STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 110

ANIMALS

The Cattle Identification (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - -	*11th June 2026*
Coming into operation	*3rd July 2026*

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs(**a**), makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 11 and 22 and paragraph 11M(1), (3) and (8) of Schedule 2 and paragraph 21(b) of Schedule 7 to, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018(**b**).

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Cattle Identification (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 and come into operation on 3rd July 2026.

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**c**) applies to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

Amendments to the Cattle Identification (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

2.—(1) The Cattle Identification (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998(**d**) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 2(1), in the definition of "approved eartag", after "Article 9(1)", insert "and (3)".

(3) In regulation 3(1), sub-paragraph (a), after "Article 9(1)", insert "and (3)".

(4) After regulation 3, insert—

"**Electronic eartags**

3A. In accordance with Article 41(1) of the Commission Delegated Regulation, the person responsible for identifying an animal in accordance with Article 38 of that Regulation may replace one of the conventional eartags referred to in Article 38(1)(a) by an electronic eartag approved by the Department in accordance with Article 9(3) of the Commission Implementing Regulation.".

(**a**) Formerly the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD see Article 3(4) of the Departments (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1)). DARD was renamed the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) by section 1(2) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c.5 (N.I.)).

(**b**) 2018(c16); Part 1C of Schedule 2 was inserted by section 22 of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 (c.1) (the 2020 Act). Paragraph 21(b) of Schedule 7 was amended by paragraph 53(2)(b) of Schedule 5 to the 2020 Act.

(**c**) 1954 c.33(N.I.).

(**d**) S.R. 1998 No. 279, to which relevant amendments were made by S.R. 1999 No. 324, S.R. 2004 No. 420, S.R. 2012 No. 416, S.R. 2015 No. 332, S.R. 2019 No. 82, S.I. 2019/157, S.R. 2020 No. 324, S.R. 2020 No. 353 and S.R. 2025 No. 11.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on 11th June 2026

L.S.

Neal Gartland
A senior officer of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations are made in exercise of powers conferred by sections 11 and 22 and paragraph 11M(1), (3) and (8) of Schedule 2 and paragraph 21(b) of Schedule 7 to, the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. They amend the Cattle Identification (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 No. 279 to allow persons responsible for identifying bovines to use electronic eartags as an additional means of identification for cattle in Northern Ireland. The electronic eartag may then be used as an alternative to one of the two conventional eartags in cattle.

An impact assessment has not been produced for these Regulations as no, or no significant, impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen.

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