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PROVIDING TRACEABILITY INFORMATION UNDER
THE *BEEF LABELLING SCHEME (BLS)*

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This document sets out what traceability information you need to send us in support of your new Beef Labelling Scheme application or request for additional claims.

All new BLS applications or requests for additional claims made to the RPA must include information about your traceability system and your controls. Your written 'specification', which will need to be approved by the RPA, should describe the measures you are taking to ensure the accuracy of the labelling information you give to your customers. You will also need to send us a copy of your label(s) showing the voluntary claim(s) for which you are seeking approval.

Your specification must describe:

(a) your traceability control system which will be applied at **all** stages of production and sale (from sourcing of animals, slaughter, cutting/de-boning, packing, through to retail level, as applicable) i.e. your control system must demonstrate that the beef you sell or supply can be traced back to the animal or group of animals from which it was derived. Depending on your type of business the control system which supports your labelling claims might include the use of cattle passports and eartags, slaughterhouse records, documents from supplier(s), computer traceability system, records within your business;

(b) the controls to be carried out by your nominated verifier to ensure the accuracy of your labelling information. For this purpose you will need to contact your verifier to ask how they intend to verify your claim(s). Once you have received approval from the RPA, you will also need to let your verifier have a copy of your approved specification <u>before</u> they carry out their inspection of your control system.

Applications for new and additional claims should be made in writing to the Carlisle RPA Beef Labelling Section. For further advice contact us on 01228 640291 or 01228 640369.

Information on beef labelling can be found on our website http://www.rpa.gov.uk under 'RPA Schemes/Livestock Schemes'.

BEEF LABELLING SECTION