

Top tips for compliance with cattle identification & registration rules

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) cross compliance inspection results indicate that livestock identification and registration are once again one of the most common failure areas under Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) inspections. If you keep cattle and are claiming BPS, you must adhere to the cattle identification and registration rules which fall under the cross compliance [Statutory Management Requirement \(SMR\) 7](#).

The Farming Advice Service (FAS) have produced some top tips to address the most common non-compliances identified during SMR 7 inspections.

1. Consider how the rules for County Parish Holding (CPH) numbers could simplify reporting and recording movements within your business.

Cattle keepers have the option for adding temporary land parcels to your main holding or linking them using a Temporary Land Association (TLA) if land lies within 10 miles of your main CPH. Movements of cattle to land parcels on your main CPH within a 10-mile radius or to land linked using a valid TLA, do not need to be reported or recorded and do not trigger a 6-day standstill. Remember that TLA's are set up for 12 months and need to be renewed if you continue to use land on a temporary basis.

Full details on CPH Rationalisation and how it might affect your business can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

2. Comply with the current Bovine Tuberculosis (Bovine TB) animal testing rules

Ensure that the Bovine TB testing deadlines for your farm are met. You are likely to receive a cross compliance penalty if you fail to have your animals tested on time.

Comprehensive details about Bovine TB and how your farm is affected can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

3. Report the movement of cattle on or off your holding to British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) within three days.

You can choose from one of the following methods: [Cattle Tracing System \(CTS\) Online](#), Cattle Tracing Service (CTS) Web Services (there is a list of companies on [GOV.UK](#)) or the automated CTS self-service line on 0345 011 1212. Further information regarding using CTS can be found on [GOV.UK](#). Alternatively, you can report the movement via your agent or by movement card (if applicable).

More detailed guidance about reporting animal movements is available on [GOV.UK](#).

4. Report the death of an animal to BCMS within seven days of the date of death.

You can use CTS online to report the death of any cattle using online or electronic options (see point 3), or complete the 'death details' section of the passport. If you choose to use this method, the passport must still be returned to BCMS within seven days of the date of death. For further information regarding reporting the death of cattle, please go to [GOV.UK](#).

5. Be accurate when updating CTS online and farm records.

A number of farmers have received payment reductions because the information that they had entered into CTS or their farm documents was inaccurate or incomplete. Be sure to thoroughly check the information that you enter into your farm records and prior to making a submission to BCMS.

6. Passport management.

All cattle in your care should have a passport and this should accompany them whenever they are moved off of the holding. If cattle are born on your holding you should register them for a passport with BCMS within 27 days of birth, and within seven days of birth for bison. If an animal moved or imported into Great Britain moves directly to a slaughterhouse, you don't need to apply for a GB passport. If this isn't the case, cattle that are moved into the UK from within the European Union (EU) must be registered within 15 days of arrival on your holding; however, if the animal is imported from outside of the EU, registration must take place within 15 days from the date that the animal must be tagged (see 7 below). If you leave it too late to apply for a passport, do not use incorrect details during the application process in an attempt to obtain one. If you do this, it could be deemed to be an intentional act and will lead larger cross compliance reduction. You should contact BCMS and explain the reasons why you will be late in applying.

Detailed information about passports can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

7. Keep tabs on your tags

All animals that are born on your holding are required to be tagged with two approved tags, primary and secondary (one in each ear). The following table outlines your tagging requirements:

Type of animal	Tagging requirements
Dairy calves	One ear tag within 36 hours of birth. The second ear tag should be in place within 20 days of birth.
Beef calves	Both ear tags to be fitted within 20 days of birth.
Bison calves	Both ear tags to be fitted within 9 months of birth or when they are separated from their mother if this is earlier.
Cattle imported from outside the EU	Must be tagged with UK approved ear tags within 20 days of release from import checks.
All cattle that leave your holding	You must also ensure that <u>all</u> cattle that leave your holding have both tags before they leave.

If you become aware that one of your animals is missing or has damaged tags, you must replace the tags within 28 days of noticing the loss or damage. If missing tags are found at an inspection, the RPA will issue you with a notice to retag the animals. You must follow the instructions in the notice and the RPA may carry out checks to make sure that you have retagged your animals. Further information can be viewed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

If you export livestock to the European Union (EU), be prepared for the extra rules on ear tagging from 1 January 2021 now the UK has left the EU. Please go to [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for more details.

Get in touch with the FAS

If you would like to speak to a free, independent adviser regarding the cattle registration and identification rules, please contact FAS on 0300 020 0301 or advice@farmingadvice.org.uk.

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