

▼B

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2021/520
of 24 March 2021
laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429
of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the
traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals

(Text with EEA relevance)

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

▼M1

This Regulation lays down rules for Member States ⁽¹⁾ concerning:

▼B

- (1) the deadlines for the transmission of information by operators for the registration of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals in computer databases;
- (2) uniform access to data contained in computer databases of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals and the technical specifications and operational rules of such databases;
- (3) the technical conditions and modalities for the exchange of electronic data in respect of kept bovine animals between Member States' computer databases and the recognition of full operability of a data exchange system;
- (4) the technical specifications, formats and design for means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals;
- (5) the technical requirements for means of identification of kept psittacidae;
- (6) the time periods for the application of means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals born in the Union or after the entry into the Union of those animals;
- (7) the configuration of the identification code of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, camelid and cervid animals;
- (8) the removal, modification and replacement of means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals and the deadlines for such operations;
- (9) transitional measures regarding approval of means of identification.

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 5(4) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland in conjunction with Annex 2 to that Protocol, for the purposes of this Regulation, references to Member States or to the Union include the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland.

*Article 2***Definitions**

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions laid down in Article 2 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 shall apply.

CHAPTER 2

COMPUTER DATABASES*Article 3***Deadlines and procedures for the transmission of information by operators for the registration of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals**

1. Operators keeping bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals shall transmit the information on movements, births and deaths referred to in point (d) of Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and on movements referred to in Article 113(1)(c) of that Regulation and in point (b) of Article 56 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 for registration in the computer databases set up for those species within a time period for transmission to be determined by the Member States. The maximum time period to transmit the information shall not exceed 7 days following the movement, birth or death of the animals, as applicable.

2. In the case of births, when determining the maximum time period for transmitting the information, Member States may use the date when the means of identification is applied to the animal as the starting point of the time period concerned, provided that there is no risk of confusion between this date and the date of birth of the animal.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the competent authority may extend the maximum time period to transmit the information on movements referred to in paragraph 1 up to 14 days following movements of bovine animals within the same Member State from establishments of origin to registered pasture establishments located in mountain areas for grazing. The competent authority may decide to accept lists of the bovine animals subject to movements to registered pasture establishments from the operators of those establishments. Those lists shall contain:

- (a) the unique registration number of the registered pasture establishment;
- (b) the animals' identification code;
- (c) the unique registration number of the establishment of origin;
- (d) the animals' date of arrival at the registered pasture establishment;
- (e) the animals' estimated date of departure from the registered pasture establishment.

▼B*Article 4***Uniform access to data contained in computer databases of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals**

Member States shall ensure that operators keeping bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals have, on their request and free of charge, at least read-only access to a minimum of information related to their establishments that is contained in the computer databases referred to in Article 109(1)(a) to (c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

*Article 5***Technical specifications for computer databases of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals**

Member States shall ensure that the computer databases of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals referred to in Article 109(1)(a) to (c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 are set up in such a way that the information recorded in those databases can be exchanged between computer databases of Member States in the format set out in the third column of the table in Annex I to this Regulation.

*Article 6***Operational rules of computer databases of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals**

Member States shall implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure that the computer databases of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals referred to in Article 109(1)(a) to (c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 continue operating in the face of potential disruptions. Those measures shall also guarantee the security, integrity and authenticity of the information recorded in such databases.

*Article 7***Technical conditions and modalities for the electronic exchange of identification document data in respect of kept bovine animals between Member States' computer databases**

1. When Member States exchange electronically with other Member States identification document data in respect of kept bovine animals that is referred to in points (a) to (c) of Article 44 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, that data shall be exchanged in the format of XML Schema Definition made available by the Commission to the competent authority.

2. The competent authority in the Member State of origin of the kept bovine animals intended to be moved shall ensure that the identification document data is transmitted electronically to the Member State of destination before the departure of the animals, and that a timestamp is provided with each transmission.

*Article 8***Recognition of the full operability of a system for electronic exchange of identification document data in respect of kept bovine animals between Member States' computer databases**

1. Member States exchanging electronically identification document data through a system established by the Commission and designed for the exchange of data in respect of kept bovine animals between Member States' computer databases shall be recognised as having a system of full operability.
2. The Commission shall establish and make public on its website the list of Member States exchanging identification document data through that system.

CHAPTER 3

MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION*Article 9***Technical specifications, formats and design for means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals**

1. The competent authority shall only approve the use of conventional ear tags or conventional pastern bands referred to in points (a) and (b) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 as means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals, if those means of identification fulfil the technical specification set out in Part 1 of Annex II to this Regulation.
2. The competent authority shall only approve the use of tattoos referred to in point (g) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 as means of identification of kept ovine, caprine, porcine and cervid animals, as provided for in Article 46(2) and (3) and in Articles 52(1)(b), 73(2)(c) and 76(1)(c) of that Delegated Regulation, if those tattoos ensure indelible marking and proper reading.
3. The competent authority shall only approve the use of electronic identifiers referred to in points (c) to (f) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 as means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals, if those means of identification fulfil the technical specifications set out in Part 2 of Annex II to this Regulation. In addition, the electronic identifiers referred to in points (c) and (f) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 shall fulfil the technical specification set out in Part 1 of Annex II to this Regulation.
4. By way of derogation from paragraph 3, the competent authority may approve the use of electronic ear tags as means of identification of kept porcine animals, if those means of identification fulfil the technical specifications laid down by the Member State where the porcine animals are kept, and display visibly, legibly and indelibly the unique registration number of:

▼B

- (a) the establishment of birth of the animals; or
- (b) the last establishment of the supply chain referred to in Article 53 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, when those animals are moved to an establishment outside that supply chain.

*Article 10***Technical specifications, formats and design for means of identification of kept psittacidae**

1. Operators keeping psittacidae shall ensure that:
 - (a) the leg ring referred to in Article 76(1)(a) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 fulfils the technical specifications set out in Part 1 of Annex II to this Regulation;
 - (b) the tattoo referred to in Article 76(1)(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 ensures indelible marking and proper reading.
2. The competent authority shall only approve the use of injectable transponders referred to in Article 76(1)(b) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 as means of identification of kept psittacidae, if those means of identification fulfil the technical specifications set out in point 2 of Part 2 of Annex II to this Regulation.

*Article 11***Operational rules for the approval of electronic identifiers of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals and psittacidae**

1. When granting approval of the electronic identifiers referred to in points (c) to (f) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals and psittacidae, the competent authority shall ensure that the manufacturers of the electronic identifiers have provided evidence that the conformance and performance tests referred to in point 4 of Part 2 of Annex II to this Regulation have been carried out in test centres accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC standard 17025 ‘General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories’.
2. When granting approval of the electronic identifiers referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authority may require that the manufacturers of the electronic identifiers apply additional tests for robustness and endurance to ensure their functionality under the specific geographic or climatic conditions of the Member State concerned in accordance with standards laid down by that Member State.

*Article 12***Configuration of the identification code of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, camelid and cervid animals**

The identification code of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, camelid and cervid animals shall be as follows:

▼M1

- (a) the first element of the identification code shall be the country code of the Member State where the means of identification was first applied to the animals, in the format of either:
 - (i) the two-letter code in accordance with ISO standard 3166-1 alpha-2, except for Greece, for which the two-letter code 'EL' shall be used, and for the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland, for which the two-letter code 'XI' shall be used; or
 - (ii) the three-digit country code in accordance with ISO standard 3166-1 numeric, except for the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland, for which '899' shall be used;

▼B

- (b) the second element of the identification code shall be a unique code for each animal not exceeding 12 numeric characters.

*Article 13***Time periods for the application of means of identification of kept bovine animals**

1. Operators shall ensure that the means of identification referred to in point (a) of Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 are applied to kept bovine animals before the expiry of a maximum time period after birth, to be determined by the Member State in which the animals were born. The maximum time period shall be calculated from the date of birth of the animals and shall not exceed 20 days.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may authorise operators to extend the maximum time period for the application of a second means of identification to up to 60 days, following the date of birth of the animals, for reasons related to the physiological development of the animals, if the second means of identification is a ruminal bolus.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may authorise operators to extend the maximum time period referred to in paragraph 1 to up to 9 months, under the following conditions:

- (a) the animals are:
 - (i) reared under extensive conditions, with calves staying with their mothers;
 - (ii) not accustomed to regular contact with humans;
- (b) the area where the animals are kept, ensures a high degree of isolation of the animals;
- (c) the extension does not compromise the traceability of the animals.

Member States may restrict the authorisation referred to in the first subparagraph to particular geographical regions or specific species or breeds of kept bovine animals.

4. Operators shall ensure that no kept bovine animals leave the establishment of birth unless the means of identification referred to in point (a) of Article 112 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 have been applied to those animals.



Article 14

Time periods for the application of means of identification of kept ovine and caprine animals

1. Operators shall ensure that the means of identification referred to in Article 113(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 are applied to kept ovine and caprine animals before the expiry of a maximum time period after birth, to be determined by the Member State in which the animals were born. The maximum time period shall be calculated from the date of birth of the animals and shall not exceed 9 months.

2. Operators shall ensure that no kept ovine or caprine animals leave the establishment of birth unless the means of identification referred to in Article 113(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 have been applied to those animals.

Article 15

Time periods for the application of means of identification of kept porcine animals

1. Operators shall ensure that the means of identification referred to in point (a) of Article 115 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 are applied to kept porcine animals before the expiry of a maximum time period after birth, to be determined by the Member State in which the animals were born. The maximum time period shall be calculated from the date of birth of the animals and shall not exceed 9 months.

2. Operators shall ensure that no kept porcine animals leave the establishment of birth or exit the supply chain unless the means of identification referred to in point (a) of Article 115 of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 have been applied to those animals.

Article 16

Time periods for the application of means of identification of kept camelid and cervid animals

1. Operators shall ensure that the means of identification referred to in Article 73(1) and (2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 are applied to kept camelid and cervid animals before the expiry of a maximum time period after birth, to be determined by the Member State in which the animals were born. The maximum time period shall be calculated from the date of birth of the animals and shall not exceed 9 months.

2. Operators shall ensure that no kept camelid or cervid animals leave the establishment of birth or the establishment of first arrival if those animals were moved to that establishment from the habitat where they stayed as wild animals, unless the means of identification referred to in Article 73(1) and (2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 have been applied to those animals.

▼B

3. The competent authority may exempt operators keeping reindeer from the requirements in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided that the exemption does not compromise the traceability of the animals.

4. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States may exempt operators keeping cervid animals from the requirements in paragraph 1, under the following conditions:
 - (a) the animals are:
 - (i) reared under extensive conditions;
 - (ii) not accustomed to regular contact with humans;
 - (b) the area where the animals are kept, ensures a high degree of isolation of the animals;
 - (c) the exemption does not compromise the traceability of the animals.

*Article 17***Time periods for the application of means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals after their entry into the Union**

1. After the entry into the Union of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals and where those animals remain in the Union, operators shall ensure that the means of identification referred to in Article 81 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 are applied to those animals within 20 days following their arrival at the establishment of first arrival.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, Member States of first arrival may authorise operators to extend the maximum time period for the application of a second means of identification to up to 60 days, following the date of birth of the animals, for reasons related to the physiological development of the animals, if the second means of identification is a ruminal bolus.

3. Operators shall ensure that no kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid or cervid animals leave the establishment of first arrival unless the means of identification referred to in Article 81 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 have been applied to those animals.

*Article 18***Removal and modification of means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals**

The competent authority may only authorise operators to remove or modify the means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals if the removal or modification does not compromise the traceability of the animals, including the traceability of the establishment in which they were born, and if individual identification of the animals, if applicable, remains possible.

*Article 19***Replacement of means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals and deadlines for such operations**

1. The competent authority may only authorise operators to replace the means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals if the replacement does not compromise the traceability of the animals, including the traceability of the establishment in which they were born, and if individual identification of the animals, if applicable, remains possible.

2. The replacement referred to in paragraph 1 may be authorised as follows:

- (a) where animals have been identified by two means of identification and one of those means of identification has become illegible or has been lost, provided that the animals' identification code remains unchanged and continues to match the code on the remaining means of identification;
- (b) where animals have been identified by one or two means of identification displaying the animals' identification code and those means of identification have become illegible or have been lost, provided that it remains possible to determine the animals' identification code with reasonable certainty and the animals' identification code remains unchanged;
- (c) where kept ovine, caprine or porcine animals have been identified by a means of identification displaying the unique registration number of an establishment and that means of identification has become illegible or has been lost, provided that it remains possible to determine with reasonable certainty the establishment of birth of the animals or, if applicable, the last establishment of the supply chain, and that the replacement means of identification displays the unique registration number of that establishment or, if applicable, that last establishment.
- (d) in case of kept ovine and caprine animals, the replacement of the means of identification referred to in points (a) and (b) with new means of identification displaying a new identification code may be authorised, provided that the traceability is not compromised.

3. The replacement of the means of identification referred to in paragraph 1 shall be carried out as soon as possible and before the expiry of a maximum time period, to be determined by the Member State whose competent authority authorised operators to replace the means of identification, and before the animals are moved to another establishment.

4. Where the identification code of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals displayed on the means of identification referred to in points (a) and (b) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 cannot be reproduced on an electronic identifier due to technical limitations, the competent authority shall only allow the application to those animals of a new electronic identifier displaying a new identification code, if both identification codes are recorded in the computer databases referred to in Article 109(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.



CHAPTER 4

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

*Article 20***Transitional measures regarding approvals of means of identification**

By way of derogation from Articles 9, 10 and 11 of this Regulation, for a transitional period ending on 20 April 2023, Member States may continue to use the means of identification approved before 21 April 2021 in accordance with Regulations (EC) No 1760/2000 and (EC) No 21/2004 and Directive 2008/71/EC, as well as with the acts adopted on the basis of those Regulations and that Directive.

*Article 21***Entry into force and application**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 21 April 2021.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.



ANNEX I

Technical specifications for information formats in computer databases of kept bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine animals

Type of information	Description	Format
Identification code of the animal	Country code	One of the following options: Letter code: ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code ⁽¹⁾ Numeric code: ISO 3166-1 numeric code
	Unique code for each animal	12 numeric characters
Electronic identifier (optional)		One of the following options: — Electronic ear tag — Ruminal bolus — Injectable transponder — Electronic pastern band
Unique registration number of establishment		Country code followed by 12 alphanumeric characters
Name of operator of establishment		140 alphanumeric characters
Address of operator of establishment	Street name and house number	140 alphanumeric characters
	Postcode	10 alphanumeric characters
	City	35 alphanumeric characters
Date		Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
Total number of animals		15 numeric characters

⁽¹⁾ Except for Greece, for which the two-letter code 'EL' shall be used.

*ANNEX II*

PART 1

Technical specifications for means of identification of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals and psittacidae

1. The means of identification referred to in points (a), (b), (c), (f) and (h) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals and psittacidae shall be:
 - (a) non-reusable;
 - (b) of non-degradable material;
 - (c) tamper-proof;
 - (d) easy to read throughout the animals' lifetime;
 - (e) designed in such way that they can remain securely attached to the animals without being harmful to them;
 - (f) easily removable from the food chain.
2. The means of identification referred to in point 1 shall display visibly, legibly and indelibly one of the following:
 - (a) the first and second element of the animals' identification code in accordance with Article 12;
 - (b) the unique registration number of the animals' establishment referred to in point (a) of Article 18 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035; or
 - (c) the alphanumeric identification code referred to in Article 76(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035.
3. The means of identification referred to in point 1 may contain other information, if authorised by the competent authority, and provided that the means of identification comply with the requirements of point 2.

PART 2

Technical specifications for electronic identifiers of kept bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine, camelid and cervid animals

1. The electronic identifiers referred to in points (c) to (f) of Annex III to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 shall display the first element of the animals' identification code in the form of the three-digit country code and the second element of the animals' identification code in accordance with Article 12.
2. The electronic identifiers referred to in point 1 shall be:
 - (a) read-only, passive transponders applying HDX or FDX-B technology, complying with ISO standards 11784 and 11785; and
 - (b) readable by devices complying with ISO standard 11785 and capable of reading HDX and FDX-B transponders.
3. The electronic identifiers referred to in point 1 shall be readable at a minimum reading distance as follows:
 - (a) for kept bovine animals:
 - (i) 12 centimetres, for ear tags when read with a portable reader;
 - (ii) 15 centimetres, for injectable transponders when read with a portable reader;

▼B

- (iii) 25 centimetres, for ruminal boluses when read with a portable reader;
 - (iv) 80 centimetres, for all electronic identifiers when read with a stationary reader;
- (b) for kept ovine and caprine animals:
- (i) 12 centimetres, for ear tags and pastern bands when read with a portable reader;
 - (ii) 20 centimetres, for ruminal boluses and injectable transponders when read with a portable reader;
 - (iii) 50 centimetres, for all electronic identifiers when read with a stationary reader.
4. The electronic identifiers referred to in point 1 shall have been tested with favourable results with respect to:
- (a) conformance with ISO standards 11784 and 11785 in accordance with the method referred to in point 7 of ISO standard 24631-1; and
 - (b) the minimum performance on reading distances referred to in point 3 of this Part in accordance with the method referred to in point 7 of ISO standard 24631-3.