

## REGULATION on the marking of livestock

### Article 1

#### *Objective*

The objective of this Regulation is to ensure the traceability of livestock products from the herd of origin and/or from the birth of the animal in question to the sale of the products, thereby laying the foundations of well-targeted controls of foodstuffs and livestock, the monitoring of animal transports, the reporting of animal diseases, and the treatment of such diseases.

### Article 2

#### *Scope*

This Regulation applies to the marking of livestock and to the recording of information about livestock, including in databases. In addition to this, the provisions of applicable regulations on the marking of individual species of livestock must be complied with.

### Article 3

#### *Definitions*

1. *Brand* means a tattoo, earmark or tag identifying a farm.
2. *Livestock* means horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry.
3. *Holding number* means the cadastral parcel number combined with the relevant business unit's identifying number within the farm.
4. *Homestead number* means the number of the farm or owner engaged in sheep or goat farming combined with the county identifier and municipality code as listed in the National Livestock Brand Register.
5. *Individual number* means the unique number/letter code used to identify every animal kept for rearing on a national basis.
6. *Producer number* means the two-digit number of a pig herd as allocated by the Ministry of Industries and Innovation.
7. *Weaning* means the weaning of piglets, at a weight of around 7 to 10 kg.
8. *Birth number* means the world-wide individual identification number of [Icelandic] horses. Also called "FEIF-ID" in the WorldFengur [breed registry for Icelandic horses].
9. *Sequence number* means the number of an animal within the herd; this is the same as the last part of the individual number.
10. *Rearing pig* means a suckling piglet, a weaner, or a grower.
11. *Health chart* means a collection of information covering data on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, and on preventive measures.
12. *Herd register* means a database or formal written records where keepers of livestock must record specific information about the animals kept.
13. *Herd* means a group of animals belonging to a specific livestock species and kept on the same farm.
14. *House number* means the number indicated by a producer for premises used for one group of poultry constituting a single epidemiological unit, as defined in consultation with the Food and Veterinary Authority, including poultry sharing the same airspace. Where the poultry are kept indoors, the above applies to houses where all the birds share the same airspace.
15. *Traceability number* means a number of at least 10 digits in length, where the initial three digits are the poultry producer's identification code, as allocated by the Food and Veterinary Authority, followed by two digits indicating the year, two digits indicating the week in which the chicks hatched, one digit indicating the serial number of the rearing group within the week of hatching, and finally two digits indicating the number of the house in which the group is reared.
16. *Lamb/kid tag* means a tag applied to lambs and kids in the spring.
17. *Lamb number* means a unique number used to identify each lamb born on an individual farm in a particular year.

18. *National Livestock Brand Register* means a register of all earmarks, fire brands and freeze brands, as well as all homestead numbers, in use within the country, as published by the Farmers' Association of Iceland pursuant to Regulation No 200/1998 on livestock brands, brand registers, and limitations on the joint use of brands, as amended.
19. *Animals kept for rearing* means animals selected for breeding and/or production.
20. *Marker* means a tag, freeze brand, microchip or other electronic marker, a tattoo or any other means of identification approved by the Food and Veterinary Authority for use on individual livestock species.
21. *Slaughtering* refers to both slaughtering in slaughterhouses and slaughtering at a registered farm for own use.
22. *Population* means a specific breeding line within the same breed of livestock.
23. *Pigs* means animals selected for rearing, both sows and boars.
24. *Keeper of livestock* means the owner of livestock or any other person responsible for feeding, tending and supervising livestock in accordance with Act No 103/2002 on animal husbandry, etc.
25. *Selective number* means a number selected by the keeper of livestock.
26. *Week number* means the two-digit number of the week in which a suckling pig is born.
27. *WorldFengur* is the breeding register for Icelandic horses.
28. [MARK is a central computer system containing information about livestock branding.]<sup>1</sup>

#### Article 4

##### *Obligation to mark*

Keepers of livestock are responsible for ensuring that all livestock in their custody are marked within a specified time limit after birth, using an approved mark designed to accompany the animal all its life, see further provisions relating to individual livestock species.

It is prohibited to modify or remove the individual number/mark of an animal or rearing group, unless it has become illegible or damaged. If a mark comes off, is lost or becomes illegible, the keeper must re-mark the animal with a mark that ensures traceability through its connection with the earlier mark and with the herd register.

Numbers already in use within the herd may not be used. At least 10 years must pass before the same individual number is reused within the same herd.

#### Article 5

##### *Requirements regarding the characteristics of tags*

Tags must be of a type that prevents any reuse of tags after they have been removed. Any information included on tags must be pre-printed in easily legible typeface which does not allow for subsequent modification. Tags intended for use pursuant to this Regulation must be approved by the Food and Veterinary Authority.

#### Article 6

##### *Marking of cattle*

Cattle must be marked by attaching a pre-printed tag to each ear within 20 days of birth. The tags must bear the following information:

- a. The letter combination 'YD' identifying the Food and Veterinary Authority.
- b. The letter combination 'IS' identifying Iceland.
- c. The holding number.
- d. The sequence number.

[...] <sup>2</sup>

In addition to the pre-printed information, cattle owners may use their own selective number system.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation No 748/2016.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation No 748/2016.

## Article 7

*Marking of pigs*

All pigs must be marked by attaching a pre-printed tag to one ear. The tags must bear the following information:

- a. The letter combination 'YD' identifying the Food and Veterinary Authority.
- b. The letter combination 'IS' identifying Iceland.
- c. The holding number.
- d. The sequence number.

The pigs must be tagged before they leave the holding of birth or when they are treated, after weaning, with drugs with a mandated waiting period before processing.

## Article 8

*Exemption from the obligation to tag rearing pigs*

The Food and Veterinary Authority may grant an exemption from the obligation to tag pigs intended for slaughter, provided that all of the following requirements are met:

- a. No drugs have been administered to the pigs after weaning.
- b. The pigs are identified as belonging to the holding of birth before being transported from that holding.
- c. The pigs are transported directly from the holding of birth or rearing to the slaughterhouse.
- d. Transports take place from one holding of birth or rearing only at a time.
- e. Transports take place with animals from one producer only at a time.
- f. All other animals transported at the same time, i.e. sows, boars and rearing pigs having been administered drugs, have been equipped with a tag.
- g. Measures are taken during slaughtering to ensure that the group concerned is kept separate from other groups of slaughter animals.
- h. The producer and the holder of a slaughter licence must ensure the traceability of the group during transport and slaughter by electronically recording the following information:
  - i. Holding of birth
  - ii. Holding of rearing
  - iii. Number of untagged animals
  - iv. Number of tagged animals
  - v. Date of transport
  - vi. A serial number identifying the group in question

The producer and the holder of a slaughter licence must demonstrate that the above requirements are met in order to qualify for an exemption from the obligation to tag rearing pigs.

An exemption of this type may not be extended to pigs that are transported to a slaughterhouse within 30 days of weaning.

## Article 9

*Marking of sheep and goats*

Sheep and goats kept for rearing must be marked by attaching a pre-printed tag to one ear. The tags must bear the following information:

- a. The letter combination 'YD' identifying the Food and Veterinary Authority.
- b. The letter combination 'IS' identifying Iceland.
- c. The homestead number according to the National Livestock Brand Register.
- d. A four-digit sequence number where the first digit is the last digit of the year of birth and the remaining three digits are the number of the animal within the herd.

Lambs and kids must be marked with a pre-printed tag (a 'lamb/kid tag') within 30 days of birth. The tags must contain the letter combination 'IS' identifying Iceland, the homestead number according to the National Livestock Brand Register, and the number of the lamb within the herd. The reuse of such tags is prohibited except with the authorisation of the Food and Veterinary Authority.

Tags without the letter combination 'IS' identifying Iceland may be used, provided that the animal is re-tagged in accordance with Article 9, first paragraph, no later than at the age of 6 months.

The colours of tags used for sheep and goats must conform to those registered by the Food and Veterinary Authority in a centralised database pursuant to Article 12.

#### Article 10

##### *Marking of poultry*

The keeper of livestock at a hatchery must identify each group of poultry through the use of a traceability number.

If a group is moved between houses, the house number part of the traceability number must be changed accordingly.

A group of poultry which is only kept for the purpose of using its products for private consumption need not be identified with a traceability number.

#### Article 11

##### *Marking of horses*

All horses must be microchipped. All foals kept for rearing must be microchipped at their mother's side before the age of 10 months. Any foals slaughtered before the age of 10 months must be identified by registering the birth number of the mother at the time of slaughter. [Microchips must be approved by the Food and Veterinary Authority. Suppliers of microchips may only sell such chips for use on horses to those authorised to mark horses with microchips.]<sup>3</sup>

#### Article 12

##### *Herd register*

Keepers of livestock are responsible for recording information about all animals in their herds in either a dedicated herd book or a centralised database, where such exists, or, failing this, on a reporting form provided by the Farmers' Association of Iceland and approved by the Food and Veterinary Authority. The Food and Veterinary Authority is to formulate and issue rules on the transfer of information from herd books to a centralised database; on access to that information; on recording procedures, etc. The Authority is to monitor the recording of information in the system.

The following information on sheep, goats and cattle must be entered into an electronic herd register:

- a. The animal's individual number;
  - b. The date of birth (month and year);
  - c. The selective number, where this exists;
  - d. The sex of the animal;
  - e. The breed of the animal;
  - f. The individual number of the mother;
  - g. The date of slaughter or, as appropriate, the date on which the animal is accidentally killed or lost;
  - h. All introductions and removals of animals for rearing to or from the herd, whether permanent or temporary, with the exception of [sheep] driven or transported to mountain pastures;
- In addition:
- i. The name, address and holding or homestead number of both the dispatching and the receiving keeper;
  - ii. The number of animals transported or sold;
  - iii. The individual number of any animal transported or sold;
- i. The date of transport;
  - j. Tags received.

The following information on pigs must be entered into an electronic herd register:

- a. The individual number;
- b. The date of birth (month and year);

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation No 748/2016.