

Action Note 2023/03/01: Chapter 2.5: Animal Identification

Purpose

This Action Note is to inform all Authorised Officers (AOs) of changes on bovine identification.

Background

Cattle born on or after 1st January 1998 must be identified with an approved ear tag in each ear, which show the same official identity. One of these ear tags is considered the primary ear tag and the other the secondary ear tag. Primary tags were required to be yellow, while different colours were allowed for secondary tags.

Pink Ultra High Frequency (UHF) electronic tags were introduced as part of the on-going Scottish Bovine Electronic ID (EID) pilot, initially in the form of secondary identification, with the intention of not making them available for sale as primary tags until such time when Bovine EID was officially introduced within Scotland.

A recent switchover from the Cattle Ear Tag Allocation System (CETAS) to the new Livestock Unique Identification Service (LUIS) on the 6th of February 2023 produced a rejection on an order for a pink primary UHF tag due to built-in variations which were possible on the CETAS system between March 2022 and 6 February 2023. This highlighted the fact that pink UHF tags were officially approved and available for sale as primary tags, but this information was not adequately shared with all relevant stakeholders.

Procedure

FSS AOs are to note bovine animals may also be identified with pink primary tags instead of yellow. The pink primary tags have been approved through the PAS44:2019 which is done on behalf of Scottish Ministers through the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). The tags meet all the specifications currently described in Chapter 2.5 of the SMOC with the exception that they are pink and contain an EID chip.

Field Staff are required to:

- Note the contents of the Action Note, plant attending OVs to ensure that the Action Note is read by all FSS staff, and this is noted in the Action/ Information Log.
- Print a copy for the plant file together with an Action/ Information Log.

This Action Note will be:

- Uploaded to the Action Note Live Folder and Operation tracker log on SharePoint.
- Forwarded to Website mailbox (websiteteam@fss.scot) for publication on our website.

The Action Note will remain live until either incorporated in the SMOC or revoked.

Copies of the live and revoked Action Notes can be found on [SharePoint](#).

<u>Action Note drafted by</u>	<u>Action Note agreed by</u>	<u>Published</u>	<u>Revoked</u>
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<u>20/03/2023</u>	<u>21/03/2023</u>	<u>22/03/2023</u>	