



ICAR Sub-Committee for Animal Identification

Teleconference meeting

12 December 2016, 14.00 CET

- Draft Minutes -

Attendance:

SC Members:

Martin Burke (acting Chairman)
Kaivo Ilves
Jay Mattison
Folkert Onken
Erik Rehben
Jo Quigley
Andie Dimitriadou (Secretary)

Invitees:

Lilian Hennecon (CETIM)
Susanne Gäckler (DLG) (joined in the end of the meeting)
Jonas Persson (RYK)

Apologies:

Henry Richardson
Pieter Hogewerf (IMA)
Aude Didier (CETIM)
Robert Davies (SAIT)

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

The meeting started at 14.05 CET. Martin welcomed the participants, and Andie Dimitriadou of the ICAR Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur. Jo Quigley, the new Sub-Committee member, introduced herself.

2. Agenda Review/Approval

The agenda was approved with the addition of two items under item 10. Any other business: i) Field validation of ZTown ear tags; and ii) Influence of ear tag colour on material properties

3. Approval of the Minutes from the SC teleconference of 30 June 2016

The minutes of the Sub-Committee's teleconference of 29 September 2016 were unanimously approved.



4. Update from Chile meetings on 27 October 2016

a. ID SC informal meeting

Martin summarized the short meeting held in Puerto Varas with Jay, Jo, Kaivo and Jonas. The topics discussed were i) the international ID standards and anomalies to be discussed with Toine Roozen, Joao Durr, and Gerben de Jong, ii) the topics for discussion with Allflex, Caisley and Datamars on the same day, iii) the review of the ID rolling items, and iv) the change of location of the next Sub-Committee meeting from Amsterdam to Rome in February 2017.

b. Manufacturers Meeting - Promotion Task Force

Martin summarized the discussion held in Puerto Varas with Klaus Ackerstaff (Datamars), Reinhard Nehls (Caisley), Kenneth Boulic (Allflex South America), and Rodrigo Abeal (Allflex Argentina). Folkert and Erik noted that a large part of Competent Authorities are not familiar with ICAR. There is great need to inform stakeholders about ICAR and its services. Jay asked if manufacturers are expected to fund ICAR and the answer was yes. Jonas and Erik stressed the need to be independent from manufacturers. There was agreement that clear TORs are necessary in order to draw the line between independence and commercial orientation. There must be clarity on what the costs and the deliverables are going to be.

Action: Martin and Andie to work on the TOR together with Erik and Folkert.

c. New/Additional Technology Group

Martin referred to the email of Mark Tereszczak to the project team members. Martin did not receive the minutes of the meeting of 17 November 2016. Jonas will be the point of contact with the project team and will report to the Sub-Committee anything that is related to the ICAR/ISO standards. Jonas informed that the group will have teleconference tomorrow 13th December. Jo mentioned that she works with Tony Britt and can be in contact with him and can support Jonas.

Action: Jonas to report on the progress in the Sub-Committee's February 2017 meeting.

d. ID 'Anomalies' meeting (Interbull, Intergenomics)

Martin met in Puerto Varas with Jay, Marj Faust, and Joao Durr to discuss the issue of ID anomalies and the need to handle the different existing ID infrastructures of countries. It is an old issue that needs to be faced now. A problem statement expected by Gerben de Jong was not provided, but Martin has his slides to share. Henry has committed to provide the revised Section 10 of the Guidelines by the end of this week as a starting point. The ID Sub-Committee needs to take lead on this issue. Erik noted the confusion that exists between the issue of animal identification and the way to arrange the exchange between two parties. Martin asked Henry to advise if he can take the lead.

Action: Henry to provide the revised Section 10 by December 16th.

5. RFID testing in CETIM

Martin had a discussion with Aude regarding Cetim's expression of interest in doing also RFID testing. Cetim have submitted a letter of their intention, which is to outsource the RFID testing to the ESISAR university in Grenoble. Issues that need to be considered include: i) if there is enough work for all the laboratories, and ii) the lead time and logistics for getting back the samples to the laboratory. Lilian mentioned that Cetim is currently evaluating the feasibility of working with ESISAR or with other laboratories. No decision has been taken yet.

Action: Martin to circulate Cetim's letter to the Sub-Committee.

Action: Aude to provide further documentation as requested by Martin.



6. Review of application forms for tests

Martin has asked Andie to review the ICAR application forms for the various tests as there are some duplications and missing parts. Andie reported that she is currently working on the application forms and will share the drafts shortly.

Action: Andie to report on the revised forms in the February 2017 meeting.

7. Miscellaneous – Guidelines / SOPs updates

a. Ring Test SOP finalisation Conference Call

No updates since the last meeting.

Action: Bob to provide update on the SOP in advance of the February meeting.

b. Guidelines 10.7 and 10.8 final version (incl. validation)

Andie highlighted the validation parts added in the draft. Martin asked the Sub-Committee for comments so that the draft is finalized.

Action: Sub-Committee members to provide comments on the draft by December 23rd.

c. Draft Guidelines on international animal identity standards

No update from Henry to date. See point 4d.

Action: Andie and Martin to follow up with Henry.

d. Applicator closing force

Jonas has discussed the issue with Susanne and would like to raise the question if there is a need to add a requirement and a special test in this area. The test currently regards the possibility or not to close the tag on the animal's ear but not the level of difficulty to close. Susanne has done some testing on the closing force. Cetim measures the force needed to close the ear tags and can provide input.

Action: Jonas and Susanne to prepare discussion documents and numbers for the February meeting.

8. Misuse cases update

a. PetChip 911

Martin referred to the last email he sent on November 8th 2016 to Dieter Salomon (Trovan), stating that ICAR has never granted the code 911 to any manufacturer under the Registration Agreement with ISO. No reply has been received by Dieter.

b. KingDoes reply - KingDoes conclusion

Martin reported the conclusion of the case with the corrective action by KingDoes and the satisfaction of Luhsan with the handling of the case.

c. Crossway Cottage

This was the case of a pet company that reported to have bought transponders that had 'ICAR certified' written on the package, but it was suspected that they were not certified. No update received from Henry.

Action: Andie to ask again Henry for follow-up.



d. Georgia Sheep tag case

Martin reported the case of the letter received by the Georgian National Food Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture, reporting serious animal welfare problems with ICAR-certified ear tags produced by Ilkim and used in 2015. The Agency also carried out an identification testing in 2016 with ICAR-certified ear tags produced by Kupsan and similar problems were observed. There is no certainty that the tags were actually certified by ICAR. Erik is familiar with the case and has been in contact with Mr. Avaliani. Folkert noted that it would be useful to have detailed results of the tests that the Agency carried out with the two ear tags.

Action: Andie to forward to Erik the latest communication with the Georgians and upload the pictures provided by the Georgian Agency on the restricted website.

9. Next meeting – Rome, 8-9 February 2017

It was agreed that the next meeting, to be held in Rome on 8-9 February 2017, will start on Wednesday 8th at noon and will finish on Thursday 9th COB.

10. Any other business

a. Field validation of ZTown ear tags

Martin provided the background of the cases of field validations in Kazakhstan, where samples seem not to come from the market but from the manufacturer.

Action: Martin and Andie to ask the Tort Tulik company to provide proof of where the samples were collected.

b. Influence of ear tag colour on material properties

Martin referred to the request of a manufacturer to include on the ICAR website pictures of their certified ear tag in other colours as well. The opinion of the Sub-Committee was requested as to if the colour influences the properties of the product. Lilian said that colour normally does not change the material properties. Susanne suggested that material properties could slightly change by different colours, but mainly regarding chromium or similar metals. Kaivo noted that yellow is the colour required for the samples and this should be on the website. Erik mentioned that the differences can be in readability, and not in the material properties.

Action: Lilian to draft a statement regarding the colour and share with the other laboratories.

11. Review of rolling items

Martin went through the rolling items document. Most of the issues were covered in today's agenda. Regarding the Sub-Committee Chairman, Martin stressed the need to have a regular Chairman in the first quarter of 2017.

12. Round the table

- Folkert noted that the email about the field validation service that was circulated to Competent Authorities was sent by manufacturers@icar.org.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to communicate with CAs through the icar@icar.org email address.

- Jo informed that she will probably not be able to come to the Sub-Committee meeting in Rome but she will attend the Edinburgh ICAR Annual Meeting in June 2017.



13. Meeting closure

The meeting was closed at 15.40 CET with thanks to all participants.