



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Changes to bovine identification, registration, and movement in England: consultation document

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We are responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy, sustaining thriving rural communities, and supporting our world-class food, farming, and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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About this consultation

This consultation is open to the public. We are particularly interested to hear from those who may be directly affected by the proposals, including, but not limited to livestock keepers, farmers, livestock markets, abattoirs, collection centres, fallen stock operators, trade associations, ear tag suppliers, and hauliers, as well as non-governmental organisations with an interest in cattle.

Duration

This consultation will be open for 8 weeks from Thursday 21 September to Wednesday 15 November 2023.

How to respond

We ask that you respond to the consultation questions using the online form, which can be found at Citizen Space at [link](#). However, you may also download the form and send your responses by email or post using the contact details below. If you send your responses by email or post, please include the following information:

1. Would you like your response to be confidential?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. If you answered yes, please provide your reason:
2. What is your name?
3. What is your organisation?
4. Which of the following best describes you, your holding, or organisation?
 - a. Beef suckler herd
 - b. Beef rearer or finisher
 - c. Dairy herd
 - d. Mixed herd
 - e. Non-commercial herd
 - f. Market
 - g. Abattoir
 - h. Fallen stock
 - i. Trade association
 - j. Commercial Haulier
 - k. Ear tag supplier
 - l. Other (please specify)

5. Keepers: how many cattle do you usually have on your holding at any given time?
 - a. 0
 - b. 1-20
 - c. 21-100
 - d. 101-300
 - e. 301-500
 - f. 501-1000
 - g. 1000+

6. Markets, abattoirs, hauliers, collection centres, and fallen stock operators: what is your approximate cattle throughput in a month?

7. What other livestock species are you involved with?

8. How would you describe your internet connectivity around your holding/place of business?
 - a. Reliable across the site
 - b. Reliable in the office or farmhouse
 - c. Unreliable coverage across the site
 - d. Unreliable in the office or farmhouse
 - e. No coverage across site

9. How do you report most cattle movements on and off your holding to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS)?
 - a. Digitally or online
 - b. Telephone
 - c. Post
 - d. Not applicable

10. What do you think about the current system for identifying cattle, including how you record and report births, movements, and deaths?

Contact information

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Executive summary

An effective cattle¹ traceability system is essential to control the spread of infectious diseases. Failure to do so can have a devastating impact on the economy, international trade, and public health. The Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2001 resulted in over 6 million cattle and sheep being culled and was estimated to have cost the UK economy £8 billion².

When we can identify and trace cattle to a location, we have a better chance of tackling disease outbreak. The accuracy of traceability data and the speed with which it becomes available is critical to reduce the impact of disease.

The current Cattle Tracing System (CTS) was introduced in 1998 – towards the end of the BSE epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s. This was a time when only 9% of households had an internet connection. The processes CTS relied on were based on information and documents being sent by post and processed manually. Whilst CTS remains effective, it is unable to accommodate further development.

We need a new, modern system that can meet the needs of today and gives confidence to consumers, and the international community with whom we trade. The government's ambition is to achieve a world-leading Livestock Information Service (LIS) while simplifying legislation and supporting new technology. This will allow disease to be identified and controlled more effectively.

Working with industry, we aim to put new processes in place to improve the quality of cattle traceability data and speed at which it is captured. We are aiming to reduce the administrative burden for keepers, livestock markets, and abattoirs where possible. When bovine electronic identification is introduced, keepers will be able to scan a beast's ear tag to access its digital record, make changes, and report births, movements, and deaths. Our aim is for the digital record to be the single source of truth for all data relating to each beast, so that keepers no longer have to maintain a separate on-farm holding register or manually update passports. Markets and abattoirs will be able to process electronically identified animals far more quickly without need to cross-reference, or manually update passports. We will be working closely with stakeholders across all parts of the industry to plan the transition to a fully digital service at a pace that suits industry needs.

We aim to adopt a fair and proportionate approach to ensuring cattle are appropriately registered and identified, and their movements recorded accurately and on time. We will support keepers to supply the correct information to government and intend to give keepers opportunity to correct errors where appropriate before any formal action is taken.

We are consulting on proposals designed to achieve these aims. The responses to this 8-week consultation will inform policy and service design as well as future legislation. The

¹ For the purposes of this consultation, "cattle" or "beast" includes bovine species *Bison Bison* (bison) and *Bubalus Bubalis* (buffalo). For ease, they will be collectively referred to as "cattle" throughout this document.

² National Audit Office (2002) [The 2001 Outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease](#).

proposals relate to England only, but are aligned with Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland wherever possible.

We have engaged extensively with partners and industry leaders via the Traceability Design User Group (TDUG). The Traceability Design User Group is a joint industry-government group within the Livestock Information Transformation Programme. We now seek the views of the wider cattle industry and public. This will ensure we capture areas of interest and concern from those who will be affected and will enable these views to influence on-going policy development, service design, legislation, and practical application.

Introduction

Total livestock output in 2022 for the UK was £19.3 billion: the largest contribution was milk with a value of £6,655 million and second largest was beef £3,758 million.³ The existing Cattle Tracing System has become outdated, and England needs to introduce a new IT service to facilitate cattle traceability. This will bring England in line with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who have, or will be introducing updated systems of their own.

The government's aim is to introduce a new, modern multi-species, Livestock Information Service (LIS) that protects public and animal health, maintains consumer confidence, and delivers more focussed support for the livestock industry. LIS has already introduced a new traceability database for sheep, goats, and commercial deer. Cattle is the next species that will receive a new traceability database. This will be supported by Bovine Electronic Identification (BeID) as the means to identify cattle, removing the need to hold paper documents and reducing the possibility of making mistakes when physically writing the unique ID numbers of cattle. Using digital records will reduce the time and effort required when registering animals and reporting movements and deaths. Once all animals have BeID, there will no longer be a need for anyone to have to locate and match paper passports with the corresponding animal, also saving time and speeding up processes.

Today's digital connectivity and technology have changed the way information can be reported and how records can be kept. The proposals listed below will aim to reduce the administrative burden on keepers and businesses and improve our ability to control disease outbreak through faster access to data. They will encourage cattle keepers to do what is required of them with a system that is supportive, fair, and proportionate.

We will publish the results of the consultation and follow this with a comprehensive legislative package with clear new guidance.

³ DEFRA (2023) *Total income from farming in the UK in 2022*

The proposals and their benefits

This consultation document outlines the following proposals:

- Simplifying the regulations
- A fairer and more proportionate enforcement system
- Bovine Electronic Identification (BeID)
- Future of holding registers
- Removing passports for cattle fitted with BeID
- Movements:
 - Whole movement reporting
 - An option to reporting movements in advance (pre-notification)
 - An option to provide transportation details
- Paperless processes
- Late registration of calves

The benefits of these proposals are outlined below.

Benefits of proposed changes

Simplifying the regulations

We want to simplify current cattle identification regulations in terms of wording, layout, and reducing their number from thirteen to one piece of regulation. This will help everyone in the industry understand what is required and ensure we can identify and trace cattle during a disease outbreak or food safety incident.

A fairer and more proportionate system

We want to introduce a more proportionate system of enforcement so that keepers will not be penalised for many genuine mistakes if they are corrected. We will offer support for those who need it – we want to help keepers get it right.

Bovine Electronic Identification

We want to introduce Bovine Electronic Identification (BeID) as a replacement for a traditional ear tag. When used with appropriate equipment, this will reduce errors in the reading and writing of ID numbers and improve the quality of cattle data. It will also promote safer handling of cattle and promote potential improvements to farm productivity and animal husbandry.

Future of holding registers

The new multispecies database that is being built to replace the Cattle Tracing System will allow keepers to access the digital record of a beast, herd, and holding. A separate on-farm holding register will no longer be required because all information will be held on the database. This will lessen duplication of data and reduce administrative burdens. Keepers can still choose to keep their own holding register if they wish.

Removing passports for cattle fitted with BeID

Subject to a suitable transition period, keepers will no longer have to keep, locate, and manually update paper cattle passports for electronically identified cattle. This will save time and administrative costs to industry.

Changes to movement reporting

Recording the sending and receiving destination (whole movement reporting), voluntary pre-notification, and voluntary haulier details will improve the ability to trace cattle during an animal disease outbreak and provide a valuable tool for disease control and eradication. Pre-notification provides keepers greater flexibility on reporting times to accommodate their work schedules. It also supports knowledge-based trading by enabling the receiving keeper to view the animal IDs and any movement restrictions before arrival.

Paperless processes

By implementing Bovine eID, launching a new multispecies database and improving movement reporting, the industry will be able to save time and money by eliminating paper-based procedures and reducing administrative burdens. As a result, reporting times will be faster, and traceability will be strengthened as we move closer to achieving real-time traceability for better disease control, our ultimate goal.

Late registration of calves

A review of the late registration of calves process will further support our move towards a fairer and more proportionate system. Gathering industry comments provides an opportunity to design a policy which is fit for purpose while offering greater flexibility when genuine mistakes have occurred.

Simplifying the regulations

We recognise that current regulations are overly complex and lack clarity in some areas. Some terms used are poorly defined or not consistent with definitions used in other, related areas of the law. The [Cattle Identification Regulations 2007](#) (hereafter referred to as, ‘the

current regulations,') set out numerous offences and deadlines by which, various actions need to be taken. Please see annexes A and B.

Cattle traceability relies heavily on reading, writing, or typing the long unique ID numbers that identify cattle. Current regulations make little allowance for human error or circumstances that might affect compliance, nor do they allow any opportunity to explain or give reasons if an offence is identified. A keeper might breach regulations for a variety of reasons, the majority being unintentional. If mistakes or errors are identified, we propose a fairer, more proportional approach to address and correct them.

We propose to simplify the regulations – bringing the current regulations and twelve pieces of retained EU legislation into one set of comprehensive regulations. We will use clear language to make sure keepers know exactly what they are expected to do, and when. We will reduce the number of offences and deadlines, while ensuring those who intentionally fail to do what is required can expect to be dealt with robustly.

11. Consultation Question: What do you think about proposals to streamline and simplify regulations and deadlines?

A fairer and more proportionate system

In addition to simplifying the regulations, we want a more supportive approach to help keepers supply government with good traceability data. We propose to introduce a system that will give keepers, where appropriate, the opportunity to correct any mistakes.

We know that most of the cattle industry want clear information about what they need to do and when. We do not think that busy people should be punished for making genuine mistakes, which is why no further action will be taken if keepers take action to correct issues by reasonable deadlines.

We propose a 3-step process to resolve most issues that might be identified.

Step 1: Improvement Notice

The details of the problem and action required to correct are provided to the keeper in writing.

Guidance and support are offered.

If the keeper resolves the problem, no further action is taken.

If the keeper does not resolve the problem within the time given, step 2 applies.

Step 2: Stop Notice

The details of the problem and action required to correct are provided to the keeper in writing.

Additional guidance and support are offered.

If the keeper resolves the problem, no further action is taken.

If the keeper does not resolve the problem.

Step 3: Referral to Local Authority

The keeper is referred to the local authority for consideration of prosecution or the local authority considers prosecution.

We recognise that this process will not be suitable for all issues and the most serious offences (for example, clear cases of fraudulent identification) need to be resolved with immediate, robust action.

Updating the regulations, with field officers offering support and guidance, affords the opportunity for keepers to provide the best possible traceability information. We would like to see site visits as opportunities to support future behaviour rather than simply acting on identified non-compliance.

12. Consultation question: What do you think about proposals that will offer keepers two opportunities to correct most issues that have been identified before further enforcement is considered?

Bovine Electronic Identification

To bring efficiencies to the recording and reporting of cattle and align with other species, we have been exploring the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), more commonly known as, Electronic Identification (eID) tags for the identification of cattle. Two technologies, Low Frequency (LF) and Ultra High Frequency (UHF) could be used for eID. The sheep industry has been using LF technology since 2009. Bovine eID tags have the RFID microchip embedded in the ear tag which will carry the same number printed on the tag and forms the official identification. This is known as WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get).

With suitable infrastructure in place, Bovine Electronic Identification (BeID) can capture identification numbers by scanning the cattle tag. This will allow keepers to amend an animal's digital record or report births, movements, or deaths. This will end the need to keep paper passports and on-farm holding registers and allow faster processing throughout the supply chain. Introducing BeID will bring savings to industry by simplifying administration and processing. Bovine eID can improve health and safety and animal welfare at farms, markets, and abattoirs by potentially reducing the handling of cattle. Some keepers already use a form of BeID as management ear tags to facilitate reading and recording identification numbers and recognise the farm productivity benefits the technology can bring.

We propose tagging all new-born calves with a BeID tag from a set implementation date. This date will be determined following this consultation and guidance will be publicised well in advance to make sure keepers have sufficient time to plan. All calves born after the implementation date of BeID will be tagged in either ear with a BeID tag which can be either a primary or secondary tag and encoded with the WYSIWYG identification number. A reserved colour will be used for BeID tags. Further technical information can be viewed in Annex C.

Proposals to potentially retag the existing herd with BeID tags are under consideration and will be communicated later.

13. Consultation question: What are your views on introducing bovine eID for new-born calves?
14. Consultation question: How long will you need to prepare for the introduction of bovine eID for new-born calves?
15. Consultation question: Is there anything else you want us to be aware of when planning the transition to bovine eID?

Future of holding registers

The current regulations require a cattle keeper to maintain a register at their holding. This 'holding register' is used to record life events of cattle on holdings, such as births, movements 'on' and 'off' the holding, deaths, as well as other information like the identity of a beast's mother – its dam (in the case of embryo transfer, the surrogate dam, or if known, genetic dam), and when an ear tag is replaced. The holding register currently must be kept for ten years in the case of a farm, and three years for other holdings such as livestock markets and abattoirs.

At the moment, keepers must update the 'holding register' and record required pieces of information within certain deadlines. Much of this information must also be reported to the British Cattle Movement Service who maintain the cattle traceability database, Cattle Tracing System (CTS). The information stored in the 'holding register' is largely duplicated on CTS.

As part of the Livestock Information Transformation Programme, CTS will be replaced with a new database – part of the Livestock Information Service (LIS). This will be able to fulfil the functions of both CTS and the holding register. There is an opportunity to remove the requirement on keepers to maintain an on-farm holding register. The new database will hold all records and will replace on-farm records with on-line reporting to the new database. This would include an ability for the keeper to amend or correct records in certain circumstances.

Keepers can continue to maintain their own records if they choose to do so, for their own reference, but it will be the digital record held on the new database that will be relied on as the source of data for official purposes.

16. Consultation question: What are your views on using the new database as your record of cattle on your holding?

Removing passports for cattle fitted with BeID

A paper cattle passport holds key information about an individual beast and must be updated with details of all movements throughout its life. Passports are linked to a specific beast by a unique identification number, which matches that found on the beast's ear tags.

Paper cattle passports have been a vital tool in providing and confirming the identity of cattle. They have helped monitor and control disease, including Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). They also include barcodes that can be scanned by markets, abattoirs, and keepers to speed up processing.

We know it can be time consuming to find passports and add the required information when cattle are moved or die, especially because the same information must be recorded in a holding register and reported to BCMS. This digital record of key information will be stored on the new Livestock Information Service and can be accessed in close to real time by anyone authorised to do so. There will be no need to keep physical passports for electronically identified cattle.

Subject to a suitable transition period, we propose to end the need to maintain cattle passports for beasts fitted with BeID. Passports would still be needed for beasts not fitted with BeID but would be phased out over time. To facilitate the transition away from paper passports we will be looking into the possibility of making the digital record printable.

17. Consultation question: What are your views on removing cattle passports for beasts fitted with BeID?

18. Consultation question: What are your views on using a digital record on the multi-species database?

Movements and reporting

It is essential for the Chief Veterinary Officer and Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to have the most complete and up to date information about the identity and movements of cattle as possible. This allows them to intervene and deploy resources effectively in the event of disease outbreak and minimise the harm caused. Quick and accurate reporting of cattle movements is crucial.

Under current regulations, keepers are responsible for recording and reporting when cattle arrive on or move off their holding. There is no responsibility to include information in the movement report about where cattle have come *from*, or where they are being moved *to*. Because keepers have three days within which movements must be reported, the location of cattle can be completely unknown to BCMS during this time.

Also, if 'off' and 'on' moves do not match, the location of a beast is unclear and the problem needs to be solved by BCMS, who might have to contact the keepers involved to find out where it is. This adds more time to the process and results in unnecessary risk in the event of disease outbreak.

Whole movement reporting

The new Livestock Information Service database will enable keepers to record whole movements, with both starting location and end destination. This will provide the Chief Veterinary Officer and APHA with better information about the national herd and tackle disease outbreak more effectively.

The sending keeper will report the whole move to the new database, including point of departure and destination County Parish Holding (CPH) numbers, individual ID numbers, and date of movement. The system will be designed so that this will be quick and simple to do, and with the removal of passports and holding registers the amount of administrative work will be far less than is required today.

When cattle arrive at their destination, the receiving keeper will check the details and confirm the move has taken place. If there are any issues, the receiving keeper will have opportunity to amend, query, or decline the movement report.

19. Consultation question: What are your views on whole movement reporting for cattle?

An option to report moves in advance

The new Livestock Information Service will also give keepers an option to provide the information about cattle movements in advance if they wish to do so. This *pre-notification reporting* will enable the sending keeper to voluntarily report planned future moves for cattle, all of which must be identified individually, and by providing all required movement details.

The sending keeper will be able to amend any details on the report or cancel the move altogether until the cattle have left their holding. They must then access LIS to confirm the movement, which will be quick and easy to do. The receiving keeper would then confirm the movement report. If the information provided by the sending keeper is correct, then the receiving keeper would simply press a button to confirm the correctness of the movement.

Step 1: Before the move

The sending keeper plans to move cattle on a specific date.

They pre-notify the move, by updating the database including the planned date of movement, destination CPH and cattle ID numbers.

Step 2: Sending keeper confirmation

The sending keeper makes any necessary changes to the movement pre-notification.

They then confirm the details on the database are correct once the cattle have left their holding.

Step 3: Receiving keeper confirmation

The receiving keeper checks cattle delivered.

If everything matches the movement report, they accept on the database and the movement is confirmed.

If there is a mismatch, the receiving keeper amends the movement report and the system notifies the sending keeper to check.

The option to pre-notify movements on the database would let keepers provide details of planned moves at a time that suits them. We recognise the need for flexibility and want the service to fit around differing work schedules. This will support near real-time reporting when cattle leave a holding. We know that this might not appeal to everyone equally, which is why we would make pre-notification voluntary.

20. Consultation question: What are your views on voluntary pre-notification of movements?

An option to provide transportation details

We propose to give keepers the option to report additional information about the haulier and the registration number of the vehicle used to transport the cattle when making a movement report.

During disease outbreak, this information would assist to trace cattle quicker and identify animals that may have been in the same vehicle. It would also help us learn more about how diseases are spread and inform how we tackle future incidents.

We propose to make including transportation details in movement reports both voluntary and quick and simple to do.

21. Consultation question: What are your views on providing a haulier name and the registration number of the vehicle cattle were transported in?

Paperless processes

Our ambition is to deliver a modern service with easy to access digital records and straightforward ways to report births, movements, and deaths online. We know that close to 99% of reports of births, movements, and deaths of cattle are already made electronically via the website CTS Online or via third-party software. We want to make online reporting as quick and easy as possible, which will save time for keepers and allow traceability data to be accessed and used quicker during a disease outbreak. Reporting by post slows the capture of this vital information and might result in delays in taking action during a disease outbreak.

We propose that digital reporting be the primary method of communicating births, movements, and deaths to the new database, and that correspondence between keepers and the Livestock Information Service will be digital rather than by written correspondence. We understand that there may be exceptional circumstances where some people may not be able to report and communicate digitally and so there will be assisted digital support.

22. Consultation question: What are your views on making digital reporting the primary method for reporting births, movements, and deaths of cattle?

Late registration of calves

Currently, if a keeper fails to register the birth of a new-born calf by the day the calf is 27 days old for cattle and buffalo, and 7 days for bison, and/or if there is doubt as to the identity of the calf and who is its dam, then a CPP 35 Notice of Registration rather than a passport may be issued. Without a passport, the beast is unable to be moved, except with a movement licence, nor enter the food chain. This can often render a beast without a passport of lower monetary value.

23. Consultation Question: What are your views on allowing a keeper who has failed to register a calf within deadlines to register it late provided its identity and traceability are assured, subject to an administrative fee?

Annex A: Proposals for future offences

On page 10 in the consultation, we explained that we had listened to feedback from keepers and intended to reduce the number of offences in the new regulations and to take a more supportive approach to helping them give us accurate data.

Your views are sought on our proposals, bearing in mind that we will be transitioning to a fully digital service over a period of time which will mean that many of the paper-related offences we propose to initially retain will become redundant over time.

We have grouped the 48 existing offences into three categories:

1. Remove	A current offence we do not intend to keep, including those which we will cover in guidance only
2. Reduce	A current offence that we intend to streamline with other related offences
3. Maintain	A current offence where we intend to include similar provisions in our new regulations. However, this also includes a group of offences which will fall away once we have moved to a fully digital service.

1. Remove

Number	Type	Summary of offence	Reason for proposed removal
1	ID	Offence for unused ear tags not to be stored in a secure place.	Guidance will be issued
2	Passport	An officer of the SoS or a local authority may serve a notice on a keeper requiring him to surrender a passport, offence to fail to abide by that notice.	Not necessary
3	Passport	Offence for not following lost, stolen, found passport procedures.	Guidance will be issued
4	Passport	For an animal with a cattle passport which is lost or stolen, it is an offence for the keeper not to send the cattle passport to the SoS...	Guidance will be issued

2. Reduce

Number	Type	Summary of offence	How we intend to reduce
5	Registration	Offence for an occupier of a holding who begins to keep cattle on that holding...to fail to notify the Secretary of State of any change to the information within one month.	Amalgamate into one offence
6	Registration	Offence for an occupier of a holding who begins to keep cattle on that holding...to notify the Secretary of State within one month...	Amalgamate into one offence
7	ID	Offence not to replace missing tags within deadline, for pre/post-1998 beasts and imports.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to correctly identify
8	ID	Offence if an animal born before 1st January 1998 is re-tagged with a different ear tag number to fail to notify Secretary of State...	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to correctly identify
9	ID	Offence to fail to apply ear tags to an animal imported from a third country...	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to correctly identify
10	ID	Offence to miss tagging deadlines.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to correctly identify
11	ID	Offence to alter, obliterate or deface an ear tag...or a temporary mark applied by an inspector.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to correctly identify
12	Holding register	Offence to keep an up-to-date holding register	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to update digital record of holding.
13	Holding register	The register must contain the information set out in Article 8 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000...	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to update digital record of holding.
14	Holding Register	Offence to for any person to fail to comply with Article 7(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 (provision of information).	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to update digital record of holding.
15	Holding register	Offence to fail to retain holding register for stipulated time frame.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to update digital record of holding.

16	Passport	Offence for a keeper not to ensure that the cattle passport is marked with the date of movement and signed it in the appropriate place when cattle are moved off a holding...	Amalgamate into one offence
17	Passport	Offence for the transporter not to give each animal's cattle passport to the new keeper/market operator.	Amalgamate into one offence
18	Passport	Offence for the new keeper/market operator not to ensure that the passport is marked with date of movement, name and address of keeper and holding number...	Amalgamate into one offence
19	Passport	Offence for the market operator not to give passport to the new keeper.	Amalgamate into one offence
20	Passport	Offence for anyone to move the animal off the holding until the passport has been completed	Amalgamate into one offence
21	Passport	Offence not to update passport in the case of cattle with a passport brought into England from outside Great Britain	Amalgamate into one offence
22	Database	Offence for keeper, if cattle are brought in from Member State, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Northern Ireland, if he does not, within 15 days of an animal arriving...	Amalgamate with offence 43.
23	Database	Offence for the keeper, in the case of cattle imported from outside the European Union, not to register an animal within 15 days...	Amalgamate with offence 43.
24	Database	Offence to fail to notify death – dressing at slaughterhouses.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to notify death.
25	Database	Offence to fail to notify death – death elsewhere.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to notify death.
26	Database	Offence to fail to notify death – beast with Notice of Registration.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to notify death.
27	Database	Offence to fail to notify death – slaughterhouses.	Amalgamate into one offence of fail to notify death.
28	Inspector offence	A person who obstructs any person acting in the execution of these Regulations is guilty of offence.	Amalgamate into one offence of Obstruction.
29	Inspector offence	A person, without reasonable cause, fails to give to any person acting in the execution of these regulations any assistance or information...is guilty of offence.	Amalgamate into one offence of Obstruction.

30	Inspector offence	A person furnishes to any person acting in the execution of these Regulations any information that he knows to be false, or misleading is guilty of offence.	Amalgamate into one offence of Obstruction.
31	Inspector offence	Offence to move beast in contravention of licence issued by inspector at market in relation to an unidentified beast.	Amalgamate with offence 45.

3: Retain

Number	Type	Summary of offences	Reason for proposed retention
32	ID	Offence to move beast off a holding incorrectly identified.	Essential for traceability.
33	ID	Offence to remove an ear tag without permission.	Essential for traceability.
34	ID	Offence to apply an ear tag to an animal if it has previously been used to identify a different animal.	Essential for traceability.
35	ID	Offence to apply an ear tag to an animal if the ear tag number has already been used on a different animal.	Essential for traceability.
36	Passport	Offence to use a cattle passport in relation to an animal other than for the animal for which it was granted	Retain for period that any passports remain.
37	Passport	Where cattle are exported to third countries, it is an offence for the keeper not to send the cattle passports to the SoS within seven days	Retain for period that any passports remain.
38	Passport	The operator of a market or other animal gathering commits an offence if any cattle are accepted without a valid cattle passport.	Retain for period that any passports remain.
39	Passport	Offence to alter or deface any information in a cattle passport	Retain for period that any passports remain.
40	Passport	Offence for a keeper not to retain the cattle passport for each animal...	Retain for period that any passports remain.
41	Passport	Offence for anyone transporting cattle must ensure that each animal is accompanied throughout its journey by a valid cattle passport...	Retain for period that any passports remain

42	Database	Offence to fail to register calf within 7 days...	Essential for traceability.
43	Database	Offence to fail to register an animal in accordance with regulations.	Essential for traceability.
44	Database	Offence to fail to notify movement within deadline.	Essential for traceability.
45	Inspectors Offence	Offence to move beast in contravention of licence issued by inspector at market in relation to an unidentified beast	Essential for traceability.
46	Inspectors Offence	A person fails to produce a passport, document or record when required to do so to any person acting under these regulations is guilty of an offence.	Essential for traceability.
47	Inspectors Offence	Any person who provides false information in any notification made under these Regulations is guilty of an offence.	Essential for traceability.
48	Miscell.	Offences bodies corporate	Essential for traceability.

Annex B: Proposals for future deadlines

On page 10 in the consultation, we explained that we had listened to feedback from keepers and intended to simplify what they needed to do and by when in the new regulations and to take a more supportive approach to helping them give us accurate data.

Your views are sought on our proposals, bearing in mind that we will be transitioning to a fully digital service over a period of time which will mean that some of the deadlines we propose to initially retain will become redundant over time.

We have grouped the 30 deadlines into three categories:

1. Remove	A deadline we do not intend to keep, including those which we will cover in guidance only
2. Maintain	A deadline that we propose to maintain to ensure traceability, including those which will fall away once we have moved to a fully digital service
3. Change	A deadline we propose to change to improve traceability

1. Remove

Current deadline	Description of activity	Proposed changes
36 hours	Holding registers must be completed within 36 hours of the movement or ear tag replacement.	Remove, replace with report to database
7 days	If a person who has obtained a replacement cattle passport subsequently finds the original cattle passport, he must notify the Secretary of State within 7 days.	Remove
7 days	If an animal with a cattle passport is lost or stolen, the keeper must send the cattle passport to the Secretary of State within 7 days of becoming aware of the fact.	Remove

7 days	Where cattle are exported to third countries the keeper must send the cattle passports to the Secretary of State within seven days.	Remove
7 days	Holding registers must be completed it in the case of the birth of an animal in a dairy herd, within 7 days of the birth...	Remove, replace with report to database
7 days	Holding registers must be completed it at in the case of the death of an animal, within 7 days of the death...	Remove, replace with report to database
14 days	If an animal born before 1st January 1998 is re-tagged with a different ear tag number, the keeper must, within 14 days of the new ear tag being attached...notify the Secretary of State of the new ear tag number...	Remove
14 days	If a cattle passport is lost, stolen, or destroyed, the keeper of the animal to which it relates must notify the Secretary of State in writing within 14 days of becoming aware of the fact and apply for a replacement.	Remove
28 days	If a keeper of an animal born in Great Britain on or after 1st January 1998 discovers that an ear tag has become illegible or has been lost, he must, within 28 days of the discovery, replace it with another ear tag...	Remove
28 days	If a keeper of an animal born in Great Britain before 1st January 1998 discovers that an ear tag has become illegible or has been lost, he must, within 28 days of the discovery, either re-tag the animal...	Remove
28 days	If an animal born outside Great Britain loses an ear tag the keeper must, within 28 days of discovering that the ear tag has been lost, re-tag it...	Remove
30 days	Holding registers must be completed in the case of the birth of an animal otherwise than in a dairy herd, within 30 days of the birth.	Remove, replace with report to database

2. Maintain

36 hours	Tagging deadlines: in the case of a dairy herd, the keeper must apply one ear tag to the calf within 36 hours of birth (and the second tag within 20 days of birth).	Maintain
36 hours	The new keeper or market operator must ensure that the cattle passport is updated within 36 hours of the arrival of the animal.	Electronically identified cattle require no passport, otherwise maintain
3 days	A keeper must notify the Secretary of State within three days of any movement of cattle on to or off a holding.	Maintain
7 days	When a calf is born its keeper must register it within 7 days from the date it is tagged.	Maintain - one week
7 days	In the case of bison, the time limit for registration is 7 days from the birth of the calf, whether or not the animal has been tagged.	Maintain - one week
7 days	If an animal does not have a cattle passport, the keeper must notify its death to the Secretary of State in writing within seven days.	Electronically identified cattle require no passport, otherwise maintain – one week
7 days	When a calf is born its keeper must register it within 7 days from the date it is tagged (or, in the case of a dairy herd, from the date on which the second ear tag is applied to the animal).	Maintain – one week
Nine months	Tagging deadlines: in the case of bison, the keeper must apply both tags when the calves are separated from their dams or within nine months of the birth, whichever is the sooner.	Maintain
Not specified	If the Secretary of State receives a fully completed and accurate application for the registration of an animal within the specified time limits, he must issue a cattle passport for that animal.	Electronically identified cattle require no passport, otherwise maintain

3. Change

7 days	The occupier of the slaughterhouse must notify the Secretary of State of the death within seven days... [and] by completing the death details in the animal's passport and must return the animal's passport to the Secretary of State within seven days.	3 days to report to database. Electronically identified cattle require no passport, otherwise maintain
7 days	If an animal is slaughtered outside a slaughterhouse but sent to a slaughterhouse for dressing, the keeper must complete the death details in the passport and send it with the animal to the slaughterhouse, and the occupier of the slaughterhouse must notify the death by returning the passport to the Secretary of State within seven days of the death of the animal.	3 days to report to database. Electronically identified cattle require no passport, otherwise maintain
7 days	In any other case, when an animal dies or is killed the keeper must notify the Secretary of State of the death within seven days and must return the animal's passport to the Secretary of State within seven days.	3 days to report to database. Electronically identified cattle require no passport, otherwise maintain
15 days	If cattle are brought in from another Member State, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Northern Ireland, the keeper must, within 15 days of an animal arriving at the holding of destination— (a) register it with the Secretary of State, and (b) surrender its cattle passport (if any) to him.	3 days to report arrival at holding
15 days	In the case of cattle imported from outside the European Union the keeper must register an animal within 15 days from the date that the animal must be tagged in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000.	3 days to report arrival at holding
20 days	Ear tags to be applied to an animal imported from a third country within 20 days of the animal being released from the border inspection post at which	One week

	it was imported, and in any event before the animal leaves the holding of destination, as specified in Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000.	
20 days	Tagging deadlines: in the case of any other herd (other than bison) the keeper must apply both tags within 20 days of birth.	Three weeks
One month	Notification of a holding, one month	Two weeks
One month	Change of details for that holding, one month	Two weeks

Annex C: Bovine eID technical information

To successfully introduce bovine eID, the current numbering string used for cattle identification will need to change to a “What You See Is What You Get” (WYSIWYG) number, which is compliant with the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) standards and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) standards.

To adhere to ISO requirements, the most appropriate configuration of the identification numbering string for bovine animals is either the two-letter alpha country code (GB) or the three-digit numeric country code (826) and a unique code for the animal consisting of a maximum 12 digits. Unlike current cattle tags there will be no check digit.

The new identification number will consist of a 0 prefix, a six-digit herd number, and a five-digit identification number starting at 70000. This numbering string will provide plenty of years before the 30,000 numbers available per holding are used. When a keeper reaches the maximum tag number of 99999, a new herd number will be allocated, and the identification number will restart at 70000.

The numbering format for newborn calves shown on the tag will be:

C	C	S	H	H	H	H	H	H	A	A	A	A	A
G	B	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0	0	0	0

The numbering format held on the EID electronic chip will be:

C	C	C	S	H	H	H	H	H	H	A	A	A	A	A
8	2	6	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	0	0	0	0

(C = Country coder, S = Series number, H = Herd number and A = Animal number)

Tagging requirements

Currently, keepers must identify cattle with a primary tag in one ear and a secondary tag in another ear. This practice will continue when bovine eID is introduced. However, one of the tags must be an official bovine eID tag which will contain an eID

electronic chip encoded with the same individual cattle ID number that is printed on the tag for a visual read. The official eID tag may be inserted in either ear.

Annex D: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)	An executive agency of DEFRA that works to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment, and the economy.
Bovine EID/BeID	Bovine Electronic Identification
BCMS	British Cattle Movement Service
Cattle traceability system	The process by which individual cattle are identified at birth, their movements recorded throughout their life, and death recorded.
Cattle Tracing System (CTS)	The current online database of all bovine animals in England and Wales, which animal keepers use to report births, deaths, and movements of their bovine animals.
County Parish Holding (CPH) Numbers	A unique number, which identifies land and/or building used to keep livestock.
CPP 35 Notice of Registration	A document issued for a bovine when a passport cannot be issued. Bovines issued a CPP 35 are not permitted to leave the holding of their birth while alive without a movement licence from BCMS and must not enter the food chain under any circumstances.
Digital record	A record of statutory and other data relating to an individual bovine, accessible online and capable of being updated in close to real time.
Fallen Stock Operator	A business licenced to collect and dispose of the carcasses of any animals that have died or have been killed/culled on a holding for any purpose other than human consumption.
Field Officers	Rural Payments Agency officials
Genetic Dam	The genetic female parent of a calf
Haulier	A person or business who transports bovines.
Holding register	A record of all births, movements, and deaths of bovines on a specific holding, to be maintained by keepers. This record may be digital, or paper based.
ICAR	International Committee for Animal Recording
ISO standard	Globally recognised standards set by the International Organisation for Standardisation.
Knowledge Based Trading	Trading of livestock that is enhanced by the provision of information (animal ID information and details of restrictions)

LF	Low Frequency radio identification
Livestock Information Service (LIS)	The IT platform that delivers traceability data for sheep, goats, and commercial deer, with cattle to be added.
Livestock Information Transformation Programme	A partnership between government and industry to design and implement a multispecies, digital traceability system in England, initially for sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, and deer.
Primary ear tag	A legally required official ear tag that carries a unique identifying number for an individual bovine animal.
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification
Secretary of State	Government Appointed Cabinet Minister with responsibility for Cattle ID and Traceability in England
Surrogate Dam	Cow impregnated using in vitro fertilisation
The Current Regulations	Cattle Identification Regulations 2007, as amended.
Traceability Design User Group (TDUG)	An independent group of 25 industry and government stakeholders.
UHF	Ultra-High Frequency radio identification

Annex E: Consultation questions

Number	Consultation Question
1	<p>Would you like your response to be confidential?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No c. If you answered yes, please provide your reason:
2	<p>What is your name?</p>
3	<p>What is your organisation?</p>
4	<p>Which of the following best describes you, your holding, or organisation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Beef suckler herd b. Beef rearer or finisher c. Dairy herd d. Mixed herd e. Non-commercial herd f. Market g. Abattoir h. Fallen stock i. Trade association j. Commercial Haulier k. Ear tag supplier l. Other (please specify)
5	<p>Keepers: how many cattle do you usually have on your holding at any given time?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 0 b. 1-20 c. 21-100 d. 101-300 e. 301-500 f. 501-1000 g. 1000+
6	<p>Markets, abattoirs, hauliers, collection centres, and fallen stock operators: what is your approximate cattle throughput in a month?</p>
7	<p>What other livestock species are you involved with?</p>
8	<p>How would you describe your internet connectivity around your holding/place of business?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reliable across the site b. Reliable in the office or farmhouse

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Unreliable coverage across the site d. Unreliable in the office or farmhouse e. No coverage across site
9	<p>How do you report most cattle movements on and off your holding to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Digitally or online b. Telephone c. Post d. Not applicable
10	What do you think about the current system for identifying cattle, including how you record and report births, movements, and deaths?
11	What do you think about proposals to streamline and simplify regulations and deadlines?
12	What do you think about proposals that will offer keepers two opportunities to correct most issues that have been identified before further enforcement is considered?
13	What are your views on introducing bovine eID for new-born calves?
14	How long will you need to prepare for the introduction of bovine eID for new-born calves?
15	Is there anything else you want us to be aware of when planning the transition to bovine eID?
16	What are your views on using the new database as your record of cattle on your holding?
17	What are your views on removing cattle passports for beasts fitted with BeID?
18	What are your views on using a digital record on the multi-species database?
19	What are your views on whole movement reporting for cattle?
20	What are your views on voluntary pre-notification of movements?
21	What are your views on providing a haulier name and the registration number of the vehicle cattle were transported in?
22	What are your views on making digital reporting the primary method for reporting births, movements, and deaths of cattle?
23	What are your views on allowing a keeper who has failed to register a calf within deadlines to register it late provided its identity and traceability are assured, subject to an administrative fee?