

ScotEID guidance concerning tags in the 'historic flock'

On the 1st January 2015 sheep with old tags (born or tagged before 1st January 2010) will have to deal with a new set of rules. Farmers have three options.

Option one, which ScotEID recommends in line with industry advice, is to remove old tags and replace with new double tags where one tag is an EID tag.

If you think the sheep was not born on the holding you must use red tags.

When replacing old tags it is essential that you record in your holding register the ID of the old tags, if the tag is missing write 'tag missing', if illegible/unreadable write down 'tag unreadable'.

It is not essential to record the new EID tag number however, you must record that the re-tagging has taken place. (ScotEID recommend that you do record the new EID tag number)

When you sell your older sheep with their new tags they will be sold exactly the same way as your younger sheep, nothing more is required.

This option is also easiest for markets and abattoirs to deal with, as the EID tag automates all their movement and register requirements.

Option two, is leave the old tags in.

ScotEID have been informed that old tags do not need to be recorded in your holding register. However, we recommend that you write a list of sheep with older tags ID's and keep this with your register – just in case.

When you move your sheep direct to slaughter or within a business (where there is no change of ownership) you do not need to record the individual ID's on your movement document.

However, when moving sheep with old tags to a market, or to another holding out with your business, you **must** write all the old ID's on the movement document. As there is no space on the movement document you will need to write the ID's on a paper apart and staple it to the movement document.

After the 1st of January markets will find it very difficult to deal with sheep with historic tags, as they must read and write the old tag ID's on their movement document.

Option three, is to leave the old tags in except when moving to a market.

When moving to a market remove the old tags and replace with new tags – see option 1.

Thank you

Your market will greatly appreciate you using Option 1 or Option 3. It will mean that recording of ID's is fully automated.

ScotEID will greatly appreciate you using Option 1 or Option 3 because we can automatically trace the movement of sheep in the event of any disease outbreak.