

PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SPECIFICATION

PAS 66

Official identification eartags for sheep and goats – Specification

ICS 65.020.30; 97.180



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ISBN 0 580 45880 6

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:

Publication history

First published 2005

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. no.	Date	Comment
17192	29 June 2007	Corrections made to Annex C and F and other minor editorial changes made.

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Foreword

This Publicly Available Specification, PAS 66:2005, as amended in 2007, has been prepared by BSI to provide an interim specification for identification eartags for sheep and goats. It was sponsored by the Exotic Diseases Prevention and Control Division of DEFRA.

It has been developed in response to Council Regulation (EC) 21/2004 [1] which was adopted in December 2003. The requirement for the competent authority to approve eartags for sheep and goats came into effect on 9 July 2005.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR), International Agreement on Recording Practices [2].

Acknowledgement is given to the following organizations and individuals that were consulted in the development of this specification:

BSI Product Services;

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Exotic Diseases Prevention and Control Division;

Welsh Assembly Government (DEPC);

Ritchey Tagg Ltd;

Symtag;

Dalton ID Systems Ltd;

Keith Baker, veterinary adviser;

BSI Technical Committee AW/90, Quality systems for the food industry.

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In addition, attention is drawn to the Exotic Diseases Prevention and Control Division, DEFRA Regulation for Requirements for Identification Code Marking [3].

1 Scope

This Publicly Available Specification (PAS) specifies requirements in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 21/2004 [1] for the performance and testing of eartags used for the official identification of sheep and goats.

This PAS is not applicable to management tags or electronic components of eartags.

The security aspects considered are those concerned with tamper-evidence and safeguarding against a tag's reusability, materials including plasticity, and printing processes including durability of print.

Requirements for animal welfare considerations are also included.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 3900-D10, ISO 7724-3, *Methods of test for paints – Part 3: Determination of colour and colour difference: calculation*

BS 5252F:1976, *Framework for colour co-ordination for building purposes*

BS EN 20105-A02, ISO 105-A02, *Textiles – Tests for colour fastness – Grey scale for assessing change in colour*

BS EN ISO 4892-3, *Plastics – Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources – Part 3: Fluorescent UV lamps*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this PAS, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 eartag

official permanent identification eartag, R tag or slaughter tag for a sheep or goat

3.2 R tag

red replacement eartag marked with the letter R in addition to the animal's identification code

3.3 manufacturer

company that sells eartags and operates under the Great Britain Eartag Allocation System (ETAS)

3.4 newton (N)

force required to impart, to a mass of 1 kg, an acceleration of 1 m/s²

4 General requirements

4.1 Materials

4.1.1 Eartags shall be manufactured from non-degradable materials, for example thermoplastic elastomer, polyamides or metals.

4.1.2 The welfare of livestock shall be considered when selecting materials to be used in the construction of eartags (see **5.6**).

4.2 Design and construction

4.2.1 The dimension of eartags shall be sufficient for the eartag to be visible from a distance when inserted and to accommodate the information specified in **6.1** in a manner that is easily readable.

4.2.2 Once sealed, the distance between the innermost faces of eartags shall not be less than 5 mm apart.

NOTE For guidance on the insertion of eartags into an animal's ear, see Annex A.

4.2.3 R tags shall be red in colour within the range 04 E 55 to 04 E 56 of BS 5252F:1976.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the DEFRA Regulation for Requirements for Identification Code Marking [3].

4.2.4 All other eartags shall be of a colour which cannot be mistaken for red, as agreed by the competent authority.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the DEFRA Code of Practice [4].

5 Performance requirements

5.1 Resistance to tampering

5.1.1 Resistance to tensile loading

When tested in accordance with Annex B, plastics eartags shall resist a minimum tensile load of 200 N.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR), International Agreement on Recording Practices [2].

5.2 Resistance to low temperature impact

When tested in accordance with Annex C, the material used in the main body of plastics eartags shall not split or crack.

NOTE 1 An unbroken dent of the impacted surface does not constitute failure.

NOTE 2 If the same composition of plastics material is used in the manufacture of more than one type of eartag, it is only necessary to conduct the test on one sample of the material.