

# Livestock Matters

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**A series of newsletters/bulletins to the farming community**

**In this edition.....**



**Animal Identification**

## Pigs, Sheep & Goats (small livestock)

For the new slaughterhouse to obtain a licence all animals that may enter it for human consumption must be identified to ensure traceability. New legislation which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 requires these species to be identified

### Small Livestock (pigs, sheep & goats) which are 'pets' born before the new legislation

There is no requirement to identify animals born before the introduction of the regulation as long as they are not:

- Slaughtered for human consumption
- Sold, gifted, or exported
- Moved to a new keeper or premises from the place where they are normally kept

This provision means that existing small livestock which are pets and do not leave the owner or keeper's premises do not require identification. Ultimately when they become fallen stock they can be directly transported for incineration without the need for identification. At some point in the future there may be a requirement to take samples of the brain stem from sheep and goats which are fallen stock over 18 months (O18M) as part of on-going 'scrapie' (transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE)) surveillance.

### All Small Livestock born after the legislation

All small livestock born after the introduction of the animal identification legislation will have to be identified. Animal identifiers for sheep and goats will be ear-tags and for pigs will be ear-tags or 'slap-marks'.

'Slap-marks' are tattoos which are applied to both shoulders of a pig with a 'slap-marker'. A slap-marker looks a little like a paddle and consists of a handle and a frame into which a metal tattoo plate fits. Slap-markers enable producers' numbers to be applied as tattoos quickly from a distance to the skin on the shoulders of pigs over 10 weeks of age for slaughter. Only fully synthetic food grade slapper tattoo ink must be used. It doesn't matter if the pigs have pigmented skin because the tattoo is clearly visible once the pig emerges from the scald tank.



[www.suppliesforsmallholders.co.uk](http://www.suppliesforsmallholders.co.uk)

slap-marker with a unique producer tattoo plate - approx. £75

There is no need to have the Guernsey coat of arms on identifiers because these small livestock species have smaller ear-tags which have less space. Defra has provided the Department with different first three digits for each species which indicates they originate from Guernsey. So identifiers will commence with the following for each of the small livestock species:

- Sheep: UK157
- Goats: UK158
- Pigs: UK159

Whether you own or keep one animal as a pet or for commercial production you must be registered with Farm Services and you will be issued with a 'producer number'. The producer number for small livestock producers is 3 digits long (unlike the four digit producer numbers for dairy farmers) and will be used to identify you as the origin of the animals.

If then you produced sheep and pigs and you were allocated the producer number '234' then your sheep and goats ear-tags would start as follows:

Sheep: UK157234  
Goats: UK158234

The age at which small livestock born on your premises must be identified is generally before they are 6 months of age. However they must be individually identified, known as 'fully identified', before they permanently leave your premises (the place where it was born or is normally kept) as a consequence of being sold, gifted, exported or slaughtered.

### **Small Livestock less than 12 months of age for meat production**

A producer must identify all of their animals that they own by the time they are 6 months of age. If the animals are going to be slaughtered before they are 12 months of age they only need to meet reduced requirements for identification.

It is not necessary to fully identify an animal as an individual if it is to be slaughtered before it is 12 months old; it is only necessary to identify it as originating from you as a producer.

This is the situation for small livestock that are born with and remain with the producer and will be under 12 months of age when they are slaughtered. This is the most likely scenario for the majority of small livestock.

### **Lambs (sheep under 12 months of age which do not have any permanent incisor teeth in wear)**

So for a batch of lambs going to slaughter under a year of age from producer '234' it is sufficient for all of the lambs to have just one ear-tag which carries 'UK157234' as their identification. These are known as 'slaughter tags'.

Slaughter ear-tags



[www.fearing.co.uk](http://www.fearing.co.uk)

**Porkers** (pigs about 6 months old and 60kg live weight)  
**Baconers** (pigs about 8 to 10 months old and 80 to 100kg live weight)

Pigs over 6 months of age but less than 12 months of age going to slaughter can be identified in one of two ways; either with a slaughter tag or a slaughter slap-mark. Pigs for slaughter less than 12 months of age from producer number '234' would be identified as follows depending on whether they had slaughter tags or slap-marks:

- Slaughter tag: UK159234 (single ear-tag)
- Slap-mark: 159234 (double slap-mark, one on each shoulder)

With slap-marks it is not necessary to have the prefix UK because the tattoo plate can only accommodate a maximum of 7 numbers or letters. In the UK most finished pigs (~99%) are slap marked with a tattooed number on both shoulders.

The characters on tattoo plates come in two sizes; 10mm high and 15mm high. It is possible and acceptable to slap mark pigs as young as 10 weeks of age with 10mm slap marks. Pigs can be slap marked at this age and the tattoo marks grow with the pig. Pigs tattooed at 10 weeks of age with a 10mm tattoo will have tattoo characters that are 15mm tall when they reach slaughter weight.



[www.5mretail.com](http://www.5mretail.com)

### Suckling pigs

Occasionally a producer sends young pigs to slaughter to produce 'suckling pigs'. A true suckling pig is not weaned and they are generally between 2 and 6 weeks of age. Suckling pigs under 10 weeks of age must be identified with a single slaughter tag or a single slaughter ear tattoo but not a slaughter slap mark.



[www.thetags4u.com](http://www.thetags4u.com)

Ear tattoo forceps which can accommodate up to seven 4mm high characters. Useful to tattoo piglets from new born to 3 days of age. (approx. £36)

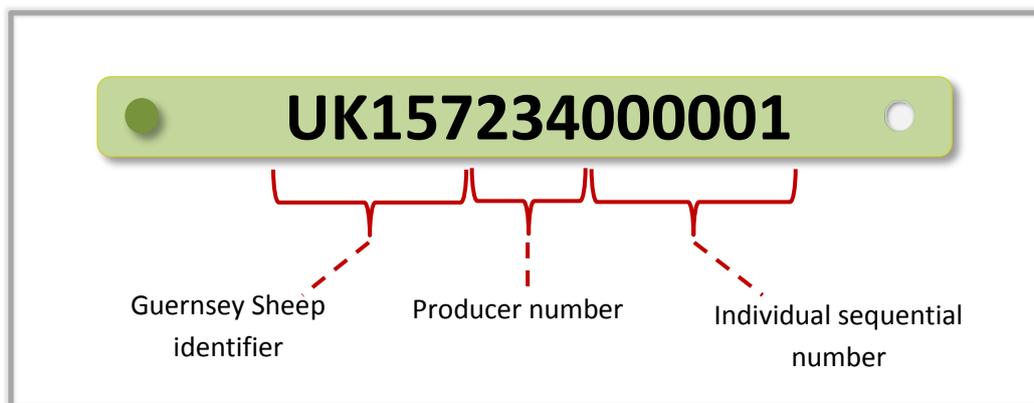
## Small Livestock over 12 months of age

Once small livestock are over 12 months of age they must be 'fully identified'.

Most livestock keepers will have decided which animals they want to keep as breeding stock, which animals they want to sell and which animals they are going to send to slaughter before they are 6 months of age. Where a keeper knows that they are going to keep an animal as breeding stock or to sell as a live animal they should fully identify from an early age.

If a keeper has an animal that to start with they were going to send for slaughter and therefore identified it with slaughter tags, or tattoos on the case of pigs, but then later change their mind and wanted to keep it for breeding they must remove the slaughter tag and replace them with full identification. In the case of a tattooed pig which is to be kept for breeding it is simply a case of fully identifying them with double ear tags.

In addition to the Guernsey species identifying numbers and the producer number, a fully identified animal will have six sequential numbers unique to that individual. So if producer number '234' decided that they were going to keep their first lamb born after the legislation its full identification would be 'UK157234000001'. It would have to have two ear tags with this number on, one in each ear before it was 6 months old. If producer '234' decided to keep a second lamb for breeding its full identification would be 'UK158234000002'.



At the end of their productive life small livestock which are fully identified can be slaughtered for human consumption if they meet the necessary requirements. They are submitted for slaughter with their existing ear-tags which fully identify them.

If fully identified small livestock become fallen stock Farm Services would be grateful if you informed them. This information is cross-checked and corroborated by the licenced slaughter-man / knacker-man. If small livestock become 'fallen stock' and are cremated by the GSPCA Farm Services would be grateful if you informed them.

## Keeping the Database up to date

When people become livestock keepers they must register with Farm Services and they will be issued with a producer number. When they acquire livestock they must inform Farm Services and because the livestock has come from another producer, within or outside of the Bailiwick, it will already carry full identification of the original producer. This original full identification must stay with the animal for the rest of its life even though it has moved to another producer.

If livestock moves from the original producer to a second producer for finishing before slaughter it must be fully identified, slaughter tags are not adequate. This is because it has moved producers and this is a trigger for full identification.

Producers must inform Farm Services when their animals give birth to young. Producer registration with Farm Services and database updates are all free of charge.

Producers must inform Farm Services if an animal loses an ear-tag. Once a producer has noticed that one of their animals has lost an ear-tag they must replace it within 14 days.

### Identifiers

Producers are responsible for purchasing their own ear-tags, ear-tag pliers / applicators, slap markers and fully synthetic food grade slapper tattoo ink. All ear-tagging and slap marking must be carried out in such a manner to ensure animal welfare. Farm Services can provide producers with advice on how to apply ear-tags and slap marks. Alternatively a member of the Farm Services team will apply ear-tag identification for a fee (Farm Services do not apply tattoos).

The style of ear tags can vary but they must be made of plastic and be sufficiently robust to remain with the animal for its life and during the slaughter process. The characters on the identifiers must be of the prescribed alphanumeric description provided by Farm Services.

Pigs can have any colour ear tags (as an alternative to slap marks)

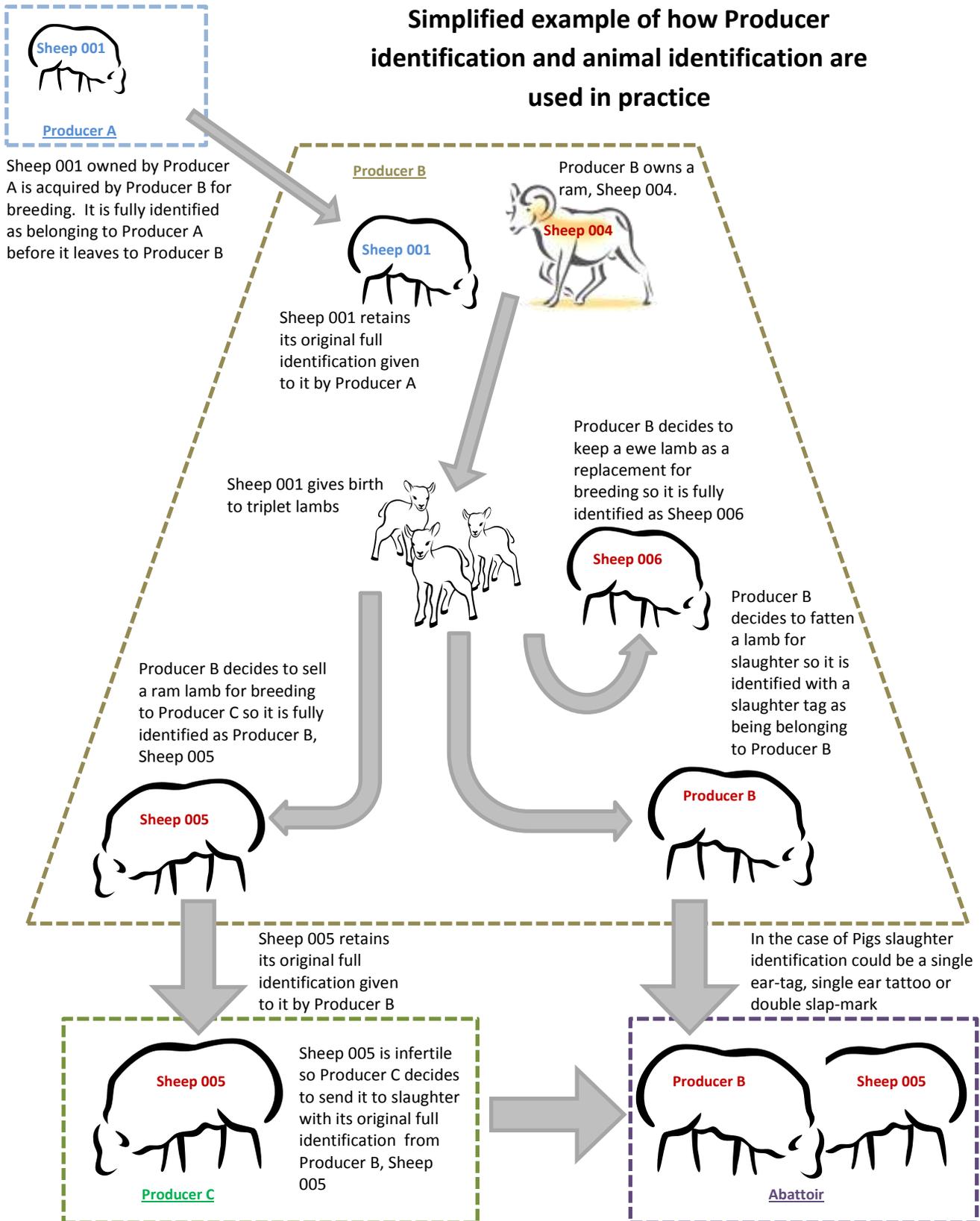
Sheep and Goats can have any colour ear tags **except yellow, black or red.**

**Remember to order some applicators with your tags.**

**Example of some companies which supply tags are:**

Allflex  
Dalton  
Molevalley  
Fearing  
Thetags4U

## Simplified example of how Producer identification and animal identification are used in practice



## aide-mémoire SHEEP & GOATS

SHEEP AND GOATS BORN <u>BEFORE</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014 2013																													
Not identified, and no plans to sell or slaughter	Exempt from tagging, but if you decide to slaughter, permanently move or export animal it must be appropriately identified with ear tags as specified below.																												
Not identified, but you intend to sell / slaughter	Must be identified as specified below for animals born on or after 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014.																												
Already double or single ear tag or tattoo but the number was <u>not</u> allocated by this Department (does not include a producer no.)	No need to retag if animals staying on your holding or becomes fallen stock for incineration. It you decide to slaughter or permanently move the animals it must be identified in accordance with the new law.																												
Already identified by double or single ear tag or tattoo with a number allocated by this Department (includes a producer number)	<p>No need to retag if your ear tag has a sequence of numbers like this</p> <p>Sheep double tags</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>U</td><td>K</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>7</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td> </tr> </table> <p>Goat double tags</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>U</td><td>K</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td> </tr> </table>	U	K	1	5	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	U	K	1	5	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
U	K	1	5	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1																
U	K	1	5	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1																
SHEEP AND GOATS BORN <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014 AND <u>NOT</u> INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER																													
<b>WHEN TO TAG</b>	<b>What Type of Identifier</b>																												
By 6 months of age or before being permanently moved	Double ear tagged with tags bearing a unique number comprising your 'producer number' and an individual sequential number. These are known as <b><i>fully identified animals</i></b> '.																												
SHEEP AND GOATS BORN <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014 AND <u>INTENDED</u> FOR SLAUGHTER BEFORE 12 MONTHS OF AGE																													
<b>WHEN TO TAG</b>	<b>What Type of Identifier</b>																												
By 6 months of age or before slaughter	Must be single ear tagged with a tag bearing your 'producer number'. These are known as <b><i>slaughter tags</i></b> '. <b>If these animals are kept beyond 12 months of age or permanently moved they must be <i>fully identified</i>'.</b>																												
SHEEP AND GOATS BORN <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014 AND <u>INTENDED</u> FOR SALE – PERMANENT MOVEMENT TO ANOTHER PRODUCER																													
<b>WHEN TO TAG</b>	<b>What Type of Identifier</b>																												
Before 6 months of age of before being sold or permanently moved.	Must be double ear tagged with tags bearing a unique number comprising your "producer number" and an individual sequential number. These are known as <b><i>fully identified animals</i></b> '.																												
SHEEP AND GOATS ACQUIRED LOCALLY OR IMPORTED <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014																													
<b>WHEN TO TAG</b>	<b>What Type of Identifier</b>																												
Should already be 'fully identified' correctly with EU approved identification	Must retain their original EU identification, and must be moved, sold or slaughtered with this identification. If identification is lost it must be replaced with the original identification.																												

## aide-mémoire PIGS

PIGS BORN <u>BEFORE</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014																					
Not identified, and no plans to sell or slaughter	Exempt from tagging, but if you decide to slaughter, permanently move or export animal it must be appropriately identified with ear tags as specified below.																				
Not identified, but you intend to sell / slaughter	Must be identified as specified below for animals born on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014.																				
Already double or single ear tag or slap mark but the number was <b>not</b> allocated by this Department (does not include a producer no.)	No need to retag if animals staying on your holding or becomes fallen stock for incineration. If you slaughter or permanently move the animals it must be identified in accordance with the new law.																				
Already identified by double or single ear tag or slap mark with a number allocated by this Department (includes a producer number)	No need to retag if your ear tag has a sequence of numbers like this <table border="1" data-bbox="582 745 1093 824"> <tr> <td>U</td><td>K</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td> </tr> </table> Or a slaughter tattoo like this (slap-mark or ear tattoo) <table border="1" data-bbox="1189 869 1407 947"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td> </tr> </table>	U	K	1	5	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	9	0	0	1
U	K	1	5	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1								
1	5	9	0	0	1																
PIGS BORN <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014 AND <u>NOT</u> INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER																					
WHEN TO TAG	What Type of Identifier																				
By 6 months of age or before being permanently moved	Double ear tagged with tags bearing a unique number comprising your 'producer number' and an individual sequential number. These are known as ' <i>fully identified animals</i> '.																				
PIGS BORN <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014 AND <u>INTENDED</u> FOR SLAUGHTER BEFORE 12 MONTHS OF AGE																					
WHEN TO TATTOO OR TAG	What Type of Identifier																				
By 6 months of age or before slaughter	Must be identified with just your 'producer number' by means of either a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ear-tag (slaughter tag)</li> <li>• Slaughter tattoo (double slap-mark above 10 weeks of age)</li> <li>• Slaughter tattoo (single ear tattoo below 10 weeks of age)</li> </ul> <b>If these animals are kept beyond 12 months of age or permanently moved they must be '<i>fully identified</i>'.</b>																				
PIGS BORN <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014 AND <u>INTENDED</u> FOR SALE – PERMANENT MOVEMENT TO ANOTHER PRODUCER																					
WHEN TO TAG	What Type of Identifier																				
Before 6 months of age or before being sold or permanently moved.	Must be double ear tagged with ear-tags bearing a unique number comprising your 'producer number' and an individual sequential number. These are known as ' <i>fully identified animals</i> '.																				
PIGS ACQUIRED LOCALLY OR IMPORTED <u>ON OR AFTER</u> 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2014																					
WHEN TO TAG	What Type of Identifier																				
Should already be 'fully identified' correctly with EU approved identification	Must retain their original EU identification, and must be moved, sold or slaughtered with this identification. If identification is lost it must be replaced with the original identification.																				



<b>YOU WILL NEED TO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS BY POST, E-MAIL OR TELEPHONE</b>
The acquisition of a pig, sheep or goat
The birth of a pig, sheep or goat
The importation of a pig, sheep or goat
If a pig, sheep or goat should become 'fallen stock' or is slaughtered for human consumption
The loss of an ear tag

<b>GLOSSARY</b>	
<b>Producer</b>	Means the person who is the owner and has a financial interest or otherwise in the animal.
<b>Producer Number</b>	A unique 3 digit numeric number assigned to each owner or keeper. This producer number will be on all your ear tags.
<b>Premises</b>	Means the place or places where the sheep, goats or pigs are kept or handled, generally land under your care and control. More than one producer may share premises.
<b>Movement</b>	A movement means moving the animal to slaughter, permanent movement to another premises not under your general care and control (ie with another flock). It does not include moving the animal between fields which are in your control, or movement for breeding or to attend shows.
<b>Fully identified</b>	Means two ear tags bearing a unique 14 character alphabetic and numeric code  (i.e. UK157001000001).
<b>Slaughter tag</b>	Means a tag bearing just your producer number which will be 8 alphabetic and numeric characters, code (i.e. UK157001).
<b>Pig slaughter tattoos</b>	Means a tattoo bearing just your producer number and the prefix for a Guernsey pig without 'UK' (i.e. 159001)
<b>Approved style and colour</b>	There is a choice of styles of ear tags. See attached sheet. Tags can be any colour for pigs and any colour except red, yellow or black for sheep and goats. <b>You do not need electronic tags.</b> .

## GLOSSARY

**Prescribed alphanumeric characters**

Means the sequence of numbers set by the Department bearing a prefix for sheep, goats or pigs, then your producer number then the unique animal number.

H = 3 digit unique holding reference number for each keeper  
 N = 6 digit unique sequential number for each animal.

**Sheep double tags**

U	K	1	5	7	H	H	H	N	N	N	N	N	N
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**Sheep slaughter tag**

U	K	1	5	7	H	H	H	N
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**Goat double tags**

U	K	1	5	8	H	H	H	N	N	N	N	N	N
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**Goat slaughter tag**

U	K	1	5	8	H	H	H	N
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Pig double tags**

U	K	1	5	9	H	H	H	N	N	N	N	N	N
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**Pig slaughter tag**

U	K	1	5	9	H	H	H	N
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**Pig slaughter tattoos (slap-mark or ear tattoo)**

1	5	9	H	H	H
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Previous editions are available online

<http://www.gov.gg/article/5140/Guernsey-Slaughterhouse>



## Contacts

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Farm Services.	Caroline Creed	234567	<a href="mailto:farmservices@commerce.gov.gg">farmservices@commerce.gov.gg</a>
New Slaughterhouse, Longue Hogue.		213090	
Animal By-Product (ABP) Incinerator, Longue Hogue.		243413	