

Report of Animal Identification Sub-Committee

Chair	In transition from Ole Klejs Hansen to Kaivo Ilves	
Members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kaivo Ilves, Estonian Animal Recording Centre, Estonia Joined 2010, Chair 2010; Confirmation 2014 kaivo.ilves@ikkeskus.ee 2. Erik Rehben, France Genetique Elevage, France Joined 2010 Confirmation due 2014 Erik.Rehben@inst-elevage.asso.fr 3. Ken Evers, Department of Primary Industries, Australia Joined 2009 Confirmation due 2013 ken. Evers@nre.vic.gov.au 4. Jay Mattison, National Dairy Herd Improvement Association, USA Joined 2004, Confirmed due 2012 imattison@requestltd.com 5. Henry Richardson, The Centre for Dairy Information, United Kingdom Joined: 2002, Confirmation due 2010 henryrichardson@thecdi.co.uk 6. Folkert Onken, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Rinderzuchter, Germany Joined 2007 Confirmation due 2011 folkert.onken@adt.de 7. Ole Klejs Hansen, Danish Cattle Federation, Denmark, Joined 1994, Chair 2006, Resigning 2010 okh@landscentret.dk 	
Members left	Louise Marguin, louise.marguin@inst-elevage.asso.fr	
Meetings	Last: 17. - 19. November 2009, Paris	Next: ICAR Conference 2010, Riga
Participation P	<p>Participants:</p> <p>Ole Klejs Hansen Jay Mattison Folkert Onken Henry Richardson Louise Marguin</p>	<p>Absence:</p> <p>Ken Evers</p>
Key Agenda Issues	<p>At or after the SC meeting in Paris the following issues have come up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ISO 24631-3 performance test of transponders has been much used probably for manufacturers to qualify themselves for the EU market for electronic tags to be used in sheep and goats. The original performance criteria, which were published as an ISO TWG document on the ICAR website, seems to have been used as intended by manufacturers and competent authorities. 2. The chairman attended a meeting with the EU Commission early November to discuss a review of the EU documents to adapt to the situation now the ISO standard has been published. ISO and ICAR had the opinion that EU should for transponders make reference to the full ISO 24631, parts 1 and 3. This would close a gap for countries to approve products which might not be ICAR approved. However, this did not happen. EU in its decision still makes reference to the test procedures of the ISO tests but does not include demands for approval by the ISO Registration Authority (which is ICAR). The current situation is exactly as before the ISO standard when EU made reference to the test procedures of the ICAR test protocols. Also EU stepped up the approval criteria requiring a minimum activation field strength of maximum 1.2 A/m where the ISO TWG had suggested 1.2 A/m with a latitude of 0.3, effectively setting the requirement at 1.5 A/m. 3. The field test of conventional plastic tags finally got started in USA in May 2010. The ICAR secretariat and the SC chairman have set up contracts with manufacturers and the ICAR member organisations performing the field tests. A contract has also been set up for the data centre to do the 	

calculation of the test results. This means that the rest of the first round of field tests should now be on the right track.

The second round of testing should be starting as soon as possible and the delays seen in the first round should be avoided so that the full test procedure could be finished within about 24 months. This requires strict time limits for all parties involved in the testing.

At the November 2009 SC Meeting we visited the CETIM test centre in Nantes, France, which has made the laboratory testing of plastic ear tags. The test centre indicated that they might propose some amendments in the testing and the SC invited such proposals. However we did not receive any proposals, even after asking again for proposals in due time before the upcoming SC meeting.

4. The role of ICAR as Registration Authority of ISO for 11784/11785 conforming devices is under discussion in the ISO groups. The subcommittee has presented a draft for a new administrative option where manufacturers can contract approved test centres themselves and where economic transactions regarding the testing itself are handled directly between manufacturer and test centre without Service-ICAR involvement.

The proposal was well received in the ISO TWG and has been forwarded by ICAR to the ISO Central Secretariat in order that it can be part of the renegotiating of the ISO - ICAR agreement. The proposal ensures ICAR's ability to

- a. Check that the manufacturer asks, for the relevant test
- b. Securing the tested devices for ICAR collection
- c. Securing that ICAR is formed in case of any problems with tests and that ICAR has the right at any time to inspect the testing even if ICAR is not the contractor.

In case the proposal is accepted the conditions for ICAR approval of test centres has to be amended also. Proposal for this has been prepared.

5. A discussion about retesting of electronic ID devices has started in the ISO groups. The main points are if all products must be periodically retested (e.g. every 5 years) or retesting should be made on indication of problems or maybe just randomly with at certain percentage of tags per year. ICAR agrees that retesting to some extent is needed but that the financing of retesting has to be agreed also. ICAR currently has no reserve funds that could be used for that purpose.
6. A discussion about how to monitor that manufacturers keep required databases and how to follow up on alleged duplicate codes has started after cases found in the market. The manufacturers ask that the Registration Authority (ICAR) takes a more active role and that sanctions could be administered by ICAR.
7. A wish that the ICAR website could provide links to databases with ID codes not only for farm animals but also for pets.
8. 2009 was the busiest year ever for conformance testing. 45 transponders were conformance tested during 2009. During the last four calendar years (2006-2009) ICAR conformance tested more than half of all the transponders tested during the 15 year period with conformance testing available. By mid May 2010 another 23 new transponders had been tested and approved. By the end of 2009 ICAR had conformance tested and approved 243 transponders from 100 manufacturers. In 2009 performance tests had a very high priority for ISO -ICAR, for manufacturers and for competent authorities. During 2009 ICAR performance tested 26 products. By mid May 2010 another 15 transponders had been performance tested, bringing the total number of performance tested transponders to 41.
9. SC members visited in January 2010 the DLG Testzentrum, Gross Umstadt, Germany, to discuss ICAR approval of this centre. DLG has been preparing for approval over the last couple of years and were very active in seeking approval in late 2009. SC members found the test facilities valid for approval and first documents from the ISO certification and auditing were presented by DLG. The DLG centre is able to make

	<p>both the ISO 24631 tests and the ICAR laboratory tests on plastic ear tags.</p> <p>A draft contract was discussed at the January visit and DLG was invited to amendments if needed. By mid May we have not received the response expected, and so we have not yet been able to use the test centre.</p> <p>10. By the end of April 2010 all administrative work regarding test applications and approvals of devices was moved to the Service-ICAR Secretariat in Rome. The secretariat already had taken over the contracting and economic transactions, so by now all the administrative tasks are in the secretariat. The Secretariat is taking over also the contact with manufacturers asking technical questions and the task to follow up on cases when there is doubt if standards are not followed, duplicate numbers are found, etc etc. This takes a big workload from the SC Chair, who can then concentrate on policy matters. This new split of work makes it necessary that the secretariat is represented at the SC meetings and presents a report on activities (number of tests and activities regarding cases).</p>
Important Decisions	
Cooperation and links to other WG/TF/SC	
Issues to be handled by the Board & Deadlines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss with the ISO Central Secretariat about new administrative routines and the impact on the ICAR-ISO agreement. This should be done as soon as possible to avoid useless discussions for the SC chair attending meetings in ISO Working Group and Technical Working Group. Discuss with ISO Central Secretariat about copyright issues and ICAR's possibilities to make ISO standards available to ICAR members. It was OK to publish ICAR test procedures after the ICAR Conference in 2008 because at that time the ISO 24631 was not published as international standard. Now we are no longer using ICAR test protocols but ISO standards for testing of EID-devices. 2. ISO has a very strict regime on copyright for ISO Documents whereby copies of ISO standards are only available for purchase,,- not for free. This means that ICAR needs consent from ISO before making ISO standards freely available
Top 5 Issues for WG/TF/SC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing the new work structure of Sub-Committee chair and Secretariat 2. Test of tissue sampling tags of test of conventional plastic tags 3. Progress on the field test 4. Retesting of previously approved EID devices 5. Review of test protocol for laboratory test of plastic tags (including preliminary assessment to be made at test centres)