



**ICAR Sub-Committee for Animal Identification  
Meeting between Martin Burke (Acting Chair ID SC) and**

**Manufacturers;  
Allflex, Greg Wambergue,  
Caisley, Henrik Winkeler (phone)  
Datamars, Klaus Ackertsaff**

**ICAR Animal Identification Guidelines and Certification - roadmap for next 5 years**

**27<sup>th</sup> July 2016, MPX 9am – 3pm**

**Minutes**

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Code

Action A1 = Priority 1 Action;                      Action A2 = Priority 2 Action;    A3 etc..

**1. Welcome and opening of the meeting**

The meeting was requested by Datamars, Allflex and Caisley who asked ICAR CE to attend so they could give their input to the CE with respect to their 5 year strategic thinking for ID guidelines and certification. The meeting started at 0900hrs. Martin welcomed the participants Klaus and Greg with Henrik by phone

**2. Agenda Review/Approval**

Idea was to take input from Manufacturers (Mfrs) with respect to mapping out the 5 year Roadmap for ICAR ID Guidelines & Certification - we agreed the following topics should be addressed in the meeting;

- A. ICARs ID Guidelines & Certification Review – “areas not covered but should be”?**
- B. ICARs CA Validation Procedure – Feedback from Mfrs viewpoint?**
- C. Promotion of ICAR ID Certification – strategy resources, funding?**
- D. Technology Group – UHF Task Force required?**
- E. Companion animal – ICARs stance, plans?**
- F. ISO – ICAR relations**

**3. Minutes;**

**A. ICARs ID Guidelines & Certification Review – “areas not covered but should be”?**

All agreed ICAR ID Guidelines covered the ‘Product Certification’ protocols well.

However the ‘Product’ is only one aspect and while it is a very important part of the whole ‘Process’ of ID integrity – but it does not ‘live’ alone. We discussed the following list of key process activities that contribute to the ID’s systems integrity, and meeting addressed each in turn;

- i. Tendering,
- ii. Supply Chain Capability (Manufacturing/Delivery)
- iii. Product Certification
- iv. Field Validation.

i. **Tendering Template** – Mfrs both think this is not crucial for ICAR to spend energy and resources in this but we agreed ICAR should collate Tenders in use and develop a template as an Annex  
**Action 1. (A2):** MB to bring to ICAR SID SC about collating tenders to derive common template MB to review with ID SC in Sept meeting (MB/AD)

ii. **Supply Chain Quality Assurance** – all recognised that it is crucial that the ICAR application for certification should be reviewed by the ID SC to encompass or at least specify requirements that cover;

1. Material Specification Sheet; Spec, Grade, % Re grind etc for each Certified Product
2. Machine and Process Capability Cmk and CpK from initial Production runs
3. Numbering Database requirements eg ensuring traceability and uniqueness of numbering
4. Mfr to send Annual 'Quality/ Manufacturing /Delivery Report' to ICAR
5. Occasional Audits by ICAR to plants as required to verify above (resource and cost model dependant)

**Action 2. (A1):** Review with ICAR ID SC to form a “**Technology Task Force**” to define above requirements 1 to 5 – made up of Reps from IDSC/MFRs Tech Reps/ICAR Test Labs. This Technology Task Force (TTF) would make recommendations to the ID SC for guidelines adoption on these key Supply Chain Quality requirements (SC ID to convene). MB to review with ID SC in Sept meeting

iii. **Product Certification** – all recognised that the current Protocols of Certification, DCN, Re-Certification are good but all agree also the test protocol needs to be under review on regular basis to ensure they are kept up to date with respect to technology, market demands

**Action 3. (A2):** Subject to IDS SC endorsement the “**Technology Task Force**” to do formal review at least annually and again would make recommendations on any changes required to the ID SC for guidelines adoption.

iv. **Field Validation – Sampling** MB shared draft of proposed Validation Scheme (plus Application Annex) with Mfrs. All agreed they would support. Also agreed that the manufacturers would allow for other labs to access original certification reports for purpose of comparison only.

**Action 4. (A1);** Mfrs to review the documents and formally reply with comments to MB to take back to ID SC - plan is to incorporate comments and release in Chile 2016. (MFRs)

**Field Validation – Long term Large Scale Trials** – some countries (few only – namely Australia and France) have conducted large scale long term (3 – 5 yrs) field trials as part of their tender acceptance process. These trials cover aspects like % retention, replacement /loss incidence, etc. It is not envisaged we make this a mandatory part of the ICAR Guidelines/requirements but it was agreed that the templates and reports could be shared with other members

**Action 5. (A3);** ICAR to request from IDELE and NLIS if ok for ICAR to share Field Trial templates and Reports (AD)

**Competent Authorities** – it is key that the CA's are targeted and education on ICAR ID Certification offering – ref **Promotion** Section C elsewhere in this document for Actions agreed and assigned.

**B. ICARs CA Validation Procedure – Feedback from Mfrs viewpoint?** – covered in A. iv above

### C. Promotion of ICAR ID Certification – strategy resources, funding?

MB informed Mfrs of ICAR's new Brand and logo and spoke of a 'New ICAR' that is more engaging and outward looking.

MB also shared ICAR's strategy for developing countries called ICAR's **Global Reach** initiative which (along with the new logo) will be piloted in Latin America in its Chile Conference in October 2016. The Latin America Global Reach Sub Group will be made up of local country representatives. We are currently recruiting members to that team and as ID is the key cornerstone for countries getting into ICAR Recording and Evaluation we believe the MFRS contacts will be invaluable in helping get this off the ground.

**Action 6 (A1).** Mfrs are asked to aid the Global Reach initiative initially by supplying ICAR with three key bits of information;

- 1) Your Marketing Rep's contact details who is responsible for Latin America Region
- 2) List of Your CA contacts for Latin America (ICAR will keep confidential but will approach for Global Reach invite)
- 3) In Your view give us the ID "Maturity ranking" of countries in Latin America (which countries are the leaders there, who made most in-roads with ID infrastructure, Database traceability etc e.g. Uruguay??)

**Funding Promotion** - With respect to long term funding of Promotion there was a good discussion on a few alternative concepts. MB at the outset emphasised that ICAR's independence and neutrality was a key integral part of its offering and cannot and should not ever be compromised.

Two concepts were discussed by Mfrs for future funding;

1. Levy – if ICAR could include the ICAR "seal" on the tags (screen printed) for those that meet the complete test and meet all the guidelines (including supply chain capability etc) then perhaps a levy on each tag sold with the seal may be a better funding model
2. Investment by Associate Members – ask Mfrs to contribute more to 'pot' through Associate fees to fund promotion of Certification Services - again only those who meet the high quality certification get the ICAR 'seal' (this idea could be expanded to Recording Devices, Milk Analysis Spectral machine mars, etc)

These may be explored in the longer term but MB stated that nothing will change in that regard in the short term, we agreed for now we need to put together a **common promotion strategy** so all stakeholders are sure to be informed, educated and engaged with ID Guidelines & Certification to the level appropriate to their needs. So target Stakeholders would be the CA's but then also key policy makers and influencers like FAO and OIE WHO etc should be Informed and on board so they become allies/partners who endorse ICAR ID guidelines as and when required.

**Action 7. (A1)** It was agreed MB would take the proposal to the ID SC that ICAR would convene a "**Promotion Task Force**" dedicated to the promotion and dissemination of ICAR's ID Guidelines and Certification. This TF would again report to the ID SC. It is envisaged to be made up of appropriate staff from SC, Mfrs, CA's? MB to review with ID SC in Sept meeting

### D. Technology Group – UHF Task Force required

It was agreed the first priority of the **Technology Task Force** proposed in Action 2 above was to set them the task of conducting a baseline review of UHF adoption throughout the world – the idea is

to report back to the ID SC on whether we need standards or not and if so what all is needed/recommendations.

**Action 8. (A2): “Technology Task Force”** to do formal review of UHF activity and make recommendations to the ID SC on whether or how to pursue UHF guidelines adoption

**Action 9. (A1)** In the meantime MB will engage with USDA and get an update on progress in the US/Can trials and standardisation efforts. Goal is to avoid a ‘national’ type standard that is not compatible with rest of world. MB to share feedback on that call to SC ID and relevant Associates/Observers (Mfrs + Labs).

Update from MB call 28/07 with Neil Hammerschmidt and Randy Munger USDA (Aphis)

MB explained to USDA that ICAR were proposing to set up a Technology Task Force and would like some appropriate representatives from USA and CAN to join and share their work. MB explained that ICAR is not there to stifle their development or slow progress but rather see if we can ultimately come up with an international guideline for UHF Tag Data. Both Neil and Randy expressed their support and would suggest suitable reps for such an initiative. MB to review with ID SC with respect to this and Action 8 above

**E. Companion animal – ICARs stance, plans?**

**F. ISO – ICAR relations**

MB made the point that the Livestock market and the Companion market are two different worlds with differing levels of CA regulation and client needs. ICAR is clear in its role as a Registration Authority with ISO and is satisfied it is meeting all its obligations in that regard. However it does recognise that the Companion Animal Sector can sometime feel it is not adequately represented. MB made it clear that ICAR still wants to support the Companion testing in its capacity as the ISO Registration Authority.

**Action 10. (A1)** To better address the needs of this sector, MB will propose to the ID SC that the ID SC set up a ‘**Companion Expert Advisory Group**’ that would report into and advise the ICAR ID SC in matters of Companion Animals regulations, test etc. To be made up of knowledgeable practitioners in Companion animal field and leading CA/Vets who have adopted best in class practices, databases. MB to review with ID SC with respect to this Action 10.

**4. Any other business**

None

**5. Meeting closure**

The meeting was closed at 14.30 CET with thanks to all participants.