CHANGE TO THE BOVINE TAG NUMBERING FORMAT TO FACILITATE NEW ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION (EID) NUMBERING

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has introduced a new numbering format for cattle tags since November 1st. This new numbering format is required for cattle tags to ensure the system in place is compatible with an agreed EU wide electronic identification (EID) format.

This change is necessary to ensure that the Irish tag-numbering format poses no hindrance to live cattle exports.

HERD NUMBER

There will be no change to herd numbers under the new arrangements – each keeper will retain the existing herd number.

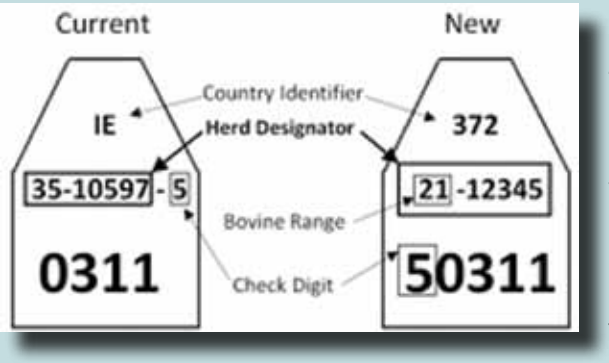
CHANGES TO NUMBERING FORMAT

New Country Identifier: The IE displayed on current tags will be replaced by the **3 digit numeric code 372 which is the country code allocated to Ireland** under international technical standards (ISO).

New Herd Designator: The current 7 digit herd designator begins with county identifiers ranging from 11 to 39. The EID tag numbers cannot begin with anything greater than 27. The ranges 21, 22 and 23 are reserved for bovines.

All keepers will be issued with a new 7 digit herd designator beginning with a number from the bovine range. This will not affect the existing herd number for your holding.

Bovine Number: The 5 digit number comprises a check digit followed by the four digit animal number.



EXAMPLE OF CHANGE TO THE TAG NUMBERING FORMAT

The new numbering format will be printed on all new tags ordered from November 2016. The animal number in the new numbering format will start from the next number issued in the current numbering format. (For example, if 0312 was the last animal number issued in the current numbering format 0313 will be the first animal number issued under the new numbering format).

Stocks of tags displaying the current numbering format must be used before starting to use any new tags. All tags in the current numbering format must be used up by 31 December 2017.

As from 1 January 2018 you will only be permitted to tag and register new born calves with the new numbering format.