

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 18/2015

To: All Food Business Operators (FBOs) at Approved Meat Establishments

Subject: Accurate recording of Animal origin at DAFM Approved Beef Slaughter Plants

Background

Following the introduction of the Animal Health and Welfare (Bovine Movement) Regulations, S.I. 521 of 2014, third parties involved in transactions at meat plant lairages **MUST** be recorded by the FBO on AIMS (Animal Identification Movement System).

The legal requirement in SI 521 of 2014 Article 5 Section 2 states:

(2) A person who notifies the Minister under paragraph (1) shall include the details of any person that was involved in the purchase, sale, supply or movement of the bovine in or out of the premises or holding unless that person was solely engaged to transport the bovine.

The purpose of the statutory traceability system is to accurately record the actual movements of animals and thus to ensure traceability in compliance with EU and national legislation. The intake process at the factory **must** always record the holding from which the animal came (Herd Keeper, Contract Rearing/Fattening Premises).

Definitions:

- **Herd Owner:** the nominated company or entity or person(s) associated with a specific herd number to whom payments (State or private) are made.
- **Herd Keeper:** any natural or legal person responsible for animals, whether on a permanent or on a temporary basis, including during transportation or at a market
- **Holding:** all the land either used by an owner/keeper of animals, whether solely or jointly with any other person or persons, for farming purposes or used by a dealer for or in connection with an animal purchased or disposed of (by sale or otherwise) by him.

Dealer without Premises/Agent: a person without a holding who acts (e.g. buys cattle) on behalf of another party (e.g. a slaughter plant). For the purpose of this Trader Notice, Dealers without Premises and Agents have similar roles and both should have herd numbers of the format A801XXXX. Sometimes a dealer without premises is also known as a “brass plate” dealer. (*Note – An agent or dealer without premises (number format A801XXX) has no holding to detain/retain animals, so an agent or dealer without premises number cannot be recorded as the Moved From holding in the intake process for factories on AIMS*).

•

- **Dealer with Premises:** any natural or legal person who buys and sells animals commercially either directly or indirectly, who has a regular turnover of these animals

and who within a maximum of 30 days of purchasing animals resells them or relocates them from the first premises to other premises not within his or her ownership. Dealers with Premises should have herd numbers of the format AXXXX850

- **Contract Rearing/Fattening Premises:** a holding on which animals are temporarily held for short periods of time (e.g. 30 days) for the purpose of feeding, for example, prior to slaughter. These are also known as “Bed and Breakfast” premises.

The procedure in factories for the intake of animals from owners/agents/dealers is outlined in the following paragraphs:

I. Movement of an animal from a holding directly to the factory

When an agent, dealer without premises or dealer with premises (acting on behalf of a factory or otherwise) collects the animal at the holding and brings it directly to the factory, the holding from which the animal moved should be recorded as the **Moved From** holding on the intake screen. The agent or dealer (with/without premises) number should be recorded in the **Third Party** field on the AIMS intake screen. A third party is a person who brings the animal from the holding to the factory but is *not* the keeper of the holding from which the animal is moving.. A third party can be

1. another herdowner e.g. a neighbour bringing the animal to the factory on behalf of the keeper or
2. an agent/dealer without premises or
3. a dealer with premises or
4. the owner of animals that may have been kept at a contract rearing/fattening premises.

The term “directly” is defined as being within 24 hours of picking up the animal at the holding to allow for overnight movements into a factory. When an animal is moving **directly** to slaughter, the holding of origin must be recorded as the “Moved From” holding in all cases even where the keeper and agent/dealer (with/without premises) have completed a movement notification nominating the agent/dealer as the destination.

SI 521 of 2014 states:

6. (1) A person, shall not, without lawful authority, take possession of, move or cause or permit the movement of a bovine unless that person has been assigned an official identification number by the Minister except that person has been solely engaged to transport the animal.

Therefore **all** persons working as factory agents **must** have an agent number (A801001X format) to facilitate the recording of third parties on AIMS.

Movement of an animal from a mart directly to slaughter

When an agent (acting on behalf of a factory or otherwise) or a dealer (with/without premises) buys an animal at a mart for direct movement to slaughter, the mart should record the factory as the **Moved To** entry and the agent or dealer (with/without premises) as the Third Party in the transaction. The factory should then record the mart number as the **Moved From** entry and the agent or dealer (with/without premises) as the **Third Party** in the transaction.

II. Movement of Animals where “Moved From is not the Latest Location on AIMS”

The pre-clearance system checks if the animal is located in the presenting herd on AIMS. If the animal is not located in the presenting herd on AIMS, the system then checks if a Certificate of Compliance was issued to the current keeper on AIMS to move the animal to another holding and it is still valid *or* if the animal was presented for sale recently at a mart but the onward movement has not yet been received.

The movement of animals from holding to holding and the onward movement of animals from livestock marts are both *post movement notifications* and the information on AIMS may not be up to date when the animal arrives at the factory for these movement types.

The AIMS system allows a tolerance for the notification of the onward movement in both cases and the irregularity *Moved From is not the latest location on AIMS* is only raised if the date of presentation is outside this tolerance.

If the irregularity is raised, the animal should be detained alive, using a BTR 11, until the location of the animal in the intervening period has been recorded on AIMS as required under Council Regulation EU 1760/2000.

Under **NO CIRCUMSTANCES** should a fictional move be created on AIMS.

Note: Providing false information to the AIMS database is a prosecutable offence.

Article 7 of 521 of 2014 states: -

7. (1) *A person shall supply an authorised officer, upon request, with all information concerning the origin, identification, the movement and destination of a bovine that the person has owned, kept, moved, transported, sold, supplied or otherwise handled or slaughtered.*
- (2) *A person shall not, in purported compliance with paragraph (1), give information that is false and misleading.*
- (3) *A person shall not give false or misleading information or be reckless in giving information to any other person or the Minister concerning—*
 - (a) *the identity of a bovine,*
 - (b) *herd of origin of a bovine,*
 - (c) *the destination of a bovine,*
 - (d) *the current location of a bovine, or*
 - (e) *the movement of a bovine.*

Responsibility of FBOs

FBOs have a legal obligation to correctly record the holding from which the animal actually moved into the plant and to follow the correct procedure when an agent/dealer, third party or actual owner, who was not the most recent recorded keeper, is presenting an animal at the factory. All persons acting as agents for the factory should have an agent number (if they do not have one already) for the purpose of recording third party information on AIMS. Slaughter Plants that input animals using the AIMS web services facility receive data in return including the movement history of animal(s) and, if the third party field has been completed, this information will be available to them to facilitate the payment of the appropriate party.

Audrey Lyons,
Meat Hygiene Section.

12th October 2015