Guidelines: ICAR Standards for animal identities

Proposal from Animal ID SC April 2014

SECTION 1 – GENERAL RULES

SECTION 1.1 – ICAR GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON METHODS OF IDENTIFICATION

1.1.4 Recognized ICAR Standards for animal identities

1. **Specific guidelines for use in data exchange for genetic evaluation (Interbull) and on printed documents, electronic documents and web pages where those evaluation results may be displayed are defined in section 9.**
2. Details of standards for Electronic Identification Devices can be found in section 10.
3. Details of the supported standards of animal identification used in electronic exchange of livestock data can be found in section 15.

SECTION 9 – ICAR STANDARD METHODS OF GENETIC EVALUATION

9.1.1.2 The International Identity used in data exchange for genetic evaluation

1. Animals should be identified in accordance with the Guiding Principles set out in section 1.1 of the International Agreement of Recording Practices. Particular attention is drawn to the official identity given to an animal remaining unique to that animal at all times, used throughout the life of the animal, both in the country of birth and also by all other countries and never be used again for any other animal of the same or different species.

SECTION 9 – ICAR STANDARD METHODS OF GENETIC EVALUATION

9.1.1.2 The International Identity used in data exchange for genetic evaluation

2. The International Identity of the animal used by Interbull for genetic evaluation purposes and for interchange of evaluation data, is composed of a 19-character string comprising the following components:

Item	Length	Position	Summary / Description
Breed	3 character	1 – 3	The three-character breed code as defined in the Appendices to these guidelines, Section 8.
Country / Nationality	3 character	4 – 6	The three-character country code in accordance with ISO 3166, representing country of birth or other nationality as deemed by Interbull (see points 4-8 below).
Sex	1 character	7	A single character gender code (M=male, F=female)
Animal Identifier	12 character	8 - 19	A 12-character, alpha-numeric (A-Z, 0-9) animal identity. Frequently the same as or close to that used in national identification systems. (See points 5 to 7 below)

SECTION 9 – ICAR STANDARD METHODS OF GENETIC EVALUATION

9.1.1.2 The International Identity used in data exchange for genetic evaluation

3. All component parts of the International Identity of the animal should be kept intact. If for any reason, modification of the original animal identity becomes necessary, it should be considered as a re-identification and fully documented by a cross-reference table relating the original animal identity to the new animal identity. Such cross-reference information to be made available on request by the authority or organization which makes or authorizes the re-identification to ICAR or other ICAR affiliated or subsidiary organization, including Interbull, along with the original or master identity of the animal.

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9.1.1.2 The International Identity used in data exchange for genetic evaluation

4. The primary International Identity of the animal and its Nationality component, shall normally be those assigned from birth. Or as deemed by Interbull from time to time, country of primary registration may be used, where that is not the same as country of birth. Attention is also drawn to paragraph 10.2.7.4 of these Guidelines, discouraging the use of manufacturer RFID device identity codes in this context.

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5. The Animal Identifier component used will often correspond to the identity used in National or other local identification systems such as those mandated or permitted by local legislation. The National identity used may be modified where necessary to enable it to fit the criteria listed here in points 6 to 8 consistent with a unique International Animal Identity being maintained.

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6. Permitted characters. The Animal Identifier component should consist of 12 alpha-numeric characters (including check digits where used), with leading zeroes inserted where the national or other official identity being used is initially less than 12 characters. These 12 characters should contain only ASCII upper case letters A-Z or numbers 0-9.

The following characters should NOT be used in the International Identity of the animal:

a) spaces, lower case letters,

b) language specific or other script specific or non-ASCII alphabetic special characters,

c) graphic signs used as field separators in data handling, i.e. dot (.), comma (,), semi-colon (;), colon (:), backslash (\), forward slash (/), tilde (~), asterisk (*) or hyphen (-).

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7. Where the identity of the animal used in a national identification system originally includes a country identifier using a 2-character ISO 3166 country code (for example as part of a visible eartag identity), then it is recommended this country code be omitted from the International Identity and the equivalent ISO 3166 3-character country code be used instead, in positions 4-6 of the International Identity. Reason: for simplicity of the International Identity and to avoid clashes or possible conflicts between the country of birth/nationality used in positions 4-6 as deemed by Interbull and the eartag nationality such as may appear in tags used in some counties for imported animals and/or replacement tags.

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8. Where the identity number of the animal used in a national electronic or RFID identity scheme includes the ISO 3166 3-digit numeric country code then it is normally preferable to use the equivalent ISO 3166 3-character alphabetic country code in the Nationality component of the International Identity of the animal, used for genetic evaluation. However, in situations where this may compromise the uniqueness of the overall International Identity so derived, then the ISO 3166 3-digit numeric country code may be carried forward from the national electronic identity to the Nationality component of International Identity in place of the preferred 3-character ISO 3166 country code. E.G. USA vs. 840.

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9.1.1.2 The International Identity used in data exchange for genetic evaluation

9. By preference, the full International Identity should also be shown in printed documents, electronic documents and web pages where the genetic evaluation results are also displayed.

SECTION 10 – TESTING OF DEVICES USED IN ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

10.2.7.4 Manufacturer codes vs. Country codes

Manufacturer codes (900 series) are intended to be used only in connection with electronic identification devices, in accordance with ISO 11784 and with section 10 of these Guidelines, including Annex 10.2.2 Code of Conduct for manufacturers of RFID devices. In applications and species where national legislation, local rules or other local circumstances permit, including the existence of a competent national authority with responsibility to maintain the uniqueness of the RFID animal identity for that species in their country, then the ISO 3166 3-digit numeric country code may be used in place of the Manufacturer Code in the electronic identity of the animal. The use of Manufacturer Codes in International Animal Identities used for genetic evaluation (Section 9.1.1.2) and in data exchange files is discouraged.