

Da: Zviad Asanishvili <zviad.asanishvili@nfa.gov.ge>

Data: 4 novembre 2016 10:52:53 GMT-5

A: "icar@icar.org" <icar@icar.org>

Cc: Lasha Avaliani <lasha.avaliani@nfa.gov.ge>

Oggetto: Complications in small ruminants after identification with ear tags certified by ICAR

Dear Sir or Madam,

Starting from 2015, we began to mark and identify small ruminants with the use of permanent ear tags. Overall 3(three) pilot areas had been selected, and 86,787 heads of sheep and goat had been tagged in Georgia.

The used ear tags had been purchased via state tenders and for the purposes of ensuring quality, an ICAR certificate represented one of the preconditions.

The winner company had presented "IKPE300 Small" ear tags produced by the Turkish enterprise Ilkim Makina Kalip (ICAR Registration Code AO22, Date of Registration: 15/01/2015). The appropriate certificate, attached hereto, has been issued in January 15, 2015. Aforementioned has been verified on the official website of ICAR:

<http://www.icar.org/index.php/certifications/animal-identification-certifications/conventional-ear-tags-for-bovine-and-ovine/>

After aforementioned checks have been performed, 650,000 ear tags, namely those produced by Ilkim Makina Kalip - "IKPE300 Small" have been purchased along with 300 blue-colored applicators (photos of which are enclosed herewith), which had been issued on January 15th, 2015.

Identification had been concluded in October-November, 2015, concurrently with the vaccination on sheep and goat pox virus. The identification accounted for 86,787 heads of sheep and goat.

Consequent to the identification, we have received the information from the regions regarding the complications in animals, brought on by the marking process, namely inflammation, suppuration and scabbing of auricles at the place of piercing, resulting in the extension of the hole and final tear.

The information received was promptly investigated. Large part of identified heads had their ear tags lost or cut by shepherds.

Main clinical signs of the inflammation process were tissue necrosis, scabs, pus on the edges of pierced locations in the ear, enlarged holes and teared off or hanging ear tags. Heads which underwent such clinical signs had ears deformed in such a way (torn, spliced) that renders the retagging impossible.

The interviews of shepherds revealed that the complications would start 3-4 days after the marking and it would involve 30-90% of the identified heads.

In 2016, "KM300" small ruminant ear tags, manufactured by Kupsan Tag Company, with ICAR Registration Code of AO19, as well as relevant 100 black applicators (photos of which are provided herein) had been purchased.

We have made the decision to carry out a test identification for the purposes of determining the likely causes of such complications. 100 heads of sheep and goat had been tagged (identified) in various conditions. 50 heads had been marked with "IKPE300 Small" ear tags, while another 50 had been identified with the help of "KM300" ear tags. In both cases, marking was conducted with disinfection and without it, 4 types of applicators had been utilized (photos of which are contained herein):

- 1) Red-Allfex;
- 2) Grey-Kupsan;
- 3) Blue- Ilkim Makina Kalip;

4) Black-Kupsan;

After 3-5 weeks, the tagged animals had been examined. 12% of identified heads bore distinctive signs of inflammatory process at the place of ear tag attachment (the photos are attached to this letter).

Taking into account the aforesaid situation, a decision to suspend the country-wide identification process of small ruminants has been made.

As the National Food Agency trust quality of supplies certified by your organization, we ask for your competent help with regards to following issues:

1. Please verify the origin and validity of the certificates attached herewith;
2. Please, provide us recommendations in relation to the facts and circumstances contained herein;
3. Please provide us instructions on what procedures and documentations are needed for your organization to send ear tags for the purposes of determining, whether or not it corresponds to the product mentioned in the certificate;
4. What quantity should be sent;
5. What cost, are available for the performance of laboratory research;
6. Necessary time such laboratory study requires, in what time frame can we obtain results and what quantity is required for it.

The continuation of the ear-tagging and identification process in Georgia wholly depends on the outcome of the abovementioned issues.

Following photo materials are enclosed with the letter with regards to:

1. Complications after first identification campaign;
2. Compilations after experimental identification;
3. Ilkim Makina Kalis „IKPE300 Small“ ear tags;
4. Kupsan Tag Company „KM300“ ear tags;
5. Used applicators;
6. ICAR certificate-IKPE300 Small;
7. ICAR certificate-KM300;

We are looking forward towards your prompt response as soon as possible.

Best Regards,

Zviad Asanishvili, DVM

**LEPL National Food Agency
Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia
Head of the Animal Registration and Identification Division
Veterinary Department**

6 Marshal Gelovani Ave,
0159, Tbilisi, Georgia
(: +995 322 91 91 67 x3240
7: +995 322 91 91 65
*: zv.asanishvili@yahoo.com
*: zviadi.asanishvili@nfa.gov.ge
:: <http://www.nfa.gov.ge>