

## Electronic Identification of sheep

Identification tags:

3 options:

1. Double ID tags, one of which must be electronic and must be yellow. The UK number and individual ID are recorded on the chip and also printed on the tag. The secondary tag can be any colour EXCEPT yellow, black or red and must show the UK number and individual ID but can also contain management information, e.g. flock name or a year letter.  
**ALL STOCK DESTINED FOR BREEDING MUST BE IDENTIFIED IN THIS WAY.**
2. Electronic slaughter tag – this must be yellow, one tag only needed, and can be used for sheep destined for slaughter up to one year of age. UK number will be shown on tag. If, at 12 months old, the sheep does not go to slaughter, this can be up-graded to double tagging as above. One year of age is taken as 30<sup>th</sup> June of the year following birth (so in fact more like 15 months)
3. Non-electronic slaughter batch tag – only for animal destined for slaughter within 12 months of age, cannot be upgraded, and the Markets are advising that they would prefer farmers not to use this option for sheep that are to be sold through markets, so really only for lambs going direct to an abattoir.

Replacement tags:

as now, if an animal loses one tag, this can be replaced with an identical tag (if it loses an electronic tag, it will be possible to order an identical one from the tag supplier). If still on the holding of birth it will be acceptable to replace both tags with new ones and to record this in the holding register. If it loses both tags and cannot be identified, or if it is not on the holding of birth, the replacement tags must be red.

From 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2010, UK individual numbers will go back to 1. e.g., if your last tag used was, for example, UK123456/888, your next number will be 123456/00001. Old unused UK tags should be discarded.

ID by bolus

Boluses similar to the ones used for scrapie genotyping can be used instead of electronic ear tags. If these are used, the animal must carry a black secondary tag.

Recording

Farmers will not need to have recording equipment on farm, as reading will be done at critical points such as markets and abattoirs. However, for farm-to-farm movements, individual sheep ID numbers must be written in the AML1 licence form AND in the flock record book, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 for animals born after 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2009 and from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 for animals born before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009. Therefore for larger flocks it may be advantageous to have a reader rather than have to manually read tag numbers. The cost of a reader will be approx £300

Movements between land parcels with the same CPH number, within 5 miles of the main holding, and the owner/keeper of the animals remains the same, need not be recorded or reported.

Movements between different CPH numbers where the owner/keeper remains the same can be batch recorded (e.g. 20 sheep, UK123456 moved from A to B), these movements to be recorded on an AML1 and in the holding register. New style AML1 forms will be in place from January. Sheep keepers should request new style forms from their county Trading Standards office as soon as

possible.

Movements between different CPH numbers where owner/keeper changes will require individual recording on the AML1 and in the holding register from the dates identified above. Individual movements can be recorded either manually or electronically.

New style holding registers have been sent out by DEFRA. If you have not received one, contact your local animal health office. Lists of individual IDs recorded can be written or stapled into the holding register. There will be a new additional page to record deaths.

***The Hebridean Sheep Society will continue to issue registration tags as before. You do not need to insert the registration tag while the animal remains in your ownership if you do not want to, but the registration tag must be inserted if the animal is sold or leaves your holding to go to a sale.***