

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Sheep and goats identification and movement - Information for EU Member States

Here is the information that we are required to provide to the Commission and on the format of official tags, movement reporting, etc.

Further information on sheep and goat identification and registration is available on the [Business Link Website](#).

Competent authority

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Model of eartag used for identification of ovine and caprine animals

A range of identifiers can be used for sheep and goat identification purposes. These include plastic and metal tags of various shapes and sizes, e.g. loop, button, two-piece flag tags. All eartags supplied must have successfully completed [PAS 66:2009](#) (PDF 2.6MB) testing to meet domestic requirements. Pastern tags, boluses and tattoos may also be used as official identifiers. Any electronic identifier must meet the EID Technical Guidelines (Part 2) testing requirements in order to become approved. These are the standards all identifiers are required to meet before they can be supplied within UK.

A list of approved identifiers is kept by BCMS and details can be found on the [RPA website](#). Approved Identifiers for Northern Ireland can be found on the [DARDNI website](#).

Eartags applied to officially identify a sheep or a goat in England and Wales must be yellow, if electronic. Matching non-electronic tags can be any colour other than yellow, red or black. In Scotland the official EID identifier and non-EID identifier can be any colour.

The colour red is reserved for replacement tags and black is reserved to indicate the presence of an electronic bolus. Official eartags bear the mark "UK", followed by a

zero and a 6 digit flock or herd number, followed by an individual animal number of 5 digits.

Slaughter animals may be identified by a single eartag, bearing the mark "UK", followed by the 6 digit flock or herd number. This may be an electronic or non-electronic tag. In Scotland the slaughter tag must be electronic.

Animals exported to Member States will need to be either full EID identified or double tagged, depending on when they were born.

A description of the identification system is provided in:

- [Guidance for keepers in England](#)
- [Guidance for keepers in Wales](#)
- [Guidance for keepers in Scotland](#)
- [Guidance for keepers in Northern Ireland](#)

Eartags applied to officially identify a sheep or a goat in Northern Ireland must be yellow, if electronic. Matching non-electronic tags can be any colour (including yellow) other than red, light blue, pink or black. The colour red is reserved for replacement tags and light blue is reserved to indicate the presence of an electronic bolus.

Official eartags bear the mark "UK", followed by the digit "1" and a 6 digit flock or herd number, followed by an individual animal number of 5 digits. Slaughter animals must also be identified by two matching identifiers, one of which must bear an EID device.

Movement Reporting

Movements are reported using the [AML 1](#) form. When moving goats, keepers must ensure they have met the requirements of the [General licence for the movement of sheep and goats](#).