

# Goats Quick Guide



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

## Rules for identifying goats from 31 December 2009

### Key Points

What to do?	When to do it?
Identify your goats	Before 9 months of age (6 months if normally housed overnight) or before they leave the holding of birth, whichever is sooner.
Replace lost tags	Within 28 days of discovering the lost or unreadable tag.
Complete your herd register	Record date of identification, movement on and off, and death within 7 days; but within 48 hours for movements to a Central Point of Recording or "CPR" (for example, an approved market or meat plant).
Complete movement documents	Movement documents must accompany goats in transit. The buyer must send a copy to DAERA within 7 days, unless the movement is from a market.
Return your Annual Inventory	Complete an inventory between 1 and 5 December each year, and return the result to DAERA by 5 January.

### Identification

- New goats (born after 31 December 2009) Apply two identifiers with matching numbers. An electronic identification (EID) device is not needed but can be applied if you wish.
- Older goats (born before 31 December 2009) If moving on or after 1 June 2010, upgrade to EID by applying two identifiers as above. No cross-reference to old tag numbers is needed. If moving before 1 June 2010, and if one old green tag remains in place, this is sufficient.
- If a tag is lost in a new goat Apply either (i) a specially made tag with the same number, or (ii) your next tag set in sequence and cut out any remaining tag. If not on the holding of birth, apply a red tag set (unless you have registered the details on APHIS-Online). Record the new tag numbers in your herd register, and cross-reference the old and new tags, if required.

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### Identification (cont)

- If a tag is lost in an older goat      If not yet upgraded to two matching tags, and if at least one green tag remains, no action is needed. If no tags remain you must upgrade to two matching tags. However, if the goat had already been upgraded, apply the same retagging rules as for new goats.

### Herd Register

- Keep an up-to-date herd register by recording:
  1. births (date of identification of newborn goats and the tag numbers applied);
  2. movements on and off your holding, (by recording the movement document serial number);
  3. replacement tag details (new tag number, and old tag number, if required);
  4. deaths (including the tag number where possible); and
  5. annual inventory result.

### Movement Documents

- Complete a movement document each time you move goats, including to common grazing not adjacent to your holding.
- If moving to a CPR, you do not need to record tag numbers, but you must retain the CPR tag list.
- If moving to a farm, or premises not approved as a CPR:
  - record tag numbers of goats born after 31 December 2009 (manually or with an EID reader); and
  - record tag numbers of older goats from 1 January 2012, unless they are moving to slaughter.

### Annual Inventory

- You must complete an Annual Inventory for goats and return it to DAERA by 5 January each year.

### Retention of Records

- You must keep your holding register, movement documents and CPR documentation for at least 3 years.
- The goat identification and movement rules are a statutory Cross-Compliance requirement. You may be subject to inspection and non-compliance could lead to a reduction in your Single Farm Payment.