



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

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Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia
Head of the Animal Registration and
Identification Division
Veterinary Department
6 Marshal Gelovani Ave
0159 Tbilisi – Georgia

Place Rome
Date 8 November 2016
Subject **Re: Complications in small ruminants after identification with ear tags certified by ICAR**

Dear Mr. Asanishvili,

With regard to your enquiry of November 4th, 2016 about the complications in small ruminants after they had been identified with ear tags certified by ICAR, first of all I would like to express our regret and great concern for the situation that has emerged. The ear tags concerned, namely 'IKPE300 small' produced by Ilkim Makina Kalipm Plastik Firça, and 'KM300' produced by Kúpsan Tag Company, are indeed originally certified by ICAR after having been tested according to the ICAR Guidelines Section 10.7 "*Testing and certification of permanent identification devices – Part 1: Conventional permanent plastic ear tags with or without machine readable printing*".

Following the problems that you faced after the application of the Ilkim ear tags in 2015, and the test identification with both Ilkim and Kupsan ear tags in 2016, we would like to know if you have:

a) conducted any investigations yourselves (especially around the applicator, forces used etc.), and or b) notified the two manufacturers of the serious complications that arose and what findings they have and any response they gave you.

If so, you are kindly requested to send on any investigation reports and forward to us any written, formal or informal communication that took place between the Ministry and the manufacturers.

Field Validation Tests: Furthermore, in order to investigate the reasons for the emergence of such problems, ICAR recommends you submit samples by way of a field validation of the ear tags in question. The field validation is a quality verification service offered by ICAR to national Competent Authorities, with the purpose to ensure that the devices that are available in the relevant markets remain compliant with the appropriate ISO and ICAR test protocols. In the attached documents you can find all relevant information about the field validation. We recommend you avail of this service so we can at least ascertain if the samples in question are to the same quality level as those

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originally tested by ICAR. For specific questions on the procedure, Ms. Andie Dimitriadou (andie@icar.org) shall provide you with the necessary information.

Based on your response and the results of the field validation, ICAR will consider the subsequent steps.

We would like to confirm that the issue is being considered very seriously and will have the utmost attention by ICAR. We remain at your disposal for further communication.

With kind regards,

Martin Burke
Chief Executive

C.C.:
Andie Dimitriadou, ICAR Secretariat

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