

# QUICK GUIDE – NEW RULES FOR IDENTIFYING SHEEP FROM 31 DECEMBER 2009

## Key points for you to note

| What   | When  |
|--|---|
| Identifying your sheep   | Before nine months of age or six months if housed overnight<br>Or before they leave the holding of birth, whichever is sooner   |
| Replacing lost tags  | Within 28 days of discovery of loss or damage   |
| Holding register<br><i>Record date of identification, deaths, on and off movements</i> | Within 36 hours, but if sheep are moved through a central point recording centre, the sending keeper has 48 hours from the off movement to complete the individual animal numbers |
| Annual Inventory   | 1 December each year (and recorded in section 7 of your holding register)   |
| Movement document<br>Reporting moves to your local authority                           | Within three days by the keeper receiving the animals   |

## Identification

- Two identifiers: for breeding sheep or any sheep you keep beyond 12 months of age.  
**One identifier must be electronic** and both must have the same number.
- One tag: for sheep intended for slaughter under 12 months of age, a single slaughter tag, can be electronic or non-electronic, with only the flock number shown visually. Check with your supplier/purchaser for best tag to apply.
- Upgrading: You can upgrade a slaughter animal if you want to keep it for more than 12 months.  
How: apply two identifiers, one must be electronic  
When: only on their birth holding or, if the animal has been identified with an electronic slaughter tag, on the holding they have moved directly to (or via a market) from their birth holding.

## Holding register

- Keep a separate holding register for each different holding you keep sheep on.
- Record movements of sheep born after 31 December 2009 individually, unless they are identified with a slaughter tag.
- Record details of any replacement identifiers (section 2), including any cross-references where appropriate.

## Movement documents

- Fill in a movement document each time you move sheep between your holding and a holding with a different CPH number.
- From 1 January 2011, record individual numbers of sheep born **after** 31 December 2009 when they move, unless they are identified with a slaughter tag.
- From 31 December 2011, record individual numbers of sheep born **before** 31 December 2009 when they move, unless they are moving direct to slaughter.
- Fill in all sections of the movement document which relate to you.

## Movements within a business

- All movements of sheep within a business must be recorded and reported, apart from movements between land with the same CPH number which is within five miles of your main holding, and where the animals remain under your keepership.
- Movements of sheep to a different numbered CPH, where the animals remain under your keepership, must be recorded and reported on a batch basis.
- Movements of sheep to a different numbered CPH, where the keepership (or ownership) changes, must be individually recorded and reported (from 1 January 2011).

## FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, REFER TO THE GUIDANCE FOR KEEPERS IN ENGLAND, RULES FOR IDENTIFYING SHEEP AND GOATS – DECEMBER 2009

or call the Defra Helpline on 08459 335577 or go to: [www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/movements/sheep/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/movements/sheep/index.htm)