

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Rules for the Registration of Pig Holdings and the Identification and Movement of Pigs (from 19 March 2012)

Question	Answer
Registration of Holdings	
1. I already keep pigs; do I need to apply for a new holding code?	No. Your existing holding code will not change under the new rules.
2. I wish to start keeping pigs, what do I need to do?	You must have a holding code <u>before</u> you receive any pigs on your holding. You must register your holding with DAERA and make an application for a holding code. You must not move pigs onto a premises unless it is part of a holding registered by DAERA.
3. What information will I be asked to provide on the application form to register my holding?	The information that you will be asked to provide will include: (a) the name and address of the keeper of the pigs; (b) the address (or an accurate description) of the location of the holding; (c) the name and address of the owner of the holding, (or the occupier), if different; (d) any other species of animals on the holding and any numbers or codes used to identify any cattle, sheep, goats or poultry on the holding; and (e) the address (or an accurate description) of the location of the premises on the holding which pigs are intended to be kept.
4. What is a holding code?	A holding code is a 6 character code allocated by DAERA to you to identify your holding. Each keeper will be given only one holding code. If pigs are kept on more than one site (premises) all premises must be notified to DAERA as forming part of the holding.
5. Will my holding be inspected before I get a holding code?	Yes. Before a holding code is issued DAERA will visit and inspect your holding to ensure that your housing and handling facilities are adequate for keeping pigs.
6. I have several premises where I keep pigs. Do I need to tell DAERA about these?	You must ensure that all premises you use to keep pigs are notified to DAERA <u>before</u> you move pigs onto that site.
7. I no longer keep pigs; do I need to tell DAERA?	If you stop keeping pigs on any premises you must notify DAERA within 7 days of the change.
8. Do I need to notify DAERA of changes to my registration details?	You must notify DAERA of any changes to the details you provided when registering your holding (for example, your name, your address, or details of other livestock kept on

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	the holding etc) within 7 days of the change.
Identification of pigs	
9. Do I need to identify pigs?	Yes. All pigs born on the holding must be identified by the time they reach 6 months of age or before they are moved off a holding, whichever is the soonest.
10. Do pigs that remain on the holding need to be identified?	Yes. All pigs remaining on your holding must be identified by the time they reach 6 months of age. Pigs under the age of 6 months do not need to be identified unless you are moving them off your holding.
11. Do I need to identify pigs under 6 months of age moving between premises within my holding?	No. If you have several premises within your holding you do not have to identify pigs moving between those premises. You can move unidentified pigs to a finishing unit that is part of your holding and identify them for the first time before moving them to slaughter.
12. How do I identify pigs kept for breeding?	With an eartag bearing your holding code and an individual ID number of up to 4 digits. This is known as a full identification mark or full ID mark. Breeding pigs are those kept beyond 6 months of age, and pigs under 6 months of age that are intended to be kept or sold on for breeding purposes.
13. If a breeding pig is identified under the old rules do I need to re-identify it?	No. If a pig is identified under the old rules and the identification is still in place and is legible you will not need to re-identify the pig.
14. How do I identify pigs moving off my holding under the age of 6 months if they are intended for breeding?	Pigs under the age of 6 months intended for breeding must be identified with an ear tag bearing a holding code and an individual ID number (up to 4 digits).
15. How do I identify pigs going to direct slaughter?	Pigs that are under 6 months of age going direct from your holding to a slaughter plant must be identified with either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An eartag (bearing your holding code and individual ID number); • An ear tag, ear tattoo and a slapmark (bearing your holding code); or • A slapmark (bearing your curer mark).
16. How do I identify pigs going for finishing on another holding?	Pigs that are under 6 months of age going from your holding to a finishing unit (second holding) can be identified with either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An eartag (bearing your holding code and individual ID number); or • An eartag, ear tattoo or slapmark (bearing your holding code).

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17. If a pig is identified for slaughter with only a holding code and is then kept for breeding do I need to re-identify?	Yes. If you intend to keep a pig for breeding you must identify it with a full ID mark (holding code plus individual ID number) when it reaches 6 months of age. You must leave the original ID mark in place and if it remains legible you do not have to cross-reference the old and new ID marks in your Holding Register.
18. Can I write my holding code on an ear tag?	No. Eartags must be printed with your holding code by a tag supplier.
19. Where do I get the individual ID number?	You will be responsible for generating this number and you must ensure that each number is unique to each pig identified on your holding.
20. Can I write the individual ID number on my eartags?	Yes. You can write the individual ID number on eartags with indelible ink; or you can ask the tag supplier to print it for you.
21. What is a curer mark?	A curer mark is code of 4 digits allocated to you by a meat plant and registered by DAERA on their database. Each holding will generally only have one curer mark.
22. Do I need to identify pigs going to markets or shows?	Yes. All pigs (including young pigs and slaughter pigs) moving to a show or a market must be identified with an eartag bearing your holding code and an individual ID number.
23. If I move pigs from one premises to another premises within my holding do I need to identify them?	You are not required to identify pigs under 6 months of age that move from one premises to another premises within your holding. Pigs that have reached 6 months of age must be identified as stated in Question 12.
24. Do I need to apply my own identification device to pigs that I have brought onto my holding?	No. It is not necessary to apply additional ID marks to bought in pigs as long as the original ID mark is still in place and is legible.
25. Can I apply my own ID marks to pigs that I have brought onto my holding?	Yes. This applies to both slaughter and breeding pigs. You must leave the original ID mark in place and if it remains legible you do not have to cross-reference the old and new ID marks in your Holding Register.
26. Can I apply additional ID marks?	Yes. You can apply additional eartags, slapmarks or tattoos bearing your holding code if you wish; however, they must not bear a different individual ID number. You can also apply management information on an eartag or other means as long as it does not interfere with the official means of ID.
27. Do I need to apply an additional ID mark to sows that are going to slaughter?	No. All sows moving to slaughter must bear an eartag with a full ID mark. You do not need to apply an additional ID mark but you may for commercial purposes apply a slapmark with your curer mark before you move

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	the pig to slaughter.
28. Do I need to identify pigs that die?	No. Pigs that die before 6 months of age on the holding of birth do not need to be identified.
29. Where can I get identification devices?	Identification devices can be sourced from suppliers which are listed on the RuralNI website at www.ruralni.gov.uk .
30. Can I use all types of identification devices?	You must use eartags to identify breeding pigs. You can identify pigs destined for slaughter with an ear tag, ear tattoo or slapmark. However, you must ensure that all devices are easy to read during the pig's lifetime. You must not use slapmarks to identify pigs going to a finishing unit unless they will be easy to read for the remainder of the pig's life. Slapmarks may therefore not be suitable in many cases and you should apply an eartag or ear tattoo instead.
31. Can I apply management information on an ID mark?	You may apply an additional eartag, ear tattoo or slapmark bearing this ID mark if you choose but you must not identify a pig with your holding code and two different individual ID numbers.
32. What colour can ear tags be?	Eartags can be of any colour of your choice.
33. Can I use electronic eartags?	There is no legislative requirement for electronic identification (EID) of pigs but you can, on a voluntary basis, identify pigs with an electronic tag. You must comply fully with the rules on identification, and the printed mark on the tag will be the official means of identification, rather than the number in the EID device.
34. What should I do to ensure best practice when identifying pigs?	It is important that identification procedures are carried out correctly under hygienic conditions to ensure the welfare of your pigs. Taking care when identifying pigs will minimise ear tag losses and associated problems. You should carefully consider which device is the most appropriate for the age and size of your pig. You should ensure that all devices are applied correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions. Good antiseptic precautions are essential to guard against infection.
35. What should I do if a tag causes a pig's ear to become infected?	If a tag is causing welfare problems as a result of infection, or if the tag has damaged the pig's ear through being pulled, you should remove the tag if this will help the ear to heal. If a different ID mark is later applied as a replacement this must be cross-referenced in the holding register with the tag removed for welfare reasons, so that traceability is maintained.
36. What should I do if I have problems with the	If you have problems with tag retention make sure you are fitting the tags strictly in accordance with the

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retention of ear tags?	manufacturer's instructions. In many cases tags can become detached from the ear because of incorrect insertion. If you have problems with tags, you should discuss these with your supplier.
Replacing lost or illegible identification marks	
37. Do I have to replace lost or illegible ID marks?	You must replace ID marks that have been lost or that you cannot read, as soon as possible, but no later than 28 days after discovery or before the pig leaves your holding, whichever is the earliest.
38. How do I replace an ID mark?	You can replace an ID mark with either an identical mark (if the pig was born on your holding), or with a new ID mark. The new ID mark must bear your holding code, or your full ID mark (holding code and individual ID number), as appropriate. You may hand write the individual ID number on replacement tags.
39. Can I remove an ID mark?	You must not remove ID marks unless for welfare reasons or with the permission of DAERA.
40. Do I need to record the old and new ID marks in the holding register?	If you replace a lost or illegible ID mark with a new mark, you must always record the new mark in your holding register and, if known, record the old mark as a cross-reference in your holding register to maintain traceability.
41. Why do I have to record the new ID mark when I do not know the old mark?	If you have changed the ID mark on a pig it is important that your holding register shows that the new mark was used as a replacement on a pig that may have been bought onto your holding (rather than on a pig born on your holding).
42. If I apply an identical mark do I need to make a record in my holding register?	No.
43. When do I need to record a replacement mark in my holding register?	You need to record a replacement mark in your register when you apply a new ID mark that is different to the old ID mark. This applies both to ID marks bearing a holding code and full ID marks bearing a holding code and an individual ID number. Remember if you choose to apply a new ID mark to a pig, but the old mark remains legible, you do not need to make a record in your register.
44. What do I do if an ID mark is lost on the way to a market?	If an ID mark is lost on the way to a market it must be replaced before the pig can be sold. Only pigs which are identified correctly may be accepted for sale at a market.

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Movement Recording	
45. What type of move has to be notified to DAERA?	All movement of pigs off your holding must be notified to DAERA. You must send a copy of the movement document to DAERA if you move pigs to another farm; but you do not need to do this if you move them to a market, meat plant or show, as the operator will notify DAERA on your
46. Do I need to complete a movement document when moving pigs between different premises within my holding?	No. You will only need to complete a movement document when you move pigs off your holding to a different holding. This will include moves to a second holding for finishing and moves to Shows, Markets and Meat Plants.
47. Do I need a new movement document book?	Yes. DAERA will send you a new movement book, which you must start to use immediately.
48. Can I move pigs if my holding is restricted?	You must not use a movement document if your pig or your holding is under restriction, unless under a licence from DAERA. The use of movement documents for the movement of restricted pigs off a holding is an offence and may result in prosecution.
49. Who do I give the movement document to?	The movement document must accompany the pigs in transit and must be given to the keeper of the holding at destination, who must complete the document and retain it for at least 3 years.
50. How long do I have to retain movement documents for?	You must retain all movement documents for a period of 3 years.
51. What do I record in the movement document?	The movement document must contain at least the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your name, address and holding code; • the name, address and holding code of the keeper at destination; • the date of movement and number of pigs moved; • the category of each pig being moved; and • the identification of each pig being moved.
52. What ID mark do I record on the movement document?	You must always record the latest ID mark applied to your pig on the movement document. You can record the pigs in batches and include the first and last tag number in the range.
53. What will I do if I don't have enough space on the movement document to	If you do not have space on the movement document, you can attach a list on a separate continuation sheet. Sample continuation sheets are available on the DAERA

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write all the numbers?	website and at your local DAERA Direct Office.
54. How should I complete movement documents?	Full guidance on completing movement documents is printed on the first page of the DAERA book of movement documents for pigs.
55. How soon do I have to send movement documents to DAERA	If you are required to send a copy of the movement document to DAERA, you must do this within 7 days of the movement.
56. If I move pigs to a show do I notify DAERA?	No. When you move pigs to a show the operator of the show will notify DAERA of the movement.
57. Can I notify moves electronically instead of using paper movement documents?	At present DAERA does not have an established system to notify movements of pigs electronically. However, this may be set up in the future as the legislation allows movements to be notified online or by telephone.
58. I have several premises within my holding; can I use several movement books, one for each holding?	Yes. You can have more than one book and use one for each premises on which you keep pigs.
Holding Registers	
59. Am I required to keep a Holding Register?	Yes. A holding register will be sent to you by DAERA and if you wish to keep your records in the register you must start using it as soon as you receive it.
60. Should I retain my old Holding Register?	You must retain your old register for at least 3 years.
61. What do I record in the register?	<p>You must record the general information about your holding (such as you name and address, and holding code) and you must also record-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pigs born on your holding (date of identification and number of pigs identified); • Movements On and Off your holding (date of movement, number of pigs moved and movement document serial number; • Replacement ID marks (cross-referencing old ID marks and new ID marks where appropriate); • Deaths (date of discovery and number of pigs); and • Total number of pigs on your holding once per year.
62. When do I record births?	You must record births within 48 hours of identifying your pigs, not within 48 hours of the birth.
63. Why do I record birth details after identification and not when the pigs are born?	This will help to reduce the frequency of your birth records. This is in line with the principles of Better Regulation.

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64. Do I need to record the ID marks for pigs that are born on my holding?	No. You only need to record the date of identification and the number of pigs identified.
65. Do I record deaths in the register?	Yes. You must record the number of dead pigs and the date of the discovery of the death.
66. Do I need to record details of pigs that die before being identified?	You must record the death of all pigs that had been previously identified. However, you may wish to record all mortalities in the register as this is required under the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations.
67. Do I need to record the ID marks for pigs that have died?	No. You do not need to record the ID mark.
68. How do I complete the holding register?	Full guidance on completing a register is printed in DAERA's Holding Register for Pigs.
69. If I identify pigs for the first time as they move off the holding what do I record in the register?	You can record both the birth and the movement of a pig together in your register if you first identify pigs at the point of moving them off your holding.
70. If a slaughter pig was identified with a holding code on a previous holding and has lost its identification how do I record the replacement mark in holding register?	You must apply an ID mark bearing your holding code and record both the old ID mark and the new ID mark (if known) in your register.
71. If a breeding pig was identified on a previous holding and has lost its identification how do I record the replacement mark in the register?	You must apply an ID mark bearing your full ID mark (holding code and individual ID number) and you must record the old ID mark and the new ID mark (if known) in the register.
72. Do I need to copy all of the information from a movement document into my register?	No. For both movements on and off your holding you can simply cross-reference the serial number of the movement document in your holding register, instead of copying all of the movement information.
73. Do I need to retain the movement documents with my register?	Yes. You must retain your movement document in date order with the register for at least 3 years
74. When must I record each event?	<p>You must complete the register within 48 hours of each event: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pigs born on your holding (when identified); • Movements on and off your holding; • Death of a pig; and • Replacement ID marks.

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75. Do I need to use the Holding Register provided by DAERA?	No. You can use your own version of the Holding Register (including an electronic version) provided it contains all of the required information and can be presented to a DAERA inspector on demand. You will need to present the information chronologically (in date order).
76. I have several premises within my holding; can I keep several Holding Registers, one on each premises?	No. The Holding Register is a single repository of information, for example, a single paper Holding Register issued by DAERA, a paper book or file you have sourced yourself, or a single electronic file (e.g. excel spreadsheet). If a third party, such as an employee, moves pigs off one of your premises on your behalf you must record the information in your single Holding Register.
77. How long do I need to keep my Holding Register?	You must keep your Holding Register for a period of at least 3 years.
Trade	
78. How do I identify pigs that are moving outside Northern Ireland?	When you are moving a pig to Great Britain, other European Member States or to countries outside the European Union the pig must be identified with an ear tag consisting of a holding code and an individual ID number before they leave the premises of origin.
79. Can I apply additional slapmarks?	Yes. Additional slapmarks can be applied if required for commercial purposes.
80. Have the import rules changed?	No. The new system has not changed the rules for pigs imported into Northern Ireland.
81. Do I need to re-identify an imported pig?	You will only need to re-identify an imported pig when it is moving off your holding if it is not identified in accordance with the new rules (see identification section).
82. Do I need to record the new ID mark in my Holding Register?	If the original ID mark is in place and is legible, you do not have to cross-reference the ID and new marks in your Holding Register.
83. If I have imported a pig from a country outside the European Union what do I need to do?	If you are importing a pig from outside the EU you must apply an ear tag to the pig (unless the pig goes direct to slaughter within 30 days of arrival in Northern Ireland) containing the following information, in the following order— a) the holding code of the holding to which the imported pig is introduced; b) the individual ID number; c) any other information, if the keeper wishes to apply such information; and d) the letter “F”. The ear tag must be applied to the pig within 30 days of

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	its arrival at the holding of destination, and in any event, before it is moved from that holding. The old and new ID marks must be cross-referenced in the holding register.
84. If I move a pig onto my holding from outside Northern Ireland do I have to send a movement document to DAERA?	Yes. You must send a copy of the movement document to your local DAERA Office within 7 days of the pig arriving on your holding.
85. Where can I get further information on the rules for Trade?	You can get further information the rules for trade on the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/animal-export-certification .
Pet Pigs	
86. I keep a pet pig, do I need to register with DAERA?	Yes. When you keep a single pet pig you must register with DAERA and obtain a holding code.
87. Do I need to identify a pet pig?	Yes. Your pig will need to be identified with an ear tag bearing your holding code and an individual ID number.
88. Do I need to complete a movement document when I take a pig for a walk?	No. You do not need to complete a movement document but if you take a pet pig for a walk on public roads or footpaths if you must have a licence to do so from DAERA. To obtain a licence you should contact your local DAERA Direct Office.
89. Do I need to complete the details in my Holding Register?	No. You do not need to record the details in your holding register when taking a pig for a walk only. However, you will have to record movements on and off your holding for other reasons other than walking a pig.
Number of Pigs on Your Holding	
90. Do I need to make a record of the number of pigs on my holding?	Yes. Once each year you need to count the number of pigs on your holding and the categories to which they belong.
91. Do I need to provide this information to DAERA?	Yes. You must provide this information to DAERA on a date and in a format specified by DAERA. This will allow you to comply with the Farm Census requirements and Aujeszky's Disease monitoring.
Inspections	
92. Will I receive a cross-compliance inspection?	The pigs, identification and movement rules form a Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) within the Cross-Compliance rules. A percentage of holdings are inspected each year to ensure compliance with the rules. Any discrepancies detected can count towards a penalty reduction in your Single Farm Payment.

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93. Can I be prosecuted for failing to comply with the rules?	Yes. The rules set out in this guidance are a legal requirement under the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012. If you fail to comply you could be prosecuted, and penalties include fines of up to £5,000 or 2 months in prison.
General	
94. Where will I get a new Holding Register or Movement Book?	You will be issued with a new Holding Register and Movement Book. If you require additional books contact your local DAERA Office.
95. What can I do with my current stock of tags?	You can still use your current stock of tags (which don't have your holding code printed on them by a tag supplier) for management purposes.
96. Where can I get further information on the rules for the identification and movement of pigs?	Further guidance can be obtained by contacting your local DAERA Office or from the Guidance for Keepers on the Registration of Pig Holdings and Identification and Movement of Pigs on the DAERA website at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/identification-registration-and-movement-pigs .
97. When do the rules come into operation?	19 March 2012.