

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

EXPORT TO GREAT BRITAIN OF BOVINE ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER DIRECT FROM A MARKET

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF EXPORTERS

1. KEY DOCUMENTS

Please ensure the following documents are available for each animal to be exported:

- **MC2L movement licence(s) issued by staff at the Market**
- **Passport(s)**

The following key documents must be read and understood prior to export of animals of the bovine species.

- **GB (SL) NFG EXP (MK)** this document
- **GB (SL) ED (MK)** Exporter's declaration

2. SCOPE

These Notes for Guidance (**GB (SL) NFG EXP (MK)**) must be used for bovine animals for **SLAUGHTER** exported to GB from a Market.

3. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

All bovine animals exported from Northern Ireland must be officially tagged (identified) in accordance with The Cattle Identification (No.2) Regulations (NI) 1998, as amended (see Annex A for guidance) and be accompanied by an MC2L movement licence and Passport(s). **You must sign and date all Passports prior to the animals leaving the Market.** You should ensure that all United Kingdom tags are prefixed with the letter 'UK'.

4. WELFARE

Council Regulation 1/2005 lays down the provisions for the protection of animals during transport. The Regulation is enforced in Northern Ireland by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (NI) 2006. Article 3 of the EU Regulation requires that animals must be fit for the intended journey before the journey starts *and must remain sufficiently fit throughout the journey* and that no person shall transport them in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering. This means that animals should be healthy enough to tolerate the entire journey they are about to make (including loading, unloading and any journey breaks) with no or very little adverse effect on them and that the journey should not cause the animals any suffering or injury.

Animals not considered to be fit for transport include those that:

- are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
- are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed, or females who have given birth in the previous week;
- are new-born mammals in which the navel has not completely healed;
- are calves of less than ten days of age, unless they are transported less than 100 km. In addition, for journeys of 8 hours and over, calves must be over 14 days of age.

The certifying AVI will reject any animal where, in his or her professional judgement, there is doubt over its fitness on the intended journey.

5. TRANSPORTER AUTHORISATION AND VEHICLE CERTIFICATION

Articles 10 and 11 of Council Regulation 1/2005 require transporters of animals to be authorised, and Article 18 requires that the vehicle or trailer used to transport animals on long journeys has a certificate of approval.

For journeys over 65km (approx. 40 miles), transporters must:

- Hold a transporter authorisation.
- If transporting farmed animals, ensure drivers and attendants are in possession of a certificate of competence (from January 2008).
- Demonstrate they have appropriate staff and equipment to transport animals in a proper way and to have no record of serious infringements of animal welfare legislation in the preceding 3 years.
- Complete an Animal Transport Certificate for each journey.

For long journeys (over 8 hours) transporters must also:

- Be in possession of a long journey transporter authorisation.
- If the vehicle is used for transporting farmed animals and horses, get it inspected and approved.
- Ensure contingency plans in case of emergencies are in place.
- Ensure the Journey Log has been completed (for journeys of unregistered horses and livestock).

6. CANCELLATION OR CHANGES TO THE CONSIGNMENT DETAILS FOLLOWING CERTIFICATION

If the consignment is

- cancelled, **or**
- its date/time of departure has changed significantly, **or**
- a different vehicle is used, **or**
- all the animals are not loaded,

The exporter **must** notify the issuing local DVO by fax, giving details of changes, so that a replacement TRACES notification message can be sent to Great Britain.

7. EXPORT PROCEDURES

The exporter must make a booking with the ferry company and contact DARD Portal office (telephone 90752466 – Belfast Port and 28260021 – Larne) to advise of the intention to export. Portal will issue a Portal Reference Number and this must be inserted when completing the application form (TRACES EXA NI). On arrival, exporter presents consignment for export checks by DARD Portal Office staff. It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that sufficient time is given for export checks to be completed, or sailings may be missed. Exporter is issued with DARD Portal office authorisation to board vessel.

There are no restrictions on the dispatch of animals from Northern Ireland to Great Britain in terms of;

- (a) single or multiple destination consignments. Each destination must be accompanied by a separate veterinary health certificate;
- (b) the point of dispatch i.e. farm, market, assembly centre. Multiple pickups in Northern Ireland from farm to farm are permitted. **NOTE:** Animals of differing health status may not be carried on the same vehicle e.g. breeding and slaughter cattle; and
- (c) number of batches of animals on the same vehicle.

8. NON EXPORTS FROM THE MARKET

If, for any reason any cattle which you have purchased are not exported **you must apply to the local DVO for an MC2L movement licence in order to move the animal(s) into an ordinary herd/market/slaughterhouse within Northern Ireland.**

BOVINE ANIMALS - OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

All bovine animals exported from Northern Ireland must be officially identified (tagged) in accordance with The Cattle Identification (No.2) Regulations (NI) 1998, as amended. The regulations governing the identification of cattle have changed on three occasions in the last ten years. The following table summarises the various formats approved for animals identified in Northern Ireland and the age groups of cattle to which they may be applied.

Please note: Tattoos **are not** an acceptable form of Identification. All animals **must** be identified in accordance with these Guidelines.

AGE GROUPS	VALID IDENTIFICATION FORMATS
<p>Animals born or imported on or after 1 January 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double tagged (one tag in each ear) bearing the same unique identification number. • Pair of plastic all-numeric ear tags. • Primary & Secondary tag must bear DARD logo (required under EU rules). <p>UK Country Code (2 letters) Geographic Identifier (Always 9) (1 digit) District Identifier (2 digits) Herd Identifier (1-4 digits) Animal Number (1-4 digits) Check digit (1 digit) E.g. UK 90456 67 7</p>
<p>Animals born or imported on or after 1 January 1998 and before 1 January 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double tagged (one tag in each ear) bearing the same unique identification code. • Pair of plastic alphanumeric ear tags. • UK style ear tag which includes 3-6 digits for the Herd Number and 1-4 digits for the Animal Number plus a check letter as follows: UK 581234- 2643- M UK 491030-2002-L UK 493-1-A • Primary & Secondary tag must bear DARD logo (required under EU rules). <p>From 1 January 1998 until 14 September 1998 cattle were permitted to be identified with a single metal and matching plastic tag.</p>
<p>Animals born or imported on or after 1 August 1996 and before 1 January 1998</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single metal alphanumeric ear tag in right ear. • UK style ear tag which includes 3-6 digits for the Herd Number and 1-4 digits for the Animal Number plus a check letter as follows: UK 56999-1234-A UK 569-1-B UK 491234-1234-C <p>For export, an animal must be tagged with an additional distance reading plastic tag (in the left ear) bearing the same alphanumeric number.</p>

RULES FOR REPLACING LOST TAGS

If identification is lost or has become illegible, herd keepers may replace ear tags as follows:

AGE GROUPS	REPLACEMENT/RETAG
Animals born or imported on or after 1 January 2000	Double plastic all-numeric ear tags. If one ear tag is lost a replacement ear tag must be inserted. If both tags are lost the animal must be re tagged using double plastic all-numeric ear tags. The keeper must notify the DVO on an MCIA in cases where the animal has been retagged.
Animals born or imported on or after 1 January 1998 and before 1 January 2000	Double plastic ear tags must be applied (may be all-numeric or alphanumeric) If one ear tag is lost a replacement ear tag must be inserted. If both tags are lost the animal must be re tagged using double plastic alphanumeric or all-numeric ear tags. The keeper must notify the DVO on an MCIA in cases where the animal has been retagged.
Animals born or imported on or after 1 August 1996 and before 1 January 1998	Double plastic ear tags must be applied (may be all-numeric or alphanumeric) If subsequently retagged with double plastic tags and: If one ear tag is lost an identical replacement tag must be inserted. If both ear tags are lost the animal must be re-tagged using double plastic alphanumeric or all-numeric ear tags. The keeper must notify the DVO on an MCIA in cases where the animal has been retagged.

NOTE: Insertion of replacement tags must take place within 28 days of discovery and in any event before the animal moves off the holding.