

Maximise Opportunities by Correctly Identifying your Sheep

July 2011

Ensuring that your sheep are correctly identified is important in terms of traceability and in maximising the market opportunities available to you

There are three options for identifying lambs, depending on the following:

- Are you supplying lambs for meat production or for breeding purposes?
- Are you supplying lambs direct to abattoir or to an auction market?

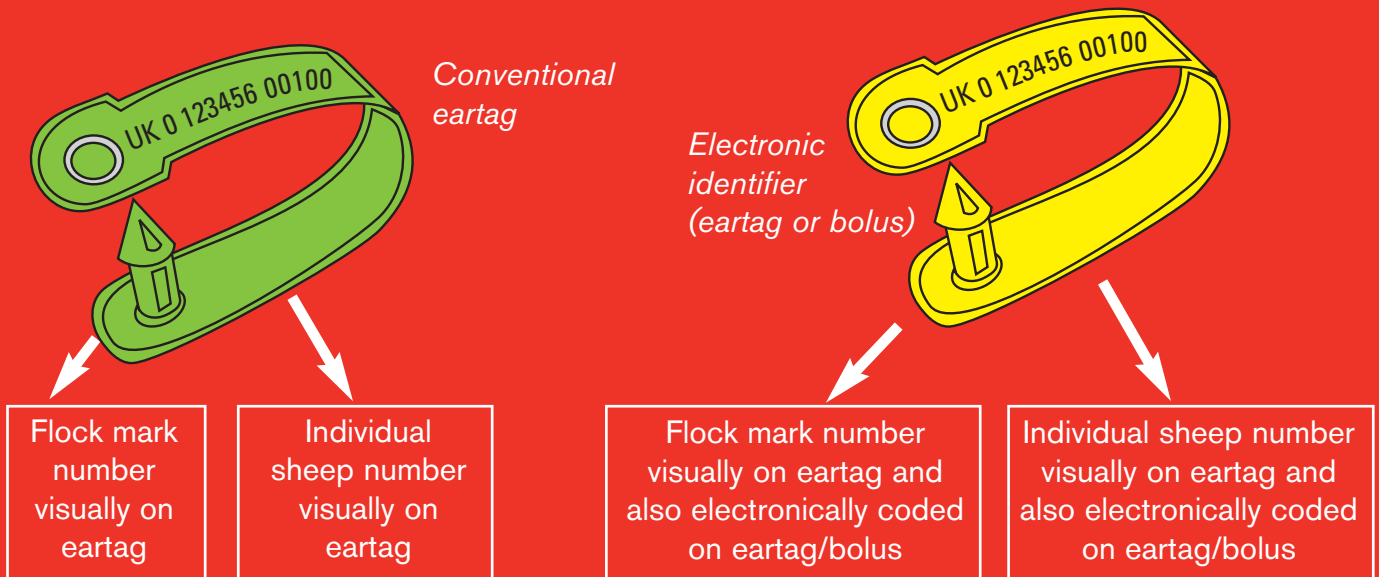
The correct choice of identification can allow you to access certain market opportunities. The decision of which identifier to use should be made after you have consulted with your agent, auction market, lamb buyer or processor to determine which tagging option is best suited to the way they market your lambs



Option 1

'Full Electronic Identification' - 1 conventional eartag and 1 electronic identifier

Two identifiers are applied - 1 visual eartag and 1 electronic identifier (either an eartag or a bolus) bearing the same individual number



Lambs can be slaughtered before 12 months of age or they can be retained as breeding animals

Supported by:

Option 2

'Electronic Slaughter Eartag'

- A single electronic slaughter eartag

Only one identifier is applied
(an electronic eartag)

Lambs must be slaughtered before 12 months of age or they can be selected as breeding animals and their identifiers upgraded to *Full Electronic Identification* (if traceability can be proved)



Flock mark number visually on eartag
Individual sheep number electronically coded on eartag (non visual)

Option 3

'Conventional Slaughter Eartag'

- A single non-electronic batch eartag

Only one identifier is applied
(a conventional eartag)

Lambs must be slaughtered before 12 months of age or they can be selected as breeding animals and their identifiers upgraded to *Full Electronic Identification* (if traceability can be proved)



Flock mark number visually on eartag
No individual sheep number on eartag

In terms of paperwork, the following points summarise the sheep recording requirements



Movement Documents

- The individual sheep number needs to be recorded for any lambs identified with *Full Electronic Identification*
- The total number of lambs identified with a *Conventional Slaughter Eartag* or an *Electronic Slaughter Eartag* needs to be recorded



Holding Register

(record births, deaths and on/off movements)

- The individual sheep number needs to be recorded for any lambs identified with *Full Electronic Identification*
- The total number of lambs identified with a *Conventional Slaughter Eartag* or an *Electronic Slaughter Eartag* with each different flock mark number needs to be recorded

Further information and guidance notes are available from the Welsh Government - www.wales.gov.uk