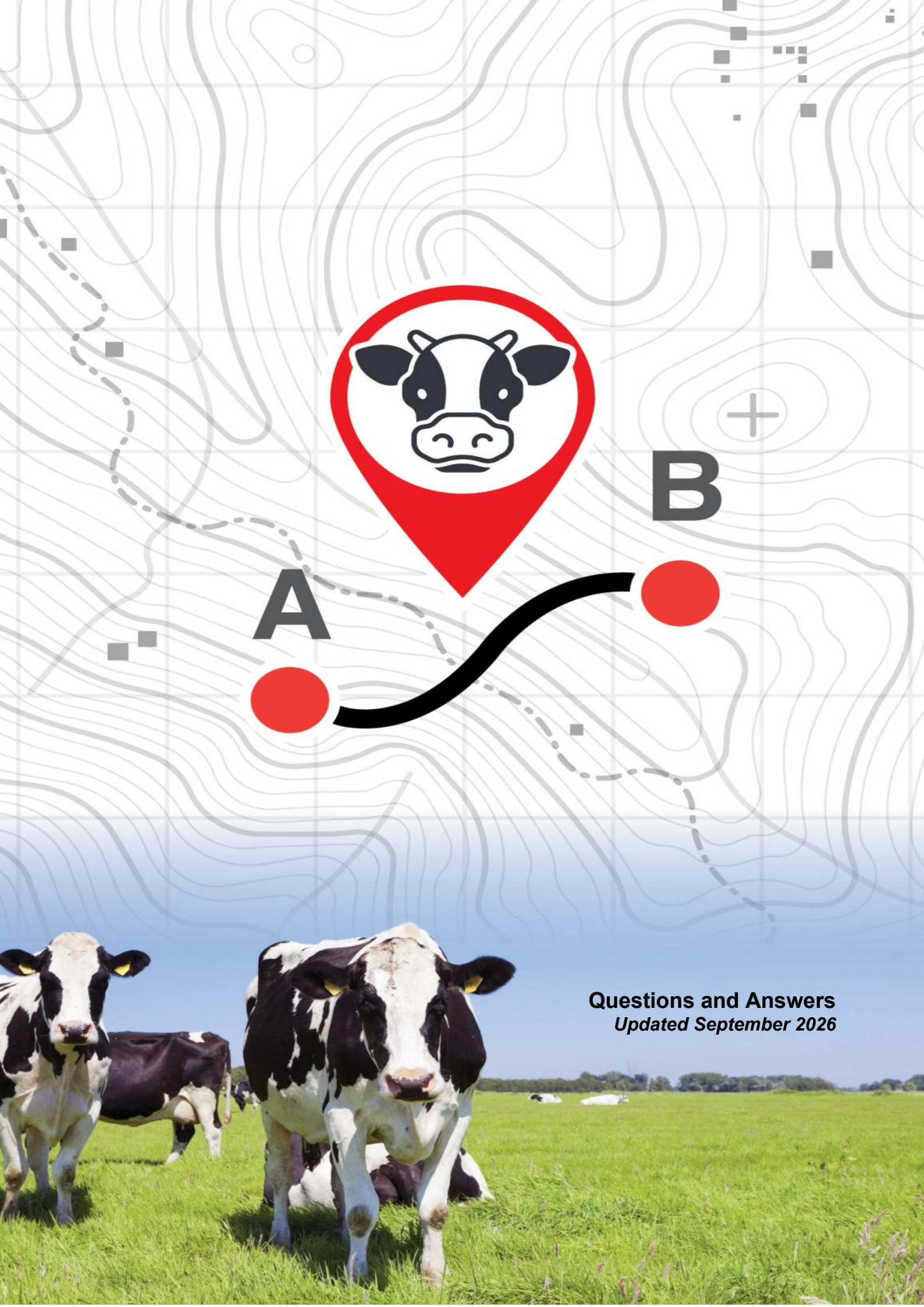




Questions and Answers
Updated September 2026

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ScotMoves

Introduction

The ScotMoves system became operational on 1 January 2017 replacing the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) linked holding system. ScotMoves is an online system that allows you to move cattle within your business without reporting the movements to ScotMoves+.

The ScotMoves system does not require any additional information to be recorded other than the movements you are already recording in your holding register. The only difference is where you record the information.

The ScotMoves system is operated by ScotEID on behalf of the Scottish Government and benefits both cattle keepers and the government in terms of disease control and public health.

You must register with ScotEID to use the ScotMoves system.

General information

1. What are the benefits of using ScotMoves?

- ScotMoves provides you with free access to an online holding register for recording movement information between holdings within your business (subject to the current limitations outlined in Q23). This allows a transitional move towards a complete online holding register.
- ScotMoves movements do not need to be recorded on the cattle passport.
- Passports do not have to accompany the animal when they move to an additional holding, nor do they have to be kept with the animal at the additional holding.
- If any calves are born away from the main holding, you can identify and register them using the main holding herd mark.
- In the event of a disease outbreak, the ScotMoves system will not only be essential in controlling and eradicating disease but would also allow for movement restrictions to be eased more quickly, either at national or regional level.

2. Is the ScotMoves system simple to use?

Yes. ScotMoves allows you to allocate the individual IDs of your cattle across the different holdings that you use, meaning animals are correctly assigned to the relevant holding within your business across multiple locations.

3. Are there any additional recording requirements?

No. ScotMoves makes it easier to record 'within business' cattle movements online, without the need to manually record them in your holding register.

4. Is the use of the ScotMoves mandatory?

No. If you wish you can report all your moves, including those between previously linked holdings, through ScotMoves+ on an individual basis. However, the holding to which the cattle are moved must be registered as a cattle holding with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), and you will need to record these movements in your 'on farm' holding register.

5. What are the alternatives to ScotMoves?

If you do not wish to use ScotMoves, the alternatives are as follows:

- You can report **all** movements through ScotMoves+ (passported move); or
- Where possible, you can amalgamate all land you use on a permanent or long-term basis that falls within the 5-mile CPH rule. To discuss this option, please contact your local RPID office.

6. How do I register for ScotMoves?

To use the system, you must register with ScotEID all additional holdings, in addition to your main holding, that you use for cattle within your business. Additional holdings can be added on by the keeper online, or by contacting ScotEID by phone or email:

ScotEID

7 Deveron Road
Huntly
AB54 8DU

Tel: 01466 794323

Email: help@scoteid.com

7. How long is my registration valid for?

The registration is valid for up to 364 days and you must renew it annually. You can update or amend the registration at any time during this period. Automated reminders will be issued to alert you that your ScotMoves registration is coming to an end and will ask if you wish to renew your registration or set up a new ScotMoves additional holding record.

8. Do I still need to keep a separate on farm holding register?

Yes. The holding register requirements remain. However, you do not need to keep a separate record of any 'within business' movements that you have notified through ScotMoves.

As a reminder, the table below shows the register requirements and the current position regarding where the information must be recorded.

Requirement	On farm holding register or ScotMoves?
Ear tag number	On farm holding register
Date of birth	On farm holding register
Breed	On farm holding register
Sex	On farm holding register
Ear tag number of dam	On farm holding register
Date of death	On farm holding register
Movement details when cattle are moved on to or off your main holding	On farm holding register
Movement details when cattle move between your main and additional holdings	ScotMoves online holding register

If you are subject to an official cattle identification inspection, inspectors will check your entries on the ScotMoves system.

9. What do I use ScotMoves for?

ScotMoves can be used for different reasons, such as summer grazing/grass park lets, away wintering sheds, contiguous land, or where you farm on several holdings either solely or with other keepers on a permanent, long-term or short-term basis.

10. If calves are born away from my main CPH, what do I do?

Calves born on any of the holdings you use should be reported to ScotMoves+. You should use the herdmark of your main holding. Calves born will automatically be assigned to the holding the dam is recorded to when you register the birth.

11. Can I report sheep movements through ScotMoves?

No. The current rules for sheep movements still apply. Sheep movements cannot be reported through ScotMoves.

12. Can I use ScotMoves to report farm-to-farm movements (out with my business, e.g. sales)?

No. Farm-to-farm movements out with your business must be reported to ScotMoves+.

13. Can I use ScotMoves for cross-border movements?

No. Cross-border movements cannot be reported through ScotMoves.

14. Are there distance restrictions within Scotland for ScotMoves?

No. As ScotMoves records the exact location of cattle, it provides full traceability of movements between holdings within your business.

15. Who does the system notify and who has access?

The Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID), Local Authority inspectors, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) all have access to the system.

16. How do I report movements on ScotMoves?

Movements must be notified within 48 hours of the move taking place. They can be entered electronically online or reported to ScotEID by email or telephone.

17. Can a landless keeper use the system?

Yes, however, you are only allowed to register to use additional holdings that have permanent CPHs. You cannot link to other landless keepers.

18. Can an agent report on my behalf?

Yes. The system allows you to use an agent to operate the ScotMoves system on your behalf, but you as the cattle keeper are responsible for movement reporting within your business.

19. Does ScotMoves allow pre-movement notifications?

Yes. ScotMoves allows you to notify a movement in advance of it taking place.

20. Will markets still report movements for me?

Yes, markets will continue to report moves to ScotMoves+ on your behalf to and from your main farm location for all market movements. It is then up to you to notify ScotMoves of

any subsequent movements between holdings within your business. If cattle bought at the mart go directly to your additional holding, then you must either set your default CPH to the additional holding, allocate them there yourself online after the move, or contact ScotEID to do so for you.

Where the market acts as an agent, they can continue to report farm-to-farm movements out with your business, but you are advised to check this with your market.

Abattoirs will continue to report movements to ScotMoves+ on your behalf when you send cattle for slaughter. However, you are advised to confirm this with your abattoir, as it is ultimately your legal responsibility as the keeper to ensure your records are accurate and up to date.

21. I am moving my cattle to a holding that I have not registered as an additional holding on ScotMoves. What do I do?

There is an option to add the additional holding when you start recording the within business move, alternatively go to the Additional Holding details section under the ScotMoves menu to add the new additional holding or please contact ScotEID to help you. Otherwise, you must notify the move to ScotMoves+.

22. Are all cattle eligible to move using ScotMoves?

No, the rules that prevent certain cattle from moving continue to apply to ScotMoves. Cattle which are not eligible to move, and are ineligible to move using ScotMoves are:

- **Cattle with a BVD PI status.** These can only be moved off the CPH on which they were identified to a slaughterhouse. In exceptional circumstances, they may be moved under a licence issued by APHA to another holding.
- **Cattle with Notice of Registrations (NORs).** These cannot be moved off their current holding except under a special licence issued by ScotEID. This is only in very exceptional circumstances.
- **Cattle under movement restrictions for disease control purposes,** or as a result of a whole herd or individual animal movement restriction
- **Bull moves** must be recorded as ScotMoves+ moves (passported), unless the bull is going to serve the keeper's own cattle at the additional holding.

23. Are there any exceptions to the ScotMoves rules?

Yes. Not all moves are required to be notified on the ScotMoves system. Where cattle can walk freely from one field to another through an open gate on contiguous land, or where animals are walked on a daily basis¹ between holdings they **could** be exempt from reporting. These holdings could be treated as a single epidemiological unit. If you think you qualify for an exemption you need to apply in writing to ScotEID. ScotEID will assess all applications for exemption from reporting.

¹ We accept that there may be times of the year when you do not move cattle. Therefore, we do not expect cattle to be moved every day of the year for this exemption to apply; however, it is expected that movements will occur for the majority of the year.

24. I am part of a common grazing; do I need to register?

The ScotMoves system does not apply to moves taking place to common grazings in registered crofting township. The 'township' is considered to be a single epidemiological unit.

25. How do I get an exemption?

If you think you qualify for an exemption you need to contact ScotEID to request an application form to complete. ScotEID will assess all applications for exemption from reporting.

Disease Control

26. What are the benefits of the system in terms of traceability when we already record 'within business' moves in our on-farm holding register?

The advantage for disease control is that Animal Health Inspectors are able to trace movements of animals that have come into contact with infected/potentially infected animals more quickly, without having to visit individual farms and look at their records manually. This speeds up disease control procedures, helping to reduce the spread of disease, protect animal and public health, and may also ease movement restrictions in the event of a disease outbreak.

27. My cattle are on a shared holding. What are my responsibilities as a keeper?

If you are using a holding under the ScotMoves system where other cattle keepers also use the land or sheds, you should keep your cattle separate from those belonging to other keepers. You can make a declaration confirming that your cattle will be kept separate from other keepers' livestock. Please contact ScotEID to make this declaration and to agree to follow biosecurity rules and keep your cattle in separate fields from other keepers' livestock, or if in sheds, in separate airspace. If you or another keeper does not adhere to the separation agreement, then any standstill rules triggered by one keeper's cattle will apply to all.

Standstill

28. What are the standstill rules for cattle?

The current animal movement restrictions can be found in the [Disease Control \(Interim Measures\) \(Scotland\) Order 2002](#). This legislation provides that animals may only move under licence and imposes standstill periods when animals are brought onto holdings. At present, the standstill period is 13 days for cattle, sheep & goats and 20 days for pigs. The standstill period helps to control the spread of contagious diseases.

30. Are there any exemptions to standstills?

Yes. A full list of exemptions can be found at: [Animal health: movement restrictions - gov.scot](http://gov.scot)

31. What about common grazings and away wintering?

The current animal movement restrictions can be found in the [Disease Control \(Interim Measures\) \(Scotland\) Order 2002](#).

The very specific historical and legislative rights of crofting townships continue to be recognised. It was agreed by the Scottish Government veterinary advisors, represented at the joint Scottish Government/Industry working groups that crofting township common grazings, where cattle mix together, would be treated as a single epidemiological unit. This means that movements between crofts and the common grazing do not need to be reported or recorded in the holding register. However, movements to common grazings in other townships must be reported.

If you no longer have a share of the common grazing (or it has been fully apportioned) you must comply with the full requirements for keepers explained in the earlier sections of this guidance. As soon as animals move off the 'township', the normal rules on identification, movements and holding registers apply.