Legislative Requirements for the identification and traceability of bovine, porcine, ovine and caprine animals within the European Union

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Basic objective of EU-legislation of farm animals

• localisation and tracing of animals for veterinary purposes (disease control)

Furthermore – depending on the species -
• traceability of beef for public health reasons (bovine)
• management of livestock premiums (bovine, ovine, caprine)
• medical treatment (equidae)

EU – Legislation on identification

Identification of bovine animals – main elements

• double eartags with individual code
• computerised national database for individual animals
• cattle passport
• holding register

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/animal/identification/bovine/id_bovine_animals_en.htm

Eartags (bovine)
(Regulation (EC) 911/2004)

• applied to each ear at least 20 days after birth for life
• flexible plastic, tamper proof, not reusable
• first eartag 45x55 mm, characters min. 5 mm
• name / logo of the competent authority
• two letter country code
• individual identification code (max. 12 digits)
• bar code as option
• second eartag other material and additional information possible
• electronic identification in discussion

Computerised national database (bovine)

• notification of births, deaths and movements within 7 days
• identification code
• date of birth
• sex
• breed or colour of coat
• ID-code of the mother (res. third country number)
• identification number of the holding where born
• identification number of all holdings where kept
• dates of each change of holding
• date of death of slaughter
• for each holding name and address of the holder
Cattle passport
Regulation (EC) 911/2004

• issued within 14 days of the notification of birth
• accompanies the animal when moved
• info on each animal:
  ID-code, date of birth, sex, breed/colour
  ID-code of the mother (res. third country number)
  identification number of all holdings where kept, dates of change
• signature of each keeper
• derogation for Member States with computerised database which the Commission deems fully operational

Holding register (bovine)
Regulation (EC) 911/2004

• individual register kept on each holding (farm, market, slaughterhouse …)
• up-to-date info on each animal:
  ID-code, date of birth, sex, breed/colour
  date of death (on the holding)
  date of departure, holding of destination
  date of arrival, holding of dispatch
• animal premiums
• controls of competent authority

Controls (bovine)
Regulation (EC) 1082/2003

• at least 10% of the holdings (with fully operational CDB - 5%)
• selection of holdings on the basis of a risk analysis
• unannounced on-the-spot checks (general rule: advanced warning < 48 h)
• all animals in the holding to be controlled
• standardised report at national level

Sanctions (bovine)
Regulation (EC) 494/98

• restriction on movement of individual animals in a holding animal complies not fully with Reg. 1760/2000
• restriction on movement of all animals in a holding animal(s) complying with none of the provisions of Reg. 1760/2000
  > 20% animals in a holding not fully complying with Reg. 1760/2000
  keeper fails to report movement, birth or death
• destruction of animals
  no prove of the identification of an animal within two working days

Identification of sheep and goats
(Regulation 21/2004)

• double individual identification
• movement document for groups
• holding register
• national database
• obligatory electronic identification scheduled (2008)

Means of identification (sheep and goats)
(Regulation 21/2004)

before 6 month of age
2 eartags or
1 eartag + tattoo / electronic identifier (bolus or el. eartag) / mark on pastern (goats)

animals intended for slaughter before 12 months for national movement only one eartag with holding code

obligatory electronic identification scheduled (2008)
Holding register (sheep and goats)
(Regulation (EC) 21/2004)

for each holding:
• ID-code, address, geographical coordinates, keeper, .. etc.
• corresponding holding in case of movements
• replacement tagging

for each animal (from 2008):
• identification code of the animal
• year of birth, date of identification
• month and year of death on the holding
• race; if known, genotype

Optional where a CDB contains all information

Movement document (sheep and goats)
(Regulation (EC) 21/2004)

• accompanies groups when moved
• information on the holding of origin, keeper, number of animals moved, holding of destination, means of transport, date of departure
• from 2008 individual ID-code of the animals

optional where a CDB contains all information

Computerised national database (sheep and goats)
(Regulation (EC) 21/2004)

• for each holding:
  ID-code, address, geographical coordinates, keeper, number of animals (inventory), animal health information

• for each movement - within 7 days (from 2008):
  number of animals moved, holding / date of departure, holding / date of arrival

models of eartags, passports, holding registers

Bovine animals
http://ec.europa.eu/comm/food/animal/identification/bovine/id_bovine_animals_en.htm

Sheep and goats

Identification of pigs – main elements
(Directive 92/102/EEC)

• identification of groups of animals
• eartag or tattoo (holding)
• computerised national database
• register on each holding (farm, market …)

Means of identification (pigs)
(Directive 92/102/EEC)

eartag or tattoo applied at least before leaving the holding
imported animals marked within 30 days
enable reference to holding, national database and accompanying documentation
existing systems for herdbook animals may be recognised (individual identification)
Holding register (pigs)  
(Directive 92/102/EEC)

- up-to-date record of movements
  - number of animals entering or leaving the holding
  - origin or destination of animals
  - dates

Computerised national database (pigs)  
(Decision 2000/678/EC)

- for each holding:  
  ID-code, address, person responsible, geographic coordinates, sanitary information
- for each movement of groups:  
  number of animals moved, holding / date of departure, holding / date of arrival

Electronic identification

- for sheep and goats animals (Reg. 21/2004): scheduled for 2008  
  read-only passive transponder (HDX or FDX-B), complying with ISO 11784 and 11785, readers complying with ISO 11785 (minimum reading distance specified)  
  Technical guidelines following ISO/ICAR in preparation

- for bovine animals (Reg. 1760/2000):  
  Commission report published (COM 2005/9), possible options currently discussed

Thanks for your attention!