



**ICAR Sub-Committee for Animal Identification**

**8-9 February 2017**

**ICAR Secretariat, Via Savoia 78, 00198 Rome**

**- Draft Minutes -**

Attendance:

Sub-Committee Members:

Martin Burke (acting Chair)  
Kaivo Ilves  
Jay Mattison  
Folkert Onken  
Andie Dimitriadou (Secretary)

Invitees:

Susanne Gäckler (DLG)  
Jonas Persson (RYK)  
Aude Didier (CETIM)

Apologies:

Henry Richardson  
Erik Rehben  
Jo Quigley  
Pieter Hogewerf (IMA)  
Lilian Hennecon (CETIM)  
Robert Davies (SAIT)

**Day 1 - Wednesday, 8 February 2017**

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

The meeting started at 13.40 CET. Martin welcomed the participants, and Andie Dimitriadou of the ICAR Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

**2. Agenda Review/Approval**

Martin presented the agenda. Jay noticed that item 4 should include a discussion about the Sub-Committee membership as well. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**3. Approval of the Minutes from the Sub-Committee teleconference of 12 December 2016**

The minutes of the Sub-Committee's teleconference of 12 December 2016 were unanimously approved.

**4. ID Sub-Committee Chair recruitment and membership update**

Martin has chaired the Sub-Committee for the last 6-8 months and needs to assign the Chair to someone else. The chairing will be shared among the Sub-Committee members for the interim period. The call for expressions of interest/nominations in 2016 was not successful and there will not be a new one. An option would be to select the Chair among the Sub-Committee members. It would be advisable to have a Chair that is independent from Test Centres and directly interested manufacturers. The Sub-Committee could also ask manufacturers to suggest candidates from different countries. Other options include considering candidates from Competent Authorities, and/or non-ICAR members. A combination of farmers, scientific/technical people, public authorities, and manufacturers from similar fields would be desirable. A connection with the ISO context must be maintained. Consider also connections with the Recording Devices field.



## THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

In considering candidates, the current and future tasks of the Sub-Committee should be considered, as well as the responsibilities of the Chair, the person's availability to participate in face-to-face meetings and his/her practical field knowledge. The Canadian member of ISO Sub-Committee19/WG3, Paul Laronde, was mentioned. Martin asked Henry if he could suggest any candidate from the United Kingdom. The goal is to have two new Sub-Committee members by the end of June 2017.

Martin will assign the chairing of the next meeting to one of the Sub-Committee members (see Item 21. Next meeting).

**Action: The Sub-Committee to review the ICAR membership list and the ISO WG3 list, and establish who are the contacts for Animal ID:**

- Jay: Mexico, USA, Canada
- Martin/Andie: Latin America
- Erik: Southern Europe, Africa
- Folkert/Kaivo: rest of Europe
- Susanne/Jonas: ISO WG3

**Action: Martin to contact manufacturers for suggestions**

**Action: Andie to set up area for sharing documents.**

### 5. Overview of ID certification tests in 2016

Andie presented data about the ID tests that were carried out in 2016. The data presented included the number and type of tests by Test Centres, the number of successful/failed tests and certificates, and data about test duration, lead time and secretariat response time. The selection of the laboratories, if not requested by the manufacturers, is done by the Secretariat with the aim to reach a balance in the distribution of the tests as much as possible. In case more manufacturers request the same laboratory, this might create queues for the testing. If the Test Centres know beforehand about the upcoming tests, they can organize their work more efficiently. The Secretariat has never received any complaints from manufacturers regarding the response or lead times.

**Action: Andie to send individual statistics to the laboratories. Include also min and max numbers in the charts.**

### 6. Overview of Field Validation tests in 2016

Andie presented data about the six Field Validation tests that were carried out by DLG in 2016. For the moment, it is the same laboratory that did the original test that does also the validation test, considering the confidentiality of test reports.

The sampling issue is important and requires constant attention, since the samples are often selected from the factory and not from the field or from market stocks. In Kazakhstan, it is the resellers also that request the Field Validation service. The ICAR Secretariat wrote to the Ministry of Kazakhstan asking them to indicate the Competent Authority for animal identification, and provide a list of the manufacturers and resellers of ID devices, but there has been no answer. It is important that the Secretariat educates CAs in order to guarantee a leaner service and reduce lead times.



## 7. Promotion Task Force (1 x ToR)

Martin went through the TOR of the Sub-Committee. There was discussion whether the Sub-Committee should deal with pets or not. This is also a discussion issue with ISO. Susanne noted that ISO is finalizing its work on standards for injectable devices for pets. The registration could be assigned to ICAR. Martin noted that the TOR should be open, not excluding pigs or other species, but it was agreed to remove the reference to pets from the TOR. The Sub-Committee focus should remain on livestock.

**Action:** Andie to do the following corrections in the Sub-Committee TOR:

- Par. 1.2: Remove reference to pets in point f. In point g include 'and ICAR' at the end of the sentence, and add that the Sub-Committee Chair will be an observer to the ISO WG3.
- Par. 1.6: '2016-2017' change to 2017.
- Par. 1.4: Add the task of the preparation of the annual ISO report and sharing it with the ID Sub-Committee.

Kaivo noted that the task of the Promotion Advisory Group would be to produce promotional material in the short term, while from the TOR it seems more like a discussion forum. It was agreed that the marketing knowledge and expertise of the manufacturers should be utilized in order to improve the ICAR services. There is no need to add a new discussion layer. The term of the group should be short, around two years. In addition, regular face-to-face meetings should be held with manufacturers. It was agreed that it would be more appropriate to establish a Task Force or Working Group for promotion, instead of an Advisory Group. A meeting with manufacturers in Edinburgh is advisable.

**Action:** Andie to remove the Promotion Advisory Group TOR from the ID Sub-Committee TOR.

**Action:** Andie to finalize the ID Sub-Committee TOR for the next Board meeting (March 2017).

## 8. Additional Technologies Group

Jonas provided background information about the Group, which was created in the Wageningen ISO WG3 meeting. It is composed of around 15 members, among which several are manufacturers (Allflex, Datamars, Felixcan, etc). Pieter Hogewerf is the secretary. The last call of the Group was held in December 2016. The Group's task is to create new ISO standards on data structure. The working document is probably confidential and cannot be shared.

Martin presented the document 'Interim tag data standard for UHF animal identification'.

It was noted that ISO procedures are long, while manufacturers need rapid solutions. There are solutions in the market but a standard is missing. USDA could move faster and start certifying UHF devices. ICAR needs to accelerate the development of the UHF standard from the electronic side. In this direction, ICAR could take the lead to gather the various stakeholders.

**Action:** Jay to talk to Neil Hammersmith for an update and discuss the role of ICAR.

**Action:** Martin to talk to Datamars and Allflex about UHF technology.

## 9. ID Anomalies Interbull TF/Group

Please refer to Item 11.



#### 10. Device Change Notification (DCN)

Andie explained the DCN procedure and presented the flowchart. The DCN is a notification by manufacturers that their product (conventional ear tag) has changed during the 5-year certification and therefore a new test is necessary for the modified product. Susanne explained that manufacturers often apply for DCN when they come up with different combinations of tags (male and female). Then a full test is necessary. There is necessity for clear criteria for manufacturers to know when a DCN is applicable or not. The criteria need to be included in the Guidelines and on the ICAR website. In case of DCN, the original test report must be made available to the Test Centre doing the test.

**Action:** Andie to change the flowchart and produce text for a new page about DCN on the ICAR website.

**Action:** Test Centres to determine the criteria for the applicability of the DCN and share with the ICAR Secretariat.

#### 11. Guidelines 10.7/10.8 final version

Andie presented the complete document of the Guidelines revisions as agreed in the last Sub-Committee meetings and merged in one document. The Sub-Committee went through the document and a number of further revisions was proposed.

Regarding the Field Validation, it was agreed that a limited conformance test is not sufficient: a limited conformance plus performance test should be carried out. There was discussion around whether the results of the original test can be shared with another laboratory. It is necessary to make sure that they can.

**Action:** Andie to implement all the revisions discussed and come up with the final document to be shared with manufacturers before the Edinburgh meeting.

**Action:** ICAR Secretariat to implement any changes on the ICAR website as necessary.

#### ID Anomalies

There was discussion around Jay's presentation on the animal ID codes. The use of the ICAR manufacturer code 900 code is diminishing. The 840 AIN (Animal Identification Number) code is semi-mandatory. The use of the USA prefix is high with respect to 840 and 900. There is the risk that manufacturers remain out of identification numbers, while there is no knowledge on what is happening within or between countries. There are issues of data inconsistency and access. From ICAR's point of view, there are four different Guidelines sections covering animal ID in genetic evaluation but there is no consistency. The document drafted by Henry is not complete (see below).

#### Document on International ID for Genetic Evaluations

The document gathers information from the ICAR Guidelines sections 1, 3, 9, 10, 11 and 15, in an effort to remove inconsistencies and duplications and ensure completeness. Section 10 refers to ID device testing, and not to the application of animal ID in the field. The issue of the application should be included in the beginning of Section 10.

It was noted that the Guidelines restructuring project is ongoing, while the task of the ID Sub-Committee is to look into the content of the Guidelines as regards animal ID.

**Action:** Jay, Folkert, and Jo to look for inputs from North America regarding international animal ID codes.



**Action:** Erik and Jonas to identify if there are inconsistencies in the document.

**Action:** Erik to provide feedback about how to handle the connection with the Animal data Exchange.

#### 12. Application forms for ID tests

Andie went through the revised application forms, which had been shared with the laboratories but no comments were received. A few changes were proposed.

**Action:** Andie to implement the proposed changes to all application forms.

#### 13. RFID testing in CETIM (ESISAR)

Aude talked about the ESISAR University that focuses on electronic engineering. ESISAR has RFID labs and does experiments and benchmark tests of technology platforms. The intention was that ESISAR initially did RFID tests for ICAR, and in the meantime trained CETIM to do the tests itself in the future. However, as any other ICAR accredited Test Centre, ESISAR needs to fulfil the necessary criteria. This is not the case for ESISAR, as it is not certified for the ISO standard 17025.

**Action:** Aude to communicate to ESISAR the decision of the Sub-Committee not to consider its offer to do RFID tests without the laboratory having ISO 17025 .

#### 14. Ring Test SOP

The SOP in question refers to the RFID tests and needs to be adapted also for the conventional tests. Susanne had a teleconference with Pieter and Bob, but the two have not seen the document. The SOP is an internal ICAR document. The next step will be to compare available information.

**Action:** Andie to put the document in the ICAR SOP template and share with Pieter/Bob for their comments to provide within 2 weeks.

#### 15. Ear tag colour and material properties

The document prepared by CETIM was presented. The proportions of dyes are generally low and do not affect mechanical properties. New tests should be done only on yellow ear tags. If a manufacturer wishes to test the same device in a different colour, then this is a case of DCN.

**Action:** Andie to include the change of colour in the criteria for the application of DCN.

#### 16. Ear tag applicator closing force

Jonas and Susanne did a presentation. There are different requirements internationally and also different kinds of applicators. Some manufacturers report that their tags cannot close with the Canadian standards in dry conditions, while in the field there is no problem. Applying the tag to the animal's ear can be easier or more difficult with respect to dry conditions. In the laboratory, applicators are adjusted for each single test. Jonas handed tags and applicators to the group and all tried to close a tag.

It was agreed that standards for application test should be included in the Guidelines.

**Action:** Laboratories to do more trials and communicate with manufacturers. Then come back with a specific proposal for the Guidelines.



**17. ISO WG 3 Update + Meeting in April 17**

There is no report since Pieter is absent. The next WG3 meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> April and Jonas will attend.

**18. Preparation for ICAR meeting in Edinburgh June 2017**

There will be a Sub-Committee meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June in the morning, and a forum with manufacturers in the afternoon. All Associate Members should be invited.

**Action:** Andie to go through the list of Associate Members and extract those involved in animal ID, in order to invite them to the Edinburgh forum.

**19. Miscellaneous**

**a. Case of problems with ear tags reported by Georgian CA**

Andie provided the background of the problems reported by Georgia with ear tags of Turkish manufacturers. The last communication with the Georgian CA was on 30 January 2017, with the Secretariat informing the CA that the cost of the tests needs to be covered by them. There has been no reply since then.

**Action:** Martin to explore if there is a contact in Turkey to discuss the issue of the problematic tags.

**b. Tadbik – UHF ear tags testing**

Andie reported about the Israeli company Tadbik that has contacted ICAR more times to ask for a test for their UHF ear tags. The Secretariat has asked the laboratories about options. There are no ICAR standards for UHF and therefore there can be no testing of the transponder. An option would be to test only the visual parts of the ear tag.

**Action:** ICAR Secretariat to inform Tadbik that ICAR does not do tests for UHF devices. Advise them to contact Mark Tereszczak of the Additional Technologies Group.

**c. RFID Re-certification and performance test**

Like for the Field Validation, it was agreed that the performance test should also be repeated for the re-certification of RFID devices.

**Action:** Secretariat to include the requirement in the Guidelines and on the ICAR website.

**d. Datamars bolus re-certification and product code**

Andie reported that Datamars asked to keep the same product code for a bolus that was tested for re-certification and was found to be slightly different than the original one as regards frequency characteristics. It was agreed that the same product code can be maintained.

**Action:** Secretariat to maintain the same product code and inform Datamars.

**20. Any other business**

- Susanne raised the question of the changes to coil technology by manufacturers. It was agreed to discuss in the next Sub-Committee call.

**Action:** Andie to include in the agenda for the next Sub-Committee call.



- Kaivo raised the question of the certifications for readers. There are very few ICAR certifications currently. The Secretariat could consider a labelling service for readers, similar to that of milk recording devices.

Action: Martin to discuss with manufacturers in order to promote the reader testing.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to remove the IMA-Wageningen logo from the pictures of certified transceivers on the ICAR website.

## 21. Next meeting

The next call of the Sub-Committee will be held on 21st March, at 15.00 Rome time.

Action: Jonas to chair next Zoom meeting.

Action: ICAR Secretariat to send out the Zoom link for the video call.

## 22. Meeting closure

The meeting was closed at 16.05 with thanks to all participants.