



Animal identification in the European Union

*ICAR seminar on "Key principles of creation of
national systems of Identification and
Traceability of farm livestock"*

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This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission

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AGENDA

1- Animal Identification and traceability in the EU

2-Animal identification, traceability and international trade

3- Bovine identification and traceability

4-Controls and sanctions

5-Cooperation and Technical Assistance

1- Animal Identification and traceability in the EU

*-In the light of the **Bovine Spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)** crisis Union rules on the identification and traceability of bovine animals were re-enforced in 1997*

-Regulation (EC) No 820/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council established a regime of individual traceability of cattle by means of:

- Individual animal identification of animals with **two ear tags**;
- **Holding register** on each holding (e.g. farm, market, slaughterhouse)
- **Individual passport** for each animal containing data on all movements
- **Reporting all movements to a national database** that is able to quickly trace animals and identify cohorts in the case of disease.

1- Animal Identification and traceability in the EU

These principles were upheld later in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council...

Objectives:

- to **re-establish consumer confidence** in beef and beef products through transparency and traceability of bovine food products
- to **localise and trace animals for veterinary purposes**, which is of crucial importance for the control of infectious diseases
- To assist with the management and supervision of certain Community aid schemes in the field of agriculture such as livestock premiums as part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) **subsidy schemes**.

1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

*1- **Consumer protection information**: to restore confidence in beef and other bovine-derived products in the consumer after the BSE crisis through transparency and traceability*

*2- **Human health**: food can be traced quickly through the food chain and can be quickly withdrawn from the market (dioxins, residues...)*

*3- **Animal health**: Location, tracking and culling of animals for veterinary purposes (fundamental for controlling infectious diseases)*

*5- **Fraud Prevention***

6-Ensuring the functioning of a "Single market" (28 Member States)

*7- From "**Birth to slaughter**"....but also "From the Farm to the table"...*

1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- **The vision of the EU with regard to animal identification is not limited to BSE**
- **In terms of animal health there is other major reason: "Regionalization"...**
 - *facilitates trade* despite the presence of highly contagious diseases in a region or country
 - You must know the origin of the animal and the time spent in certain areas / regions
 - Information on the export place (place of dispatch) does not seem to be sufficient ("*one-step-back*")
 - In the EU and some international trade partners require further information on the "previous" movements the animal ("*full traceability back*")

1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- The final test of the effectiveness of a traceability system depends very much on the **performance of the database**
- database should ensure **a real time bovine-tracking - system**
- this effectiveness will depend on **how often and how quick** the database is **"fed"** with the necessary information
- The responsibility of "feeding" the database depends heavily **on farmers**

1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- *A fundamental requirement for having a labeling system which is credible is that it is based on an effective system of AI & T*
- *The EU legislation contains provisions for beef labelling*
- *Any beef **which** goes on sale in the EU for the consumer must include on the label information on the origin:*
 - *A reference number that enables to trace-back to the holding of origin (birth)*
 - *Information regarding the origin of the meat:*
"Animal Born: in Spain; Raised: in France, Slaughtered: in Germany"

1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council which has been reviewed recently:

- introduces EID in cattle (voluntary bases)***
- electronic exchange of information (reducing paper word)***
- certain derogations for old animals***
- modifications on beef labelling (voluntary)***
- applicable in 2019***

1-Animal identification in the EU

- ⊙ *Different rules have been adopted depending on the species:*
- **For cattle:** Regulation 1760/2000*
 - **For sheep and goats:** Regulation 21/2004
 - **For pigs:** Directive 2008/71
 - **For horses:** Regulation 504/2008
 - **For Pets:** Regulation 998/2003
 - *They all share certain fundamental principles but may change in the accessory (type of identifier, type of registration, passport or for movement)*



*New regulation recently adopted (Bovine EID)

1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

| Espece | Identification | Trazability (Registration of movements) |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <i>Bovine</i> | Individual (EID from 2019-voluntary bases) | Individual (National Database) |
| <i>Ovine/caprine</i> | Individual (IED)*IE –Compulsory for animals born from 1 January 2010 | Individual (Holding) and by lot (National Database) |
| <i>Porcine</i> | Lot/Batch | Lot/Batch (National Database) |
| <i>Horse</i> | Individual (IED) | N/A |
| <i>Pets</i> | Individual | N/A |
| | | |

1-Animal identification and traceability in the EU

- EU experience: was it worth it? YES ...!!!

- ***At the level of animal health (not just BSE)***
- ***At the level of consumer protection and information***
- ***In terms of market access***

However:

- ***Costs involved***
- ***Administrative burden (will change) -Electronic Identification in cattle and others***

2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

Main principles:

1-A traceability system cannot be achieved without costs

2-It is necessary that the IA & T systems are proportionate to the objective and the goals to be achieved

3-Depends on the objective:

1. **Animal health (AUS, NZ...)**
2. **Food safety (EU, JAP, KOR...)**
3. **Market access (BRA, ARG...)**

4-Depends on the animal species (sheep, goats, pig, cattle..?)

2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

- **The animal species:**
 - **Production systems and business trends for each animal species may be different**
 - **Traceability in cattle more complex than in pigs**
 - **Mixture of cattle from different sources**
 - **Mixture of sheep from many different sources**
 - **Age verification (e.g. BSE-cattle)**
 - **Less expensive a traceability based on "group of animals" (batch/lot) than on an "individual"**

2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

- ***Mandatory or Voluntary?***
 - **Most exporting countries: mandatory AI systems (some of them voluntary AI system)**
 - **Major importing countries: mandatory AI systems**
 - **Record movement of animals is common in countries with mandatory IA systems**
 - ***Not to forget: importing countries are the ones establishing the minimum standards that exporting countries will need to satisfy to access their markets...***

2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

- *IA & T have become essential requirements for international trade not only meat but other products of animal (and vegetable)*
- *Tendency to generalize: many countries have developed systems of IAI & T*
- *Difficult to isolate the impact of traceability in international trade*
- *Its absence may limit market access*
- *Its tenure can quickly lift trade restrictions*

2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

- during the BSE crisis, more than 80 countries imposed restrictions on EU products

- today, many of these restrictions have been lifted based on:

- *The implementation of a proper AI & T system*
- *The "farm to the fork" concept*
- *ABP management*
- *Crucial to restore confidence on business partners*

2- Animal Identification, traceability and international trade

Regionalization:

- *trade facilitation tool*
- *Allows SAFE trade of live animals and animal products within the EU and also at international trade*
- *EU policy is to **promote regionalization** as much as possible:*

- 1. Internally**
- 2. At international level (BRA, ARG...)**
- 3. for major animal diseases:**

-Foot and mouth disease

-Avian influenza

-Newcastle disease

- Classical swine fever



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

Definitions

- **Scope: Bovine and buffalo**
- ***“holding”*** any establishment, construction or open-air farm situated in the territory of a MS in which animals are held, kept or handled
- ***“keeper”***: any natural or legal person responsible for the animals, on a permanent or temporary bases, including during transportation or at a market



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

Introduction of AI in the EU was done with the formula:

- One ear tag approved by the CA applied in each ear
- “Animals born after X date”...
- Bovine born after 1 January 1998
- More than one system of AI co-existing at the same time

Other formulas:

- “Big bang” (one/off): all animals
- usually preferred by the Industry



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

Derogations:

- **Bovine born before 1 January 1998**
 - No intra-EU trade
 - Limited number of animals nowadays
- **Bovine intended for cultural and sporting events**
 - Should be identified by a system offering equivalent guarantees
 - Authorised by the CA



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

The ear-tags must be applied:

- **At the latest 20 days after birth**

Derogation: maximum period can be extended if special circumstances: COM supervises..

- **Before in case the calf leaves the holding of birth**
- **Imported animals (from Third Countries):**

To be "EU re-identified" at the holding of destination at the latest within 20 days- it gets into the EU system

The original identification (TC) must be registered in the database/holding register so origin can always be traced-back

Derogation: no need to be "EU re-identified" if it goes directly to a slaughterhouse



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

“Animal moving between different MS shall retain its original ear tag” (makes origin labelling possible)

*No ear-tag must be **removed or replaced** without the permission of the CA*

*Provisions on **distribution and allocation** of ear-tags: a proper system must be in place (public/ private?)*



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

The bovine database:

- CA must set up a database (DB) in accordance with Art. 14 and 18 of Council Directive 64/432
- DB must be fully operational and able to store all the data required in 64/432



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

DB must contain at least the following information:

- **“For each animal:**
 1. the identification code,
 2. date of birth,
 3. sex,
 4. breed or colour of coat,
 5. identification code of the mother or, in the case of an animal imported from a third country, the identification number given following inspection and the corresponding to the identification number of origin,
 6. identification number of the holding where born,
 7. identification numbers of all holdings where the animal has been kept and the dates of each change of holding,
 8. date of death or slaughter



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

For each holding:

- **An identification number consisting on not more than 12 digits (apart from the country code)**
- **Name and address of the holder**



3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

The DB must be able to supply:

- **The identification number of all bovines present on a holding**
- **A list of all changes of holding for each animal starting from the holding of birth (or importation)**
- **Information shall be kept at the DB for minimum of 3 years after death of the animal**

3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

Passports:

- **One bovine, one passport**
 - Within 14 days after notification of birth
 - Within 14 days following EU re-identification for imported animals
 - Derogation: maximum period may be extended (COM supervises)
- **Whenever the bovine moves, shall be accompanied by its passport**
- **Passports shall be completed by keeper:**
 - Immediately on arrival into the holding
 - Prior departure off the holding





3. Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and the Council for the identification and registration of bovine animals

- Provisions for intra-EU trade for the return of passports (not relevant)
- Death/Slaughter: passport to be surrendered by keeper to the CA within 7 days
- *Derogation*: DB recognised as fully operational by the COM may stop using passports for domestic/national movements
- DB must be able to provide at any time the same information as to be contained in the passport
- Not for intra-EU trade

4-Controls and audits

- *A system of control on AI & T has to be in place*
- *FVO audits in MS and in third countries*
- *MS set up systems to ensure the compliance of CR 1760/2000:*
 - Minimum level of **controls** to be carried out
 - Application of **administrative sanctions**
- *Potential non-compliances:*
 - **For *animal identification***
 - **For *animal registration***
 - **For report of *animal movements***
- *Sanctions could be imposed*
 - **Restrictions to bovine movements to or from the holding concerned, where justified**
 - **If the identification can not be provided within two days, the animal could be destroyed and declared not fit for human consumption**
 - **Will depend on the number of non-compliant animals per holding (e.g.20% holding blocked)**

4-Controls and audits

- Shall cover at least **10% of holdings***
- Minimum rate of controls** shall be increased when non compliances are found*
- Selection of holdings** should be based on a risk analyses*
- Risk analyses** shall take into account:*
 - **Number of animals in the holding**
 - **Public and animal health considerations and in particular, existence of previous outbreaks of disease**
 - **The amount of annual premium claimed or paid to the holding**
 - **Major changes in relation to previous years**
 - **Results of checks carried out in previous years (including the keeping of the register and of animal passports)**
- A report shall be produced per every inspection.*
- If major infringement detected, the relevant CA should be informed asap*
- If for practical reasons it is not possible to assemble the animals within 48 hours: alternative sampling system*
- On-the-spot checks should be unannounced*

4-Controls and audits

- Member states shall take all the necessary measures **to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EU legislation***
- Sanctions should be applied where non-compliance on identification and registration leads to a presumption of infringement of the EU law which may endanger human or animal health*
- EU law lays down the **minimum administrative sanctions** , leaving open the possibility for MS to go far beyond taking into account the seriousness of the infringements*
- Any sancitons must be proportional to the gravity of the breach*

4-Controls and audits

Experts from the Commission (FVO) shall verify that the MS is complying with the requirements of the EU legislation and shall make on-the-pot checks

Regular FVO inspection missions are carried out in MS and in third countries.

MS must produce an annual report on bovine and sheep and goats controls on animal identification containing information on:

- **Number of holdings**
- **Number of inspections**
- **Number of animals inspected**
- **Breaches found**
- **Sanctions imposed**
- **and sent to the COM for publication**

4-Controls and audits

Holding Registration:

- **Every keeper (apart from drivers) must:**
 - Keep an up-date register
 - To report to the CA (3-7 days):
 - All movements to and from the holding
 - All births
 - All deaths
 - Dates of those events
 - *Derogation: extend the maximum period for movements of summer grazing on different mountain areas...*

4-Controls and audits

- Format of the holding register approved by CA*
- Kept in manual or computerised form*
- Available at all times to the CA*
- Kept for 3 years*



4-Controls and audits

Each keeper shall supply to the CA of its Member State upon request, information on:

- **Origin**
- **Identification**
- **Destination of the animals which he has owned, kept, transported, marketed or slaughtered**

4- Controls and audits

If the animals comply only with some of the provisions on animal identification and registration: only the affected animals will be restricted, unless the number of animals exceeds 20% of the total number of the holding (in holdings of less than 10 animals, this will apply only if the number will be more than 2)*

In this case all animals in the holding will be restricted (out and in)

If one or more animals on a holding comply with none of the provisions, all animals in the holding will be restricted (out and in)

4-Controls and audits

*If a keeper fails to report animal movements,
birth or deads:*

- **The CA shall restrict movement of animals to and from the holding**

4-Controls and audits

Each MS shall make an annual report and send to the Commission every year

Must include:

- **Number of holdings in this MS**
- **Number of inspections made**
- **Number of animals inspected**
- **Any breach found**
- **Any sanctions imposed**

COM makes public these results in DG SANCO's web page

5-EU Russia Cooperation

*Despite the recent global economic downturn, the European Union (EU) continues to be one of the **major contributors on cooperation worldwide** as well as **one of the world's largest importer of products from third countries**.*

*The objective of this assistance **is to facilitate**, and enhance, countries' ability to adjust to and to comply with SPS measures necessary to achieve **the appropriate level of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) protection in their export markets**, including with surroundings trade partners (bi-regional approach).*

*In the field of SPS alone, this commitment amounted to approximately **75 million Euro in 2013** and was provided jointly, by the **European Commission and its Member States**. A total of **300 SPS-related projects** or activities were financed worldwide during the course of 2013.*

*EU assistance takes place either **bilaterally or with a regional approach or via international organizations**, in the form of **training and seminars, processing technologies or capacity building**.*

5-EU Russia Cooperation

EU-Russia cooperation on SPS matters:

- *under **BTSF** (Better Training for safer Food) since 2006 a total of 172 Russian experts have assisted to more than 25 workshops organised by the European Commission in different fields:*

- **Animal health**
- **Animal welfare**
- **Veterinary controls, etc...**

- *Under **TAIEX**, a workshop on Classical and African swine fever during 2013*

- *Under **Twinning** (France), training on veterinary issues in 2013*

*Other projects of cooperation (**Rabies**):*

- *eradication in Kaliningrad (Decision 2014/C 43/09): 1,1 M€ allocated for 2 years (mid 2014 to mid 2016).*

- *For buffer zone vaccination in 2014 (Decision 2013/722/EU) :*

- **205,000 € allocated for Russia (bordering areas with Finland and Estonia)**
- **2,7 M€ allocated for Belarus (bordering areas with Lithuania, Latvia and Poland)**
- **1,5 M€ allocated for Ukraine (bordering areas with Poland)**

5-EU Russia Cooperation

Under DG Research (FP7 ASFORCE project): Training and Knowledge transfer on African Swine fever (ASF)...

- *It comprises 18 partners, including the National Research Institute for Veterinary Virology and Microbiology of Russia (Prof. Denis Kolbasov)*
- *main objective is to improve the knowledge basis on ASF through four main theme areas. One of them is to the "Design of prevention, control and eradication models for ASF".*
- *This will aim to provide essential information to design more cost-effective surveillance and control strategies for ASF into the different risk scenarios, providing valuable tools for policy makers, administrations and pig producers and to better prevent and control ASF and minimize the economical losses in endemic regions or in countries at risk*
- *for this animal identification and traceability seems to be a key factor to be taken into account*
- *a number of training workshops for veterinarians have been organised in several countries including the Russian Federation*

5-EU Russia Cooperation

- EU cooperation with neighbourhood countries to Russia (2013):

- **Azerbaijan** (under twinning, to support to the state veterinary service to prepare for a National System for identification and animals and registration of holdings in Azerbaijan)
- **Armenia** (SPS measures, plant health)
- **Belarus** (Quality and food safety, animal health)
- **Mongolia** (Avian influenza, SPS measures)
- **Ukraine** (TRACES, plant health, Rabies, Aujeszky)
- **Moldova** (Plant health, eggs and eggs products, aquaculture, laying hens, poultry meat, animal welfare)
- **Turkey** (food borne diseases, animal identification, Rabies, microbiology, poultry meat, honey, veterinary certification)

5-EU Russia Cooperation

On EU cooperation on animal identification and traceability, a sample:

- *Turkey:*

- @-veterinary certificates
- TRACES
- Animal identification on bovine, dairy sector (under twinning-Germany)
- Animal identification on small ruminants (sheep and goats): *"supply of Equipment for Electronic Identification and Registration System for Sheep and Goats"*, under Commission (DG Development)

5-EU Russia Cooperation

*Currently a full dedicated training **on animal identification and traceability** is taking place (under BTSF)*

- 25-30 participants for each session:

- May 2014, Lyon, France
- June 2014 Munich, Germany
- October 2014 Lisbon, Portugal
- November 2014 Warsaw, Poland
- Further training sessions during 2010

- not only EU member states but also third countries (Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia, etc.)



Worthy a look...

International seminar on animal identification and registration (Chile, 5-7 December 2011)

Papers & power point presentations

www.icar.org



Thank you for your attention

Sergio PAVON