. Henry will put his ideas in track changes and all SC members are welcome to do so.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to look again at the Synthesis glossary and standardize the terminology.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to draft the procedure document and share with SC members for their feedback before June's SC teleconference.

6. Establish standard instructions to manufacturers for selection of samples for device certification tests.

Jussi noted that this issue concerns any set of samples for any kind of test. The aim is to have random samples instead of selected ones, so that they are more representative and manufacturers do not preselect what they submit. The practice is that although manufacturers may have several plants, they usually send samples from only one. Henry commented that the issue should be taken to ISO WG3 for guidance. Kaivo asked how the actual sampling could be supervised, as ICAR does not know how many plants each manufacturer has. Susanne suggested asking also ICAR associate members.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to ask for proposals initially from a few selected manufacturers, review again and bring back to the SC for discussion.

7. ICAR strategy for communication with Competent Authorities – progress since the January 2016 SC meeting

The Secretariat has collected contact details for about 50 CAs, 5 of which reacted very positively to ICAR's communication. Individual contacts to countries are necessary in order to expand the list. Kaivo suggested that the list could be expanded with more CAs than only ministries in each country.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to share with SC the list of countries who responded to the circular.

[Action: ICAR Secretariat will think further how to proceed in order to include more CAs for each country.](#)

8. ISO/ICAR TF for development of test protocols for ID devices based on UHF technology (Composition and ToR of TF)

Robert and Glen from SAIT were going to work with Ken on this. Robert has done some testing and investigation and Glen is also interested. The two could pull info together and do good study.

[Action: Martin will email Pieter on what his understanding is on this, asking his view.](#)

9. Forum with key manufacturers – joint meeting in Chile

Jussi asked if the idea will be revived for Chile, as it will be an opportunity with the manufacturers who will be there. Henry informed that he is not going to Chile, while Susanne and Robert said it will be difficult for them too.

[Action: Martin to look again at the Chile programme and consider further.](#)

10. ICAR Annual Report 2015 to ISO

The report, presenting ICAR's work under the agreement with ISO, was sent to ISO on April 7th. The report is not submitted to WG3, but it is up to ISO to inform the WG3 – which it usually does not. Pieter has been informed of the submission.

11. Ring Test SOP finalization

Robert asked to see the results of the interlab session and Susanne asked what information she needs to deliver.

[Action: ICAR Secretariat to circulate latest version of the SOP to the RFID labs asking for their comments before June's SC teleconference](#)

[Action: Susanne to draft the missing part on reporting of the ring test results](#)

12. Writing of protocol and procedure on mechanical testing of injectable devices

ICAR has been working on the protocol. This came as a request from Pieter in Wien to finish the work.

[Action: Susanne to finish the draft protocol and share with the SC.](#)

[Action: Martin to talk with Pieter to ensure that the SC and WG3 are on the same page and working together.](#)

13. Next meeting

[Action: The SC to hold a teleconference on Thursday, 30th June at 15.00 CET.](#)

14. Any other business

14.1. Revision of 10.7 and 10.8 preliminary assessment protocols as per Wien

Susanne reported that as per decisions of the Wien meeting, no part of the tag (male/female) should be reusable. The male part must break and the pin must stay within the female cap, both at the preliminary and the lab test. Robert requested clarification of the term 'not reusable' and also to add the rationale behind some specifications.

[Action: Robert to send his comments on Susanne's draft and she will produce final draft.](#)

14.2. Case of Datamars, Kazakhstan

Jussi mentioned that this was an internal matter, which did not need to be discussed in the SC. The Secretariat gained knowledge for the future.

14.3. Feedback on Henry's draft on animal ID standard

Henry got feedback from Erik. There are no changes in Section 9 but there might be need to adjust existing sections of the wider Guidelines as regards references to international ID. Henry sent the latest version to the SC – the paragraphs in blue have changed since the Wien meeting.

Action: SC members to review and send their feedback to Henry before June's SC teleconference.

14.4. Jussi thanked the SC members in his last SC meeting before retirement and wished them good luck for the future. The SC members also thanked Jussi for his long contribution and wished him all the best.

15. Meeting closure

The meeting was closed at 17.09 CET.