



ELECTRONIC MOVEMENT REPORTING (2014)

CHANGES TO SHEEP & GOAT ID FOR SLAUGHTER ANIMALS (2014-15)

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BACKGROUND

Q1. When was electronic movement reporting for these species introduced?

From April 2014 via the new Animal Reporting and Movement Service 'ARAMS'.

- Farmers: Can choose to report electronically or continue to report movements by paper – so hand write and post the movement document to ARAMS.
- Markets, collection/assembly centres and abattoirs must report moves electronically

Q2. Why was ARAMS introduced?

To provide a more efficient way of reporting movements and in response to the independent Task Force on Farming Regulation which recommended all farmed livestock movements should be electronically reported.

Q3. What benefits does ARAMS deliver?

- It is delivering faster and more accurate movement data.
- That will improve HMGs' ability to track and trace animals in a disease outbreak.
- It is a modern alternative to the existing paper-based reporting system which is being improved over time in response to customer feedback.
- Farmers have the choice to :
 - quickly create and report movements electronically
 - electronically confirm/report their on-movements – in which case don't have to post off paper movement documents
 - use a paper bureau service if they are unable to access the internet or decide they are not yet ready to e-report

An underpinning impact assessment is published at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2014/43/pdfs/ukia_20140043_en.pdf

Q4. Who provides the ARAMS service?

It is delivered under contract to Defra by SouthWestern Business Process Services (UK) Ltd.

They have a successful track record of delivering animal movement recording systems and in transitioning farmers from paper to electronic systems

GUIDANCE

Q5. Where can I get advice on using ARAMS?

A dedicated helpline is available to assist farmers and others at:

☎ 0844 573 0137

8am-8pm, Monday-Saturday

Information is also published at: <http://www.ARAMS.co.uk/>

The web portal for farmers to e-report is accessible from this web page.
It also hosts system user guides.

Q6. Where should keepers go for advice on tagging / recording / reporting rules?

The ARAMS helpline will be able to answer *basic* questions on these issues
otherwise a keeper's first port of call should be:

The Defra helpline on

☎ 08459 33 55 77

8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Monday to Friday.

Email: defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

OR

The RPA Livestock Identification helpline:

☎ 0845 050 9876

Q7. What published guidance (on the ID/recording rules) is available for keepers?

A revised guide on sheep and goat ID was sent to all registered sheep and goat keepers in England in March 2014.

Note: This is the last time the guide will be issued in paper form.

It is published online at Gov.UK.

Presently it is in a pdf version which will be converted topic specific web pages later this year

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-keepers-in-england-rules-for-identifying-sheep-and-goats>

Future updates will then be made to the on-line versions only

ELECTRONIC REPORTING & RECORDING

Q8. Are farmers obliged to electronically report sheep movements?

No - they have a choice to report using paper or electronically.

Q9. Do receiving keepers still have 72 hours to report sheep movements to their premises?

Yes. That remains a strict legal requirement unchanged with the advent of e-reporting.

Q10. Do they have to report those moves if the sender notified it already on ARAMS?

Yes. It is the receiving keeper's legal obligation to report that a move to their premises was completed within 72 hours of the animals arriving – even if the sender notified the move electronically on ARAMS.

Defra cannot and will not assume the move was completed as planned until that is reported to them. The sending premises – e.g. a market is not allowed to 'report' the move for you.

To note: Some receiving keepers have been neglecting to report moves in these circumstances and have been sent reminder letters from SouthWestern with the details and asking them to confirm the completion of the move as notified. The letters have politely repeated the messages in the preceding paragraphs. If a keeper has any queries about the letter / the reporting process they should ring the ARAMS helpline.

Q11. Do farmers have to purchase and use EID tag readers?

No. Since the introduction in 2010 of EID for sheep, and individual recording for sheep (and goats) this has never been the case – and does not change with the introduction of Arams and electronic movement reporting.

Q12. Do farmers have to include EID tag numbers in movement documents?

Farmers..... moving full EID sheep to CPHs outside their farm business must record those animals' individual numbers on their movement documents

unless

the destination has chosen to be an approved CPRC and is providing a tag reading service to its customers.

In that case the keeper can tick the CPRC box on the paper movement form (or when they create the movement notification on ARAMS) and then the CPRC can send them back the list of the EID tags that they scan.

This requirement is as explained in the table in the [guide](#) sent to all keepers earlier this year (table on page 14)

(Most markets have been CPRCs since 2010-11, most abattoirs aren't yet. More may want to be in time (depending on their throughput and customer demand, and once they've got more used e-reporting and tag scanning).

Q13. Where can keepers get hold of the new movement forms?

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Markets | (who can order bulk supplies from the Arams printer) |
| Abattoirs | (those who decide to hold supplies) |
| Local Authorities (LAs) | (those who decide to hold supplies). |
| Online at: | http://www.arams.co.uk/docs/ARAMS-1.pdf (editable pdf) |

Q14. Must people transporting sheep carry a movement document?

The legislation underpinning the e-reporting regime allows a person *transporting* sheep not to have to carry a paper movement document in certain *limited* circumstances (e.g. an end to end electronic move where the transporter can print off the document en-route if required).

Q15. Is there a completely paperless movement option where no one has to print/carry a document?

Not at present. Discussions have commenced with stakeholders to see if certain moves can be made paperless – how and when that can be done is yet to be decided.

Q16. Are farmers able to report moves electronically using their own farm management packages?

Yes. Arams operates using common browsers and web-enabled devices. SouthWestern have worked with leading software suppliers to enable them to integrate their software packages with the ARAMS system so that a farmer can use them to electronically report their animals movements direct to the ARAMS system.

Q17. Does Arams reporting affect the standstill rules?

No. If livestock is moved on to a holding (and not into an isolation facility) then the livestock on must serve the relevant 'standstill' before moving off the holding.

Q18. Do keepers (farmers) have to report moves within their SOAs?

Yes. It has always been a requirement for moves between holdings in a 'SOA' to be reported.

A SOA (Sole Occupancy Authority) is a means by which a farmer can link a group of different holding/CPHs together – where only their animals are kept so that when they move their animals between (on/off) those holdings they do not trigger the 6-day standstill.

If moves between holdings in a SOA are not reported Defra has no way of monitoring whether the keeper has been complied with the standstill rules.

If livestock from outside a SOA are brought into any part of it then *all* the holdings in it are under standstill for 6 days.

Q19. But aren't there going to be major changes to when farmers have to report moves within their own businesses?

On 7th January 2014 Defra announced* that in response to recommendations of the independent Farming Regulation Task Force it plans to implement changes that will include a '10 mile rule' for reporting farm to farm moves.

The plan is that a (livestock) keeper will be able to amalgamate land parcels he owns within 10 miles of his main holding under a single CPH.

He will also be able to 'associate' - on an annually renewable basis – other(s) land that he (exclusively) grazes within 10 miles of his main holding with its CPH).

The (up to) 10 mile scope of the keeper's holding and associated land will be immediately apparent to Defra/inspectors on a geographical information system.

These changes have the potential to significantly reduce the number of 'within-business' moves a farmer would need to record and report.

This rationalisation to CPH definition will not however be rolled out until 2016-17.

* [Defra Press release, 7/1/2014.](#)

Standstill rules would apply to moves outside the 10 miles (and to land within the 10 miles with a different CPH or not associated with the keepers main CPH).

Q20. Will e-reporting mean more cross compliance inspections?

No. By law Defra must inspect 3% of sheep and goat keepers each year to monitor compliance with ID/recording rules/. Defra has no plans to go beyond that figure.

Q21. Will farmers be able to keep an electronic holding register on the new system?

Yes. SouthWestern plan to provide a free electronic holding register for those farmers who are using the ARAMS system to e-report their movements.

Its use will be voluntary.

Where required the user will have access to a drop down list of the tags they have ordered.

Its movements section can be auto populated with movement reports – if the user wishes.

Users will be able to amend/delete such downloads / other entries.

It is currently anticipated that it will be available by the end of 2014.

2015 CHANGES TO SHEEP (LAMB) IDENTIFICATION

Q22. When will EID tagging be compulsory for English born slaughter lambs?

1st January 2015. The change will not be retrospective - it will apply to lambs being tagged *on/after* this date on holdings in England.

Q23. Can they be single tagged or double tagged?

Either. As is the case now lambs can be identified with the single slaughter tag - in which case they must be batch recorded/reported. Or, they can be identified with 'full EID' – i.e. individually numbered with a pair of tags one of which is electronic – in which case they must be individually recorded and reported.

The change from 2015 is that where the single slaughter tag is applied to an English lamb it must be electronic.

Q24. Where can I find out more about this change?

In the Defra [guide](#) sent to all keepers in March and on the sheep ID pages on Gov.UK.

A reminder leaflet will also be sent to all keepers with the sheep and goat Annual Inventory forms in late November 2014.

Q25. How does EID tagging of lambs relate to cross compliance rules?

It will remain a cross compliance requirement to ensure an animal is 'correctly identified'.

From 1st January 2015 a *slaughter* lamb will not be correctly identified if it has been identified from that date with an ear tag that is not an EID ear tag.

An animal is also not correctly identified if its keeper *knows* that its tag is 'illegible'. For an EID tag that includes the transponder within it not working (i.e. cannot send its ID number when scanned by a tag reader). S/he must replace it within 28 days of discovering that it is illegible/not working.

Having incorrectly identified animals on the holding might result in an SPS reduction for the keeper- where that breach is discovered at an inspection. (Approximately 3% of keepers are inspected per annum).

2015 CHANGES TO MOVEMENT REPORTING – HISTORIC FLOCK

Q26. How do I report moves of older 'historic flock' animals from 2015?

From 1st January 2015 if you are moving

- (i) an individually numbered double-tagged animal identified before 2010 (i.e. with a non-electronic pair of tags)
- (ii) an individually numbered animal identified before 2008 (i.e. with a single non-EID tag)

you have to include its individual tag number on the movement document – *unless* it is moving direct to slaughter.

If you are not moving them direct to slaughter industry bodies and Defra recommend that you re-tag them with an EID pair of tags.

For the holding register:-

If you do not re-tag these animals and you move them with their old non-EID 'historic flock' tag(s) you (still) only record the total number of animals in the batch in your register.

If you re-tag them with a full EID pair of tags then (as now) you should record the tag numbers in your holding register if they move (i) outside your farm business to a different CPH where you are not the keeper, or (ii) to a CPH that is not providing a CPRC service.