

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Rules for the Identification and Movement of Sheep and Goats from 31 December 2009

Question	Answer
Tagging	
1. When will I need to start using EID tags?	<p>You will need EID tags when—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your 2010 lamb crop reach 9 months of age (or 6 months if they are normally housed overnight), or when they begin to move off your holding, if this is sooner; or • when you need to apply tags to older sheep.
2. What types of identification devices are allowed?	<p>For sheep—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EID tag with Conventional tag; • EID tag with Pastern tag; • Bolus (EID) with Conventional tag; • Bolus (EID) with Pastern tag; or • Conventional tag with EID pastern tag (not allowed for intra-community trade). <p>For goats—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the tags above, or • Two conventional tags bearing the same number (not allowed for intra-Community trade); or • Conventional tag with pastern tag (not allowed for intra-community trade).
3. When do I tag new sheep and goats (born after 31 December 2009)?	<p>All sheep and goats must be tagged before they leave the holding, including for movements to shows.</p> <p>Those that remain on the holding must be identified by 9 months of age (or by 6 months of age if they are “intensively kept” – for example milking sheep, or sheep that are normally housed overnight, etc).</p>
4. Do I have to retag older animals (born before 31 December 2009)?	<p>If they stay on your holding, older animals will only need to be upgraded to EID if they lose all of their tags.</p> <p>If sheep move off your holding, they must be upgraded to EID. If goats move off your holding, they must be upgraded to two matching tags.</p>
5. What if an animal was born before 31 December 2009 but is not tagged until 2010?	<p>The animal should be tagged under the new rules as set out in questions 2 and 3.</p>
6. What colour will tags be?	<p>EID tags are yellow.</p>

Question	Answer															
	<p>The colour of the conventional tag matching the EID tag is normally yellow but they can be any colour other than red, pink, light blue or black.</p> <p>Replacement tag sets are red.</p> <p>If you order a replacement tag with the same number as the lost tag it can be one of the colours shown above. If EID, it will be yellow; and if conventional, it can be any colour except red, pink, light blue or black.</p> <p>The tag matching a bolus will be light blue. Replacement tags ordered to match a bolus will also be light blue.</p> <p>If 2 matching conventional tags are applied to goats, they will both normally be yellow, but a keeper may request a different colour (except red, pink, light blue or black) for either or both tags if this is useful for management purposes.</p>															
<p>7. What number will be on the tag?</p>	<p>Each animal will only have one number, and the structure of the number will be the same for sheep and goats.</p> <p>The number printed on the tag will also be programmed into the EID device. All sheep and goat tag numbers in NI will begin with the country code and then the digits “17”.</p> <p>All existing flock/herd numbers in NI begin with the digit “7”. Each of these will be retained and will have the digit “1” placed in front of it, followed by a five-digit individual identification code.</p> <p>The EID numbers will therefore be structured as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="678 1332 1481 1400" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">8</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">2</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">6</td> <td>1</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">7</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">1</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">2</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">3</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">4</td> <td style="background-color: #90EE90;">5</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"> ISO Country code (826 for UK) Database (17 for NI) Individual identification code </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Existing flock/herd Number (all in NI begin with 7) </p> <p>The ISO number “826” can be replaced with the letters “UK” on the printed tag. On all tags in Great Britain the country code will be followed by the digit “0” instead of “1”, while all tags in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) will begin with the country code “0372” or IE.</p>	8	2	6	1	7	1	2	3	4	5	0	0	0	0	1
8	2	6	1	7	1	2	3	4	5	0	0	0	0	1		
<p>8. Why do we not allow slaughter tags?</p>	<p>We do not allow slaughter tags as sheep bearing them cannot be sent to the ROI unless they are upgraded to EID. This would affect the important slaughter sheep trade to the ROI.</p> <p>Also, markets and abattoirs could not use the EID tag to</p>															

Question	Answer
	perform the Central Point of Recording role and read tags on behalf of keepers. See questions 114 and 115.
9. Why can we not use injectable transponders?	Injectable transponders are not permitted because of public health concerns relating to removing them from the carcass.
10. Why can we not use tattoos?	Tattoos will not be permitted as sheep bearing them as an official means of identification cannot be sent to the ROI. However, tattoos can still be used for management purposes.
11. Can I apply management tags?	Yes, as long as they can be distinguished from official tags and do not bear the letters "UK", the 826 country code, or a flock or herd number.
12. Can I add information to my official tags?	Tag suppliers or keepers can add additional management information to official tags provided that- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is distinct from any official identification number; and • the official number is clearly readable.
13. Can an animal bear two official EID devices?	No. Only one official EID device may be applied to any animal.
14. What if my sheep already has a scrapie bolus?	A new EID tag can be applied to sheep which already have a bolus applied under the NI Scrapie Plan as the scrapie boluses are not official identification devices (and have a different number format). You should not apply two boluses to an animal as this may cause difficulties in ensuring a correct read.
15. Can I use existing stocks of tags after 31 December 2009?	No. The existing green natal and movement tags must not be applied to any sheep or goats after 31 December 2009, whatever their date of birth.
16. If a goat is tagged without EID, can I later upgrade to EID?	Yes. You can choose to upgrade to EID at a later date if, for example, you want to export the goat to the Republic of Ireland. You can apply a new tag set, and can remove the existing tag if you want to. The old and new tag numbers must always be cross-referenced (recorded together) in the herd register.
17. Where can I get tags?	Only identification devices approved by DARD can be used for official purposes. These can be sourced from authorised suppliers which are listed on the RuralNI website at http://www.ruralni.gov.uk/sheep-tags .
18. Which ear should the EID	We recommend that EID tags are always placed in the left ear as this may allow for more effective reading with

Question	Answer
tag be applied?	handheld readers. However, this is not compulsory.
19. What should I do to ensure best tagging practice?	<p>It is important that ear tagging is carried out correctly under hygienic conditions to ensure the welfare of your animals. Taking care will at tagging also minimise ear tag losses and associated problems.</p> <p>You should carefully consider which of the wide range of DARD approved EID and conventional tags are the most appropriate for the age and size of your sheep. You should ensure the tag is fitted correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions. Good antiseptic precautions are essential when applying tags to guard against infection. You should also aim, where possible, to tag sheep during cooler periods as this may help to minimise the risk of 'fly strike' and infections.</p> <p>Further guidelines can be found at www.dardni.gov.uk/irm-sheep-goats-applying-tags.</p>
20. When I upgrade my older animals to EID should I remove the old tags?	When upgrading to EID, you may cut out some or all of the old tags, if this would help to avoid welfare problems. The existing holes in the animals' ears can then be used to apply the new tags.
21. What should I do if my sheep or goats have got an ear infection?	If a tag is causing welfare problems as a result of infection, or if the tag has damaged the sheep's ear through, for example, being caught on wire, you should remove the tag if this will help the ear to heal. Any removed tags must be cross-referenced in the flock register with the tag that is later applied as a replacement, so that traceability is maintained.
22. What should I do if I have problems with the retention of ear tags?	If you have problems with tag retention make sure you are fitting the tags strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In many cases tags can become detached from the animal because of incorrect insertion. If you have problems with sheep or goat tags, you should discuss these initially with your supplier.
Upgrading older animals to EID	
23. When do I tag older sheep or goats (born before 31 December 2009)?	<p>Any sheep or goat born before 31 December 2009, must be upgraded before it is moved. You must apply one of the tag options in Question 2. If a set of tags is used, they should be yellow.</p> <p>This means that any sheep moving off a holding in Northern Ireland, will bear an EID device, and any goats will have two matching tags.</p>

Question	Answer
	<p>Any existing tags do not have to be removed. You can remove the old tags if you wish, but if they were applied in another Member State they must be left in place.</p> <p>You must record the use of the new tags in your flock register, but you do not have to record the old tag number (cross-referencing is not required).</p>
<p>24. Do I have to upgrade older sheep and goats to the new type of tags?</p>	<p>All older sheep must be upgraded to an EID tag set before they move.</p> <p>Goats must be upgraded to two identifiers with the same number.</p> <p>The new tags should be yellow. You can remove the old tags if you wish, but if they were applied in another Member State they must be left in place.</p> <p>You do not have to cross-reference the old number in your holding register, but you do have to record the use of the new tag set.</p>
<p>25. Do I have to upgrade older animals if they are not moving?</p>	<p>No. Older animals can retain their current green tags until they die, if they are not moved off your holding.</p> <p>Provided one green tag is in place, and the animal stays on your holding no additional tags are needed.</p> <p>If the last green tag is lost, you must upgrade to EID for sheep, or to two matching tags for goats.</p>
<p>26. Can I upgrade older sheep even if they are not moving?</p>	<p>Yes. You can choose to upgrade older sheep to EID at any time by simply applying your next EID tag set.</p> <p>Any existing tags do not have to be removed. You can remove them if you wish, but if they were applied in another Member State they must be left in place.</p> <p>You must record the use of the new tags in your flock register, but you do not have to cross-reference to the old tag number.</p>
<p>27. What if older sheep only have one tag?</p>	<p>If older sheep with one tag in place are not moving they can remain on your holding with only one tag into the future.</p>
<p>28. What if an older sheep has no tags?</p>	<p>If you discover that an older sheep has no tags, or none of the tags in place are readable, you must upgrade the animal to EID within 28 days or before the animal is moved, whichever is the earlier. This also applies to animals born before 2005, which are still on the holding of birth, and may therefore not yet have been tagged.</p> <p>Simply apply your next EID tag set and record the use of the new tags in your flock register.</p>

Question	Answer
29. Why do we have to upgrade older animals to EID?	<p>EID tags are needed to allow markets and meat plants to perform the role of Central Points of Recording (see Question 51).</p> <p>This will allow them to use EID readers to record tag numbers on your behalf when required from January 2015.</p> <p>If you have any sheep with only one tag on your holding at present they will need further tags before they move in order to comply with EU legislation. Upgrading to EID means that you only have to maintain a stock of one type of tag.</p>
30. When do I upgrade older goats (born before 31 December 2009)?	<p>Any goat born before 31 December 2009 must be upgraded before it is moved. You must apply one of the tag options in Question 2.</p> <p>This means that any goat moving off a holding in Northern Ireland, will bear two identifiers with matching numbers.</p> <p>Any existing tags do not have to be removed, but you can remove them if you wish. If the tags were applied in another Member State they should be left in place.</p> <p>You must record the use of the new tags in your herd register, but you do not have to cross-reference to the old tag number.</p>
Replacing lost tags	
31. How long do I have to replace lost tags?	<p>You must replace any tags that have been lost, or that cannot be read, with 28 days of discovery and before the animal leaves your holding.</p>
32. What if a tag is lost in a new animal (born after 31 December 2009)?	<p>If a tag is lost, or can no longer be read, in an animal that was born after 31 December 2009, you can order and apply a tag with the same number.</p> <p>However, you can also apply your next tag set from your stock of tags. This will have different number from the original tag and so you may have to cross-reference the old and new tag number in your register. See question 35 for the cross-referencing rules.</p> <p>The remaining tag must be removed.</p>
33. What if a tag is lost in a new goat (born after 31 December 2009) which did not have an EID device applied?	<p>If a tag is lost, or can no longer be read, in a goat that was born after 31 December 2009, you can order and apply a tag with the same number.</p> <p>However, you can also apply your next tag set from your stock of tags. This can be another set of conventional tags, or you can upgrade to a set which includes an EID device. The new set will have a different number from the original</p>

Question	Answer
	tags and so you may have to cross-reference the old and new tag numbers in your herd register. See question 35 for the cross-referencing rules. The remaining tag must be removed.
34. What if both tags are lost?	If both tags are lost, or cannot be read, you have to apply a new set. If you do not know the old tag number, you cannot cross-reference the old and new tag numbers in your flock/herd register. However, you must record the use of the new tags.
35. What colour of replacement tag should I use?	<p>If the animal was born on your holding you should use your next set of yellow tags as replacements.</p> <p>If you are applying a new tag set to an animal that was <u>not</u> born on your holding the set must be red (unless one of the following exemptions applies). You can apply yellow tags if—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you cross-reference the old and new tags on APHIS-Online, or • if the animal was born before 31 December 2009 and is being upgraded to EID (or double-tagging for goats) for the first time. <p>Also, if you order a tag which is specially made to match the lost tag, the replacement may be yellow.</p> <p>If the tag matching a bolus is being replaced you will have to order a new light blue tag with the same number from your tag supplier (as the bolus cannot be removed and the replacement tag must bear the same number).</p>
36. Why do we need to use red tags?	<p>If an animal was not born on your holding and you are applying two new replacement tags, you will be changing the flock or herd number on its tags (they will now bear your flock/herd number instead of the flock/herd number where it was born). For traceability purposes this must be signified by the use of red tags.</p> <p>However, if you have cross-referenced the old and new tags on APHIS-Online, this record means that the red tag is unnecessary. You can therefore apply your next yellow set.</p>
37. What do red tags mean?	<p>Red tags indicate that an animal was not born in the flock or herd recorded on the tag. All animals bearing yellow tags will have their flock of herd of birth in their tag number.</p> <p>The red tag does not restrict the movement of the animal in any way. All animals with red tags can still be moved to other farms or be exported.</p>

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38. Can I avoid using red replacement tags?	Yes. If you cross-reference the old and new tag numbers on APHIS-Online you can then use your yellow tags as replacements.																											
39. Should I cross-reference old and new tag numbers in my flock/herd register?	<p>The following tables show which colour of tag to use, and when you should cross-reference old and new tags numbers in your flock/herd register.</p> <p>Two points to note — (1) cross-referencing is not required if the animal was born on your holding before 31 December 2009; and (2) if both tags are lost you can only cross-reference if you know the original tag number.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 696 1465 1122"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">Replacing lost tags in animals identified under the new tagging rules</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Still on holding of birth?</th> <th colspan="2">Replace with -</th> <th>Cross-reference?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Yes</td> <td rowspan="2">Yellow EID tag with matching conventional tag - cut out any remaining tag</td> <td>Born after EID comes in</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Born before EID comes in</td> <td>No – but record new tags</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td colspan="2">Red EID tag with matching red conventional tag - cut out any remaining tag</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 1160 1465 1480"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Upgrading older sheep to EID, or older goats to double-tagging</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Still on holding of birth?</th> <th>Replace with -</th> <th>Cross-reference?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes or No</td> <td>Yellow EID tag with matching conventional tag - remaining tag(s) can be cut out, but this is optional. If the animal was imported the old tags should be left in place.</td> <td>No – but record new tags</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Replacing lost tags in animals identified under the new tagging rules				Still on holding of birth?	Replace with -		Cross-reference?	Yes	Yellow EID tag with matching conventional tag - cut out any remaining tag	Born after EID comes in	Yes	Born before EID comes in	No – but record new tags	No	Red EID tag with matching red conventional tag - cut out any remaining tag		Yes	Upgrading older sheep to EID, or older goats to double-tagging			Still on holding of birth?	Replace with -	Cross-reference?	Yes or No	Yellow EID tag with matching conventional tag - remaining tag(s) can be cut out, but this is optional. If the animal was imported the old tags should be left in place.	No – but record new tags
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40. If one tag is lost on the way to a meat plant, does it have to be replaced?	<p>No, the tag does not have to be replaced, provided that—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the tag was lost on the way to the meat plant, one tag remains in place, there is evidence that a second tag had been applied (for example, a hole in the ear), and the meat plant operator is willing accept the animal. 																											
41. What if a tag is lost on the way to a market?	If a tag is lost on the way to a market it must be replaced before the animal can be sold. Only animals which are identified correctly may be accepted for sale at a market. If required, a market can obtain authorisation for the manufacture of an emergency replacement tag on the farmer's behalf.																											

Question	Answer
Movement recording	
42. What type of move has to be notified?	<p>Any movement of sheep off your holding must be notified. This includes movements to shows.</p> <p>If the sheep are moving to winter grazing on another holding you must complete and return a movement document. However, if the destination is part of your holding, you do not need to complete or return a movement document. See question 66 for more detail on moves to winter grazing.</p>
43. Do I need a new movement document book?	Yes. The information required on movement documents has changed and a new book of movement documents will be sent to you by DARD.
44. Do I have to use movement documents from the book provided by DARD?	<p>No. You can generate your own movement documents if you wish. This could be useful if you are using an on-farm EID software package which allows you to print movement documents.</p> <p>If you produce your own movement document you must ensure that it is in the format approved by DARD. This means that it contains all the same information as the DARD document and shares the same general layout.</p> <p>We will publish movement documents on the DARD website, which you can download and use.</p>
45. Can I list tag numbers manually?	Yes. You can read the animal's tags visually and write the tag numbers onto the movement document.
46. Do I need an EID reader?	No. But if you need to record the tag numbers of large batches of sheep you might find it easier to use an EID reader instead of reading tags visually and writing the numbers manually.
47. How long do I have to retain movement documents for?	You must retain all movement documents for a period of 3 years. They must be kept in date order.
48. How should I complete movement documents?	<p>Full guidance on completing movement documents is printed on the DARD book of movement documents.</p> <p>If you generate your own movement documents you must follow the same instructions, on for example, the number of copies produced and retention of each copy.</p>
49. Do I have to return movement documents to DARD?	<p>All movements must be recorded on APHIS.</p> <p>Therefore, if you buy animals from another farm, you must send a copy of the movement document to DARD.</p> <p>If you buy animals from a market, they will send the</p>

Question	Answer
	information to DARD on your behalf.
50. How soon do I have to send movement documents to DARD?	If you are required to send a copy of the movement document to DARD, you must do this within 7 days of the movement.
51. What do I record for moves to a market or meat plant, which is approved as a Central Point of Recording?	<p>Markets and meat plants have the option of becoming approved as “Central Points of Recording”. This means that they have equipment to read EID tags and will send movement information directly to APHIS.</p> <p>If they do this, you do not have to record tag numbers on your movement document for movements to their premises.</p> <p>Therefore, for a movement of animals to a Central Point of Recording, you only need to complete the following information on your movement document-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your flock/herd number; • your name and address; • the flock/herd number (or name and address) of the destination; • information on the means of transport including the registration number of the trailer; • the number of animals moved; • the date of movement; and • your signature. <p>You will be given a list of tag numbers by the Central Point of Recording which you must keep with your copy of the movement document.</p>
52. When are tag numbers needed on movement documents?	<p>The requirements to record tag numbers on movement documents is being phased-in as follows-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 January 2010, you must record all tag numbers of animals that were born after 31 December 2009. • From 1 January 2015, you must also record all tag numbers of older animals which are moving anywhere other than to slaughter within Northern Ireland. <p>You will never need to record the tag numbers of animals born before 31 December 2009 if they are moving to slaughter (even if they are moving through a market).</p> <p>However, if you are moving older sheep that have been upgraded to EID to a Central Point of Recording, you will be provided with a list of tag numbers, which you should keep.</p>
53. What do I record if I am moving animals to a market or meat plant which is <u>not</u> approved as a	If the market or meat plant is not approved as a Central Point of Recording you must complete the movement document in full by recording the information shown at

Question	Answer
Central Point of Recording?	<p>Question 51 and the full tag numbers of all of the animals.</p> <p>You must therefore record—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your flock/herd number; • your name and address; • the flock/herd number (or name and address) of the destination; • information on the means of transport including the registration number of the trailer; • the number of animals moved; • the date of movement; • your signature; and • each animal's full tag number.
54. Can other premises be approved as a Central Point of Recording?	Yes. Other premises, such as, Export Assembly Centres and Slaughter Collection Centres (lamb groups) can also apply to DARD for approval.
55. How soon does the Central Point of Recording have to give me the list of tag numbers?	<p>The Central Point of Recording must give you a list of tag numbers on the day of movement. However, if this is not possible they must send you a copy by the next working day.</p> <p>You must keep the list with your copy of the movement document and cross-reference the movement document in your holding register with 48 hours of the movement.</p>
56. What do I do with the list of tag numbers the market or meat plant give me?	<p>You must keep the list of tag numbers given to you by the Central Point of Recording with your copy of your movement document. Without this, your movement document is incomplete.</p> <p>You must cross-reference the movement document in your holding register with 48 hours of the movement.</p>
57. Do I have to check that the information I am given by a Central Point of Recording is accurate?	Yes. When you are given a document by a CPR, you must check that the following is correct: your name, address and flock number; the total number of sheep moved; and the quantity of tag numbers. Also check a sample of the eartags to ensure that you have been given the correct list of tag numbers for the batch of sheep you are buying or selling. Completing these checks will help you to avoid a cross-compliance financial penalty.
58. What if the information I am given from a market or meat plant is inaccurate?	<p>If the tag list is incomplete or inaccurate you should seek to correct this before leaving the market.</p> <p>If you discover inaccuracies after leaving the market, and this cannot be rectified, you should report this to your DARD Regional Office.</p>

Question	Answer
59. What if the reading equipment at a market or meat plant fails?	<p>Central Points of Recording must have contingency plans in place to ensure that traceability is protected as far as possible in the event of a power or equipment failure.</p> <p>In the event that traceability cannot be adequately protected, the sale or processing will be unable to proceed.</p>
60. Can Central Points of Recording provide lists of tag numbers during 2010?	<p>Yes. You must record the tag numbers of all animals born after 31 December 2009 in your flock or herd register (see Question 69).</p> <p>In order to allow you to achieve this, the Central Points of Recording can provide you with a list of tag numbers during 2010, even though it is not compulsory to record tag numbers on movement documents until January 2011.</p>
61. If I am recording tag numbers on a movement document, do I have to list all of the numbers?	<p>If the animals are not yet 9 months old and you tag them as they leave your holding, you can record the first and last tag number in the range.</p> <p>If you do not have space on the movement document, you can attach a list on a separate continuation sheet. Sample continuation sheets are available on the DARD website or from DARD Regional Offices.</p>
62. Can I use APHIS-Online instead of paper movement documents?	<p>Yes. If you, or your agent, have notified the move to APHIS-Online you do not need to complete a movement document.</p> <p>You need to be authorised by DARD to use APHIS-Online for this purpose.</p> <p>The same movement information must be supplied as would be on a paper movement document. Therefore tag numbers are not needed if the animals are moving to a Central Point of Recording.</p> <p>The full information required must be sent to APHIS before the animals move.</p> <p>The movement information can be sent to APHIS by either the buyer or the seller.</p> <p>This will help to create a paperless system of traceability for keepers who wish to participate (except for farm to farm movements, unless both keepers are approved).</p>
63. What if I use APHIS-Online instead of movement documents, but I send animals to someone who doesn't?	<p>You must notify the move to APHIS-Online in the normal way.</p> <p>You must also provide copies of your paper movement document to the other keeper.</p> <p>They must keep a copy with their holding register, and return a copy to DARD within 7 days.</p>

Question	Answer
64. What if I use APHIS-Online instead of movement documents, but I buy animals from someone who keeps an on-farm holding register?	<p>The other keeper must give you copies of his movement document.</p> <p>You must enter the information on APHIS-Online within the time limits specified at Question 71.</p> <p>You must keep a copy of the movement document for at least 3 years but you don't have to send a copy to DARD.</p>
65. Do I have to notify moves to common grazing?	<p>Yes, if the common grazing is not directly adjacent to your holding. However, you do not have to list the tag numbers on the movement document. This is known as a "batch movement notification".</p> <p>If the common grazing is directly adjacent to your holding (i.e. you only have to open a gate to allow access to the common grazing), you do not have to notify the movements to the common grazing to DARD.</p> <p>You must ensure that the animals are tagged within 9 months of birth.</p>
66. Do I have to notify moves to winter grazing?	<p>If you have taken land for winter grazing and-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. you will look after your animals on the winter grazing yourself; 2. your animals will not mix with anyone else's animals on the winter grazing; <p>then we look on this at present in a similar way to conacre.</p> <p>We therefore view the winter grazing land as part of your holding, and you do not have to complete a movement document, or record the movement in your holding register. Please note that this policy is subject to review.</p> <p>If your animals will be looked after by the keeper at the destination holding, <u>or</u> if they will mix with other animals while there, then we view this as a movement off your holding. You must therefore record the movement in your holding register, and complete a movement document (with all tag numbers). The keeper at the destination holding will also need to be a registered keeper, complete a holding register, and send a copy of the movement document to DARD.</p>
67. If my flock is under movement restriction can I use a movement document?	No. If your flock or herd is under restriction for disease reasons you must contact your local DARD Regional Office for advice.
Holding registers	
68. Do I need a new holding register?	Yes. There have been some changes to the information required on holding registers and a new holding register will be sent to you by DARD.

Question	Answer
	<p>You must start keeping your records in your new register when you receive it. You must keep a separate register for sheep and goats. You must retain your old register for at least three years.</p>
<p>69. What do I have to record in the holding register?</p>	<p>You must record the general information about your holding (such as you name and address, and flock/herd number) and the results of your annual inventory.</p> <p>You must also record-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • births, • movements on, • movements off, • replacement tags (including old tag numbers where appropriate), and • deaths. <p>For new animals (born after 31 December 2009), you must always record tag numbers.</p> <p><u>Movements to and from Common Grazing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must record all moves to and from common grazing in your Flock Register. This applies to moves to and from all areas of common grazing, even if it is adjacent to your holding. However, the record does not have to include tag numbers. • For movements to common grazing that is adjacent to the holding, a movement document is not needed. You should therefore record in your flock register the location of the common grazing in place of the serial number of the movement document.
<p>70. Do I have to copy all of the information from a movement document into my register?</p>	<p>No. For both the movements on and off your holding you can simply cross-reference the movement document in your register, instead of copying all of the movement information.</p> <p>To cross-reference, you must record the serial number of the movement document, the date of movement and the number of animals moved.</p> <p>Remember that you must also keep the movement document with the register for 3 years.</p> <p>If you have produced your own movement document instead of using a DARD document, you should number it and cross-reference this number in your holding register.</p>
<p>71. How long do I have to record each event?</p>	<p>You must record each of the events within the following timescales—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • births – within 7 days of tagging, • movements on – within 7 days of the movement, • movements off, other than to a Central Point of Recording – within 7 days of the movement,

Question	Answer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • movements to a Central Point of Recording within 48 hours of the movement, • replacement tags (including old tag numbers where appropriate) - within 7 days of the new tags being applied, and • deaths – within 7 days of discovering the death.
72. Do I have to use the holding register provided by DARD?	No. You can use your own version of the flock/herd register (including an electronic version), provided all of the information is recorded and the columns are in the same order.
73. How long do I have to keep my holding register?	You must keep your holding register (and movement documents cross-referenced in it) for a period of 3 years from the last day in which an animal referred to in the documents dies or leaves your holding.
74. Can I keep my holding register in electronic form?	<p>Yes. You can use a software package to maintain your on-farm records. If you do this you do not need to maintain a paper holding register. This can be useful if you are using EID readers and software for on-farm management purposes.</p> <p>The information recorded must be the same as for a paper record and the information must be recorded within the same timescales (see questions 69 and 71).</p> <p>There is a list of DARD-recognised software packages on the RuralNI website.</p>
75. Can I use APHIS-Online instead of an on-farm register?	<p>Yes. Instead of keeping paper or electronic records on your farm, you can enter your information directly to APHIS through APHIS-Online.</p> <p>The information recorded must be the same as for a paper record and the information must be recorded within the same timescales (see questions 69 and 71).</p> <p>You must be authorised by DARD to do this. If you wish to apply for authorisation, please contact your DARD Regional Office.</p>
76. What is the advantage of using APHIS-Online?	<p>The advantages of using APHIS-Online include—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can adopt a paperless system of traceability. This means that you will not have to keep paper records on your farm. • While you will have to enter some information to APHIS-Online yourself, if you sell or buy sheep through markets or meat plants, your movement information will be entered to APHIS by them. • If you enter your information directly through APHIS-Online you will not have to maintain a stock of red tags. When tags are lost you can use your normal

Question	Answer
	<p>tags as replacements. This is because the change of identity will be recorded on APHIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your farm is selected for a cross-compliance inspection you will not have to present any on-farm records. All of your information will already be held on APHIS. • You may not need to complete an annual inventory on paper, provided you have entered all of your animal's tag numbers (including cross-references of replacement tags and deaths) on APHIS-Online.
<p>77. What do I have to enter to APHIS-Online if I use it as my holding register?</p>	<p>You will need to record-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • births (the range of tag numbers applied, the year of birth and date of tagging), • movements on and off (unless they move to or from a Central Point of Recording), • replacement tags (including old tag numbers where appropriate), and • deaths. <p>Note: The movements to and from a Central Point of Recording will be sent to APHIS by them.</p> <p>The annual inventory may not be needed if you have entered all of your animal's tag numbers on APHIS.</p>
Trade	
Imports from Great Britain	
<p>78. Can I import slaughter tagged lambs from Great Britain?</p>	<p>No. Northern Ireland will operate a system based on double-tagging with EID for all sheep. Any lambs imported from Great Britain must be upgraded to an equivalent set of identifiers which includes an EID device BEFORE leaving Great Britain.</p> <p>This will allow premises here to use EID readers to provide a Central Point of Recording role and will allow all sheep to be exported to the Republic of Ireland.</p>
<p>79. How should older sheep (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from Great Britain?</p>	<p>Older sheep can be imported from Great Britain provided they were tagged correctly according to the rules in place in Great Britain at that time.</p> <p>If they are later moved off a holding in Northern Ireland they will have to be upgraded to EID before moving.</p>
<p>80. How should new sheep (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from Great Britain?</p>	<p>Sheep born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 must have two matching tags, one of which must carry an EID device.</p>

Question	Answer
81. How should older goats (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from Great Britain?	Older goats can be imported from Great Britain provided they were tagged correctly according to the rules in place in Great Britain at that time. If they are later moved off a holding in Northern Ireland they will be upgraded to at least a set of matching tags before moving.
82. How should new goats (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from Great Britain?	All goats born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which may carry an EID device, but two matching conventional identifiers is acceptable.
Imports from the Republic of Ireland	
83. Can I import slaughter tagged lambs from the Republic of Ireland?	No. Under European Law, slaughter tagged lambs cannot be traded between Member States.
84. How should older sheep (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from the Republic of Ireland?	Older sheep can be imported from the Republic of Ireland provided they were tagged correctly according to the rules in place in the Republic of Ireland at that time. If they are later moved off a holding in Northern Ireland they will have to be upgraded to EID before moving.
85. How should new animals (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from the Republic of Ireland?	Sheep born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 must have two matching tags, one of which must carry an EID device BEFORE leaving the Republic of Ireland. Republic of Ireland EID Tag sets will bear numbers prefixed with the letters "IE".
86. How should older goats (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from the Republic of Ireland?	Older goats can be imported from the Republic of Ireland provided they were tagged correctly according to the rules in place in the Republic of Ireland at that time. If they are later moved off a holding in Northern Ireland they will be upgraded to at least a set of matching tags before moving.
87. How should new goats (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if coming from the Republic of Ireland?	All goats born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which may carry an EID device (see Question 2). However, only goats bearing an EID device can be imported from the Republic of Ireland. If goats had been tagged in the Republic of Ireland with two conventional tags they must be upgraded before import to an EID tag or bolus with a conventional tag (according to the rules in place in the Republic of Ireland).
88. When sheep are imported do we use the check	No. The check letter will not be uploaded to APHIS and should not be recorded on movement documents or health

Question	Answer
letter?	certificates. The guidance at the attached link refers. http://www.agriculture.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/animalidentificationandmovement/nationalsheepidentificationsystem/NewTagNumberingSysSheepandChangestoNSIS.doc
Imports – Documents and Retagging	
89. If I import animals from outside Northern Ireland what do I do with the health certificate?	You must send the health certificate to your DARD Regional Office within 3 working days of the animal arriving on your holding.
90. Should I remove tags from animals imported from other Member States?	No. Animals imported from other Member States with an EID tag set should retain their original identity. These sheep can move anywhere in NI and GB under the original Member State identification. However, where tags are lost or are illegible replacement tags can be applied according to the normal rules (see the replacing lost tag section above).
91. Should I re-identify animals imported from third countries?	Yes. You must re-identify an animal imported from outside the EU (i.e. from a third country) within 14 days of the arrival of the animal on your holding. You must also cross-reference the old and new tag numbers in your holding register.
Exports to Great Britain	
92. How should older sheep (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to Great Britain?	If sent to Great Britain all older sheep will have been upgraded to EID on the holding. These tags will be acceptable in GB.
93. How should new sheep (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to Great Britain?	All sheep born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which will carry an EID device (see question 2). This will apply even if the sheep are bound for Great Britain as slaughter tags are not permitted in Northern Ireland.
94. How should older goats (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to Great Britain?	If sent to Great Britain all older goats will have been upgraded to at least a set of matching tags on the holding. These tags will be acceptable in GB.
95. How should new goats (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to Great Britain?	All goats born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which may carry an EID device, however, two conventional tags are acceptable for export to Great Britain (see question 2).

Question	Answer
Exports to the Republic of Ireland	
96. How should older sheep (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to the Republic of Ireland?	If sent to the Republic of Ireland all older sheep will have been upgraded to EID on the holding. These tags will be acceptable in the Republic of Ireland.
97. How should new sheep (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to the Republic of Ireland?	<p>All sheep born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which will carry an EID device (see question 2).</p> <p>Any of the combinations below are acceptable for export to the Republic of Ireland-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EID tag with Conventional tag; • EID tag with Pastern tag; • Bolus (EID) with Conventional tag; or • Bolus (EID) with Pastern tag.
98. How should older goats (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to the Republic of Ireland?	If sent to the Republic of Ireland all older goats will have been upgraded to at least a set of matching conventional tags on the holding. These tags will be acceptable for export to the Republic of Ireland (EID is not required for older goats).
99. How should new goats (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to the Republic of Ireland?	<p>All goats born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which may carry an EID device (see question 2).</p> <p>However, only goats bearing an EID device can be exported to the Republic of Ireland. If goats had been tagged with two conventional tags they must be upgraded to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EID tag with Conventional tag; • EID tag with Pastern tag; • Bolus (EID) with Conventional tag; or • Bolus (EID) with Pastern tag.
Exports to other Member States	
100. How should older sheep (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to another Member State?	If sent to another Member State all older sheep will have been upgraded to EID on the holding. These tags will be acceptable in other Member States.
101. How should new sheep (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to another Member State?	<p>All sheep born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which will carry an EID device (see question 2).</p> <p>Any of the combinations below are acceptable for export to another Member State-</p>

Question	Answer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EID tag with Conventional tag; • EID tag with Pastern tag; • Bolus (EID) with Conventional tag; or • Bolus (EID) with Pastern tag.
<p>102. How should older goats (born before 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to another Member State?</p>	<p>If sent to another Member State all older goats will have been upgraded to at least a set of matching conventional tags on the holding. These tags will be acceptable for export to other Member States (EID is not required for older goats).</p>
<p>103. How should new goats (born after 31 December 2009) be tagged if going to another Member State?</p>	<p>All goats born or first tagged after 31 December 2009 will have two matching tags, one of which may carry an EID device (see question 2).</p> <p>However, only goats bearing an EID device can be exported to another Member State. If goats had been tagged with two conventional tags they must be upgraded to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EID tag with Conventional tag; • EID tag with Pastern tag; • Bolus (EID) with Conventional tag; or • Bolus (EID) with Pastern tag.
<p>Exports – Movement Documents</p>	
<p>104. If I export animals out of Northern Ireland do I have to send a movement document to DARD?</p>	<p>Yes. You must send a copy of the movement document to your DARD Regional Office within 7 days of the animal leaving your holding.</p>
<p>Annual Inventory</p>	
<p>105. Do I still need to return my annual inventory?</p>	<p>Yes. You must still complete your annual inventory on a date between 1 and 5 December each year and either return the card to DARD, or enter your details on APHIS, by 5 January.</p> <p>Failure to do so before the end of January will result in the flock being considered non-operational, resulting in difficulties ordering tags and notifying movements.</p> <p>The only exemption may be for keepers who keep their holding register information on APHIS-Online.</p>
<p>Inspections</p>	
<p>106. Will I receive a cross-compliance inspection?</p>	<p>Possibly. The sheep identification and movement rules form a Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) within the Cross-Compliance rules. A percentage of flocks are</p>

Question	Answer
	<p>inspected each year to ensure compliance with the rules. Any discrepancies detected can count towards a penalty reduction in your Single Farm Payment.</p>
<p>107. Can I be prosecuted for failing to comply with the rules?</p>	<p>Yes. The rules set out in this guidance are a legal requirement under the Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2009. If you fail to comply you could be prosecuted, and penalties include fines of up to £5,000 or 2 months in prison.</p>
General	
<p>108. How do I register as a keeper of sheep or goats?</p>	<p>You must contact your local DARD Regional Office to register your flock or herd and apply for a holding number.</p>
<p>109. Will my flock or herd number change?</p>	<p>No. You will retain your current flock or herd registration number but it will be prefixed on tags with the digits "UK 1".</p>
<p>110. Can I move animals to another holding?</p>	<p>You can only move sheep or goats to another holding if they have been registered with DARD and have a flock number for sheep, or a herd number for goats. The animals must be tagged correctly before they leave your holding.</p>
<p>111. Will my reader read all EID tags?</p>	<p>Yes. All tags and readers must meet international standards (set by the International Standards Organisation or ISO).</p>
<p>112. What happens to the tags after the animals are dead?</p>	<p>Tags cannot be reused. They must be securely destroyed by the operator that finally disposes of the animal carcass.</p>
<p>113. Do I need to retag animals that die on my farm?</p>	<p>If the animal still has one old green tag this is sufficient for dead animals being sent to a rendering plant.</p>
<p>114. What is the purpose of EID for sheep?</p>	<p>As a result of problems in tracing sheep during the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in 2001, it was agreed across the European Union that all sheep and goats would have a unique tag number for life and that this number would be recorded on all movement documents and holding registers whenever they move.</p> <p>In order to allow this to be achieved with minimal overhead, it was decided that sheep tags would have an EID device, which could be read electronically. As goats move in smaller batches it was decided that their tags would not have to have an EID device and so their tag numbers have been recorded manually. Goats require an EID tag if they are</p>

Question	Answer
	being exported to a member State.
<p>115. What is the slaughter derogation, or slaughter tags?</p>	<p>A derogation from full EID was agreed for sheep, whereby if they are to be slaughtered in the same Member State within 12 months of birth, a single conventional tag is sufficient (the slaughter tag).</p> <p>If slaughter tags bearing only flock numbers are applied to lambs, the number of lambs in a batch with each flock number must be recorded on the keeper's flock register (including at markets and abattoirs). This means that all tags must be read (so-called "batch within a batch" recording).</p> <p>This is known as the slaughter derogation, and it will be adopted in the Republic of Ireland, and, with an EID element, in Great Britain.</p>
<p>116. Why did we not adopt the slaughter derogation in Northern Ireland?</p>	<p>In Northern Ireland we have not adopted the slaughter derogation as it is important that all slaughter lambs can be traded to the Republic of Ireland (this is intra-Community Trade). They must bear EID devices for this to be allowed. Additionally the industry has agreed that the overhead cost of carrying out the "batch-within-a-batch" recording, at the volumes of sheep traded in the UK, require EID to be practicable.</p>
<p>117. How do I become authorised to use APHIS-Online?</p>	<p>You must first log on to the RuralNI website at: www.ruralni.gov.uk. To activate the service you must enter the password provided.</p>