



BSI Standards Publication

**Official identification ear tags  
for sheep and goats –  
Specification**

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## Foreword

This PAS was developed by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Its development was facilitated by BSI Standards and it was published under the licence from The British Standards Institution. It came into effect on 30 April 2014.

Acknowledgement is given to the following organizations that were involved in the development of this PAS as members of the steering group:

- ALIDMA
- Dalton ID Limited
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARDNI)
- Ritchey Limited
- Rural Payments Agency (RPA)
- Scottish Government
- Welsh Government
- Co-opted

Acknowledgement is also given to members of a wide review panel who were consulted in the development of this PAS.

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This PAS is not to be regarded as a British Standard. It will be withdrawn upon publication of its content as, or as, a British Standard.

The PAS process enables a specification to be rapidly developed in order to fulfil an immediate need in industry. A PAS can be considered for further development as a British Standard, or constitute part of the UK input into the development of a European or International Standard.

### Supersession

This PAS supersedes PAS 66:2009+C1:2010, which is withdrawn.

### Relationship with other publications

This PAS is issued as part of a series of PAS for eartags which includes:

- PAS 44:2014, Official identification eartags for cattle – Specification

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.

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

### Use of this document

It has been assumed in the preparation of this PAS that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

This PAS is not intended to restrict new developments in design and materials providing they meet the minimum standards laid down in this PAS. Any approved ear tags on the market at the time of its publication that need re-testing should be approved to this PAS (PAS 66:2014) by 31 December 2015.

This specification is not intended to restrict new developments in design and materials providing they meet the minimum requirements laid down in this PAS.

### **Presentational conventions**

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element. The word "should" is used to express recommendations, the word "may" is used to express permissibility and the word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Spelling conforms to The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. If a word has more than one spelling, the first spelling in the dictionary is used.

### **Contractual and legal considerations**

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

### **Compliance with a PAS cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

In addition, attention is drawn to the relevant domestic legislation on the identification of sheep and goats [3].

## 1 Scope

This Publicly Available Specification (PAS) specifies requirements for the performance and testing of eartags used for the official identification of sheep and goats.

This PAS is not applicable to management tags.

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 documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. 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*

BS ISO 11785:1996, *Radio-frequency identification of animals – Technical concept*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

- 3.1 eartag**  
permanent identification eartag, replacement or slaughter tag for a sheep or goat
- 3.2 replacement tag**  
red replacement eartag
- 3.3 accredited distributor**  
company that sells eartags and operates using the Great Britain Eartag Allocation System (ETAS)
- 3.4 electronic eartag**  
permanent identification eartag for sheep or goats incorporating an electronic transponder
- 3.5 newton (N)**  
force required to impart, to a mass of 1 kg, an acceleration of 1 m/s<sup>2</sup>  
*NOTE* Newton is equal to 0.2248 pounds force.

## 4 General requirements

### 4.1 Materials

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