

SMR 8: Sheep and goat identification



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

January 2016

www.gov.wales

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.

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.
- From 1 January 2016, lambs must be electronically identified with either a single electronic slaughter tag bearing the UK flock mark only (if going to slaughter in a UK abattoir within 12 months of age) or full EID (two identical identifiers, 1 electronic tag and a matching non electronic tag bearing a UK flock mark and individual number).
- Sheep kept beyond 12 months of age for breeding or live export must be identified with full EID (two identical identifiers, 1 electronic tag and a matching non electronic tag bearing a UK flock mark and individual number).
- Lambs identified with a non EID slaughter tag prior to 1 January 2016 can continue to move with this identifier until they are deemed to be 12 months old.
- Replace lost, damaged or illegible means of identification within 28 days of discovering the loss, or before the animal

leaves the holding whichever is the earlier. This also includes EID tags which cannot be scanned/read electronically.

- Approved identification marks must not be altered, obliterated or defaced.
- Removal of a tag is permitted, to upgrade a single slaughter tag identified lamb to full EID on an animal that is intended to exceed 12 months of age (e.g. enter the breeding flock), full movement history with evidence to confirm full traceability and cross referencing old identification number with new individual identification number must be recorded in the flock record.
- If the original identifiers(s) are lost, it is permitted to remove any existing tag and replace with new tags. Replacement tags with a different identification number must be recorded in the flock record.
- Replacement tags must be red in colour if re-identifying sheep not on their holding of birth.

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, 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

- Premises of destination to complete section 3 and notify the central movement database (via online methods or sending movement document) within 3 days of the movement.
- Copies of movement documents to be retained for three years .

Field checks

- Check that all sheep and goats are tagged correctly in compliance with The Sheep and Goat (Records, Identification and Movement) (Wales) Order 2015.
- 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.