

Livestock and Livestock Products Hub
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Telephone 0207 238 5652
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To: Charlie Peck
British Goat Society Health and Welfare Officer

Our ref
Date 2 July 2008

Dear Charlie,

Rule for identifying Sheep and Goats under “Double Tagging”

1. You requested a letter outlining the requirements for identifying older animals under the “double tagging” rules introduced in January 2008.
2. I can confirm that goats which were officially identified before January 2008 with a single UK tag which bears the herd mark of the birth holding and a unique individual animal number are properly identified. These animals do not need to be double-tagged.
3. Animals only need to be “double tagged” if they were not already officially identified by January 2008. Even so, we refer to “double tagging” but the actual legal requirement is that the animals must carry two forms of identification. The second form of identification may be a tattoo instead of an ear tag. Any official tattoo must however bear the same number as the ear tag.
4. Also, animals born prior to 9 July 2005 may have a tattoo as the only means of identification, provided this includes the herdmark of the birth holding and an individual animal number. This is quite legitimate and the animal doesn’t need to carry any additional form of identification.

Yours sincerely

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