

SMR 8: Sheep and goat identification



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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The aim of these requirements is to maintain a system for the identification and registration of sheep and goats in order to aid traceability, in particular in the event of a disease outbreak. They apply to you if you keep sheep and goats, even if kept as pets.

The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification, Movements) (Wales) Order 2009 came into force on 31 December 2009, introduced electronic identification for some sheep and optionally for goats. Note: tagging rules are different for animals born prior to 31 December 2009.

Main requirements

Registration

All sheep and goat keepers must:

- Register as a keeper with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and ensure details are kept up to date;
- Ensure that parcels of land that are more than 5 miles from the main holding have a separate 3000 series County Parish Holding (CPH) number. Separate records should also be kept for this holding.

Tagging

All sheep and goats must be identified:

- With Defra – approved identifiers, within 6 months of birth for intensively managed animals and 9 months for extensively farmed animals, or before they move off the holding, whichever comes first;
- With a single slaughter tag bearing the UK flock mark only (or a single electronic slaughter tag) for animals intended for slaughter in the UK before 12 months of age;
- With two identical identifiers (one electronic if born on or after 31st December 2009) for animals intended for breeding/kept beyond 12 months of age, or if intended for live export;
- Replace lost or illegible means of identification within 28 days of discovering the loss, or before the animal leaves the holding whichever is the earlier.

- Approved identification marks must not be altered, obliterated or defaced.
- Removal of a tag is permitted, to replace a single slaughter tag for two identifiers on an animal which now exceeds 12 months of age, or will enter the breeding flock, or if the original identifiers are lost. It is also permitted if you are replacing identifiers for an animal born before 31 December 2009. Replacement of tags with a different number must be cross-referenced in the flock records against the original flock mark/individual number.

Record keeping

- Keep an up-to-date on-farm record for each holding and make available on request.
- Complete an annual inventory form for the 1 January and return it to the address detailed on the annual inventory form. Record this information in the farm records by 1 February.
- Record replacement tags used, cross-referencing with the original number if known.
- Record details of movements of sheep and goats on and off your holding to include:
 - date of movement;
 - number of animals moved;
 - destination or origin of animals;
 - the haulier's name and vehicle registration.

- the full identification of the animal, unless if moving within ownership;
- if born before 31 December 2009 and not identified with full EID and moving direct to slaughter, you may only record the number of animals;
- the holding of birth (flock number), year of birth and the date the animal was identified and it's identification number;
- the month and year of death;
- the breed and (if known) the genotype.

Movement documents

- Complete and sent to the Local Authority of destination within 3 days of the movement.
- Keep copies of movement documents for three years.

Field checks

- Check that all sheep and goats are tagged correctly, to meet the 31 December 2009 requirements.
- Check that the flock records meet the requirements.
- Check that numbers of sheep and goats on the holding reconciles with the flock records and the most recent Annual Inventory return.
- Ensure Movement Documents (Animal Movement Licensing System) are being maintained.
- Ensure safe animal handling facilities and assistance are provided during an inspection.

For further information please contact:

Welsh Government

AMLS

See 'Useful Contacts' factsheet within this pack