

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. When will the new legislation come into force?

A. 6 April 2007

Q2. Is the legislation GB wide?

A. No, separate but similar Statutory Instruments are being laid in England, Wales and Scotland. There may be some regional variations in the legislation.

Q3. Why is the legislation being amended?

A. Nine statutory instruments (SI), known collectively as the "cattle identification regulations", have been made since 1998 to implement and enforce the European Union (EU) regulations establishing a system of identification and registration for bovine animals. This new SI brings together and updates all the provisions into one clear, concise document.

Q.4 What are the major changes?

A. The two significant changes to current procedures for identifying and tracing cattle are stopping the use of temporary identification/movement documents for calves (also known as temporary calf passports), and for England and Wales enabling late birth registrations to be supported by DNA test evidence for the issue of a passport. Scotland is still considering its position on this option.

Q.5 Who was consulted on these changes?

A. A full public consultation was carried out early last year. Those consulted included key industry and veterinary groups, keepers, markets and slaughterhouses.

Q.6 What is a late cattle passport application?

A. EU law sets a 27 day deadline for receipt of cattle passport applications. Since October 2003 the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) has fully enforced this provision. Applications received more than 27 days after the calves' birth have been refused.

Q.7 Where can we get further details of the DNA test procedures?

A. The final details of the DNA test process are currently being finalised. For more information please contact the British Cattle Movement Service.

Q.8 What guidance is available for keepers?

A. A new version of the BCMS keepers handbook has just been drafted and will be circulated to keepers shortly.

Q.9 Will there be cost implications to keepers?

A. If a DNA test is carried out this will be at the keeper's expense, charges will vary depending on the company.