



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Procedure 6 of Section 10 of ICAR Guidelines - Validation of Identification Devices

Validation of Identification Devices

Version February, 2018

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	3
2	Steps for the validation of animal identification devices.....	3
3	Sampling protocol.....	3
4	Testing protocol.....	4
5	Ownership, publication and reporting of results.....	4
6	Confidentiality.....	5

Change Summary

Date of Change	Nature of Change
October 2017	Apply ICAR standard format.
February 2018	On Saturday 10th February, changes approved by the ICAR General Assembly in Auckland, New Zealand.

1 Introduction

ID device validation is a voluntary service for national Competent Authorities or other service users, other than manufacturers or their agents. The validation service is a quality service to ensure that devices available in the relevant market(s) remain compliant with the appropriate ISO and ICAR test protocols. Validation does not lead to certification of the devices.

2 Steps for the validation of animal identification devices

- a. The applicant (Competent Authority or other service user) fills in the application form ([Appendix D1](#)), signs it and sends it to icar@icar.org.
- b. The sample devices are collected from the local market stock by the applicant – not by the manufacturer.
- c. After receipt of the samples by the test laboratory, ICAR informs the respective manufacturer about the validation request.
- d. Devices are tested against the current ICAR standards and the results compared with original or earlier results for the same devices by a laboratory designated by ICAR. The applicant may also request or specify additional validation test protocols, provided these are defined in other existing ISO or ICAR higher level test protocols.
- e. The test results are compiled into a confidential report, which is property of the applicant.
- f. ICAR will not disclose information about which devices are being or have been tested from which countries/markets.

3 Sampling protocol

- a. Devices shall be collected by the service user, organisation or body making the request. It is a basic requirement that the device samples are obtained from the local market stock, with batch ID details given, and not from the manufacturer or his local agent.
- b. The number of device samples required to be submitted for testing are as follows¹:
 - For RFID devices (testing of transponder): 10 transponders.
 - For conventional ear tags or external RFID devices (testing of external material): 130 ear tags.
 - Two tag applicators or equivalent devices supplied for application of tags to animals.
- c. After receipt of the samples by the test laboratory but before the test begins, ICAR will inform the respective manufacturer about the validation request and seek confirmation from the manufacturer that the device obtained for validation from the specific country or market, is indeed a device that the manufacturer recognises as being or having been marketed in that country.

¹ or as differently specified by Service-ICAR.

4 Testing protocol

- a. The Competent Authority or service user making each request is responsible for the intervals at which they require validation to be carried out.
- b. Device(s) will be tested against the current ICAR Guidelines and the results compared with original or earlier results for the same device(s) by a laboratory designated by ICAR.
- c. A basic device validation test will be carried out by using:
 - The Limited Test protocol for the RFID conformance tested devices. (Procedure 1, Section 10 'Conformance of Transponders with ISO standards' available [here](#)).
 - The Preliminary Assessment protocol for the material performance of the tested devices (Appendix C3. Preliminary Test for External RFID Devices available [here](#)).
- d. Additional Testing: The service user may also request or specify additional validation test protocols, beyond those specified in the Limited Test protocol or Preliminary Assessment protocol, provided those additional test(s) are defined in other existing ISO or ICAR higher level test protocols. The designated test laboratory will then quote the additional cost(s) in the test plan they submit to Service-ICAR. Service-ICAR will then pass on those additional costs to the service user making the request.

5 Ownership, publication and reporting of results

- a. The test results will be compiled into a confidential report, a copy of which will then be transmitted to the service user(s) who signed the application. The service user or applicant then becomes the owner of that report. Service-ICAR will retain a confidential copy of the report for reference and comparison purposes.
- b. Ownership of the reports:
 - Service user: Owns the validation test report. Should not access any previous reports or reports owned by other service users.
 - Manufacturer: Owns the original or previous test report(s). Can obtain the validation test report upon agreement with the service user.
 - Laboratory: Issues the validation test report. Needs the manufacturer's permission to access any previous reports, if these were not produced by the same laboratory.
- c. Test results relating to the same device(s), but submitted in requests from different applicants may be compared by Service-ICAR or the designated laboratories acting on its behalf. In cases where the test results reveal differences between samples of the same device(s) between tests from different applicants or service users, the test report will detail those differences and their implications. It will then become the responsibility of the respective Competent Authority who submitted the request(s) to take any initiative they require to resolve or explain those differences with the relevant manufacturer, to the mutual satisfaction of those parties. If the case reveals non-compliance with ICAR device certification protocols, then the case must be reported to Service-ICAR.

6 Confidentiality

- a. Neither ICAR nor Service-ICAR will publish the names of the Competent Authorities and/or service users using their ID device validation services. Nor share the results of tests requested by independent authorities directly with the relevant device manufacturers unless the authority's permission is asked and given.
- b. ICAR will not disclose information about which devices are being or have been tested from which countries/markets.
- c. All test results shall be kept confidential between ICAR and the authority making the request, with the exception of comparisons between tests of the same devices mentioned under 'Ownership, publication and reporting of results'. Specific test results are returned only to the authority making the request(s) and providing the specific samples.