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Voluntary - Public

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Animal Identification and Traceability Requirements

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

FAIRS Subject Report

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

This report is an unofficial translation of the Order 2021-15 on animal identification and traceability.

This measure is implemented by the Code of Procedures for the [National System of Animal Identification and Traceability](#) (SNIT) of cattle and camels, including imports. Moroccan authorities issued a note in December 2017 extending the applicability to sheep and goats in January 2018.

Morocco currently imports \$50 million of affected species, however the United States currently does not have market access for any of them. This measure has not been notified to the WTO.

Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries

No. 2021-15 of Chaabane 24, 1436 (June 12, 2015) laying down the technical and organizational forms for carrying out the identification of animals and

conditions of their displacement and movement.

[\(BO No.6418 of December 03, 2015page 4381\)](#)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MARITIME FISHERIES,

Considering the [Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products, promulgated by the Dahir N. 1-10-08 of Safar 26, 1431 \(February 11, 2010\)](#), in particular its article 14;

Considering the [Decree No. 2-10-473 of the Chaoual 7, 1432 \(September 6, 2011\) adopted for the application of certain provisions of the Law No. 28-07 relating to the safety of food products](#), in particular its articles 78, 80, 83 and 84,

Order:

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

FIRST ARTICLE. The provisions of this Order apply to animals of the bovine and camel species.

Article 2. Within the meaning of this Order, the following terms mean:

- **Holder:** Any natural or legal person responsible, even temporarily, for animals belonging to the species referred to in Article 1 above, including during the transport of such animals or when they are on a livestock market;
- **Delegate:** Any veterinarian with a health mandate or public body or legal person under private law to which identification operations of the above-mentioned animals have been delegated by the National Office for Food Safety (ONSSA);
- **Identifying agent:** The veterinarian and the livestock technician under the supervision of ONSSA as well as any veterinarian with a health mandate or any person designated by the public body or the private-law legal person to whom identification operations animals have been delegated by ONSSA.

Article 3. The individual passport provided for in Article 80 b) of the abovementioned [Decree No 2-10-473](#) is a card called "identification and accompanying card" of the animal. This card must accompany the animal from identification until death or slaughter. The identification and accompanying card is drawn up by the competent services of ONSSA according to the model annexed to this Decree. It is duly informed by the identifying agent who carried out the identification operation of the animal. The identification and accompanying card is issued to the holder of the animal concerned. It must be presented by this holder at any request of one of the agents provided for in Article 21 of [Law 28-07](#) referred to above.

CHAPTER II: REGISTRATION OF LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS

Article 4. The local veterinary service which has received the declaration of registration of a livestock holding referred to in Article 78 of [Decree No 2-10-473](#), shall assign a registration code to that holding and record it in the national animal identification database provided for in Article 82 of the aforementioned Decree. Any registered livestock breeding operation shall keep the registration code, which has been allocated even when animal species other than those listed in the initial declaration are held there.

Article 5. Any holder of one or more animals of the species referred to in Article 1 above who has registered his livestock holding operation, excluding transporters and responsible persons or owners of animal assembly centers and animal carcass collectors, must inform ONSSA's local veterinary service of any change in the activities of their holdings as well as any cessation activity or transfer thereof to another holder.

Article 6. The livestock register provided for in Article 80 d) of [Decree No 2-10-473](#) must be drawn up by the holders of the animals referred to in Article 1 above in accordance with the model laid down by ONSSA. This livestock register consists of a cover page bearing the information enabling the holder of the animals and the livestock holding to be identified and as many pages as necessary containing each of the information provided for in Article 79 of the aforementioned Decree.

CHAPTER III: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Article 7. The identification of animals of the species referred to in Article 1 above is carried out as follows:

- a) Affixing, in each ear of the animal, an earring-tag conforming to the specific technical characteristics set by the Director General of ONSSA and including a Unique National Identification Number (NNI) assigned to the identified animal;
- b) The issuance of the identification and accompanying card of the animal bearing in particular the National Identification Number mentioned above;
- c) The recording of information relating to the animal identified in the database referred to in Article 4 above;
- d) The updating of the livestock register referred to in Article 6 above.

During the issuance of the identification and accompanying card, the identifying agent ensures the accuracy of the information relating to the animal that is carried, particularly its National Identification Number NNI.

Article 8. When the identification operation is carried out by a veterinarian holding a health mandate or public body or legal person under private law in accordance with the provisions of Article 85 of the above-mentioned [Decree No 2-10-473](#), the earring-tags used for that purpose must be those provided by ONSSA's services or, failing that, those acquired by the said veterinarian or public body or legal person under private law, in accordance with the methods agreed upon with ONSSA.

Article 9. The holder of the animals who, in accordance with the provisions of article 14 of the aforementioned [Law n ° 28-07](#), is required to identify or have identified those animals born at his livestock holding or acquired without having been identified by the original holder, he must declare to the identifying agent all available information relating to these animals for the purpose of their identification, in particular, their affiliation.

Article 10. Any imported animal must be re-identified in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

However, the below are not subject to re-identification:

- Animals transported directly from the border post to the slaughterhouse or slaughtered within less than two months from the date of importation;
- Animals in transit or imported temporarily. In this case, the accompanying health documents serve as an identification and accompanying card.

The identification and accompanying card issued to the holder of the animal during this re-identification must mention of the prior identification of the animal. This prior identification must be registered by the identifying agent in the database referred to in Article 4 above and saved by the holder of the animal on the livestock register kept on the holding operation.

The re-identification of imported animals subject to quarantine is carried out, by the identifying agent, during the quarantine of the said animals, at the expense of the importer.

Article 11. When the identifying agent issues the animal's identification and accompanying card, the holder of the animal concerned must ensure that the information on the card corresponds to the animal. In the event of any discrepancy between the information and the animal, the holder must inform the identifying agent or the local veterinary service of the Regional Directorate of ONSSA in order to make the necessary corrections.

Article 12. Any holder of identified animals must declare to the local veterinary service under the supervision of ONSSA regional management or to an identifying agent the following events:

- 1) The loss of an earring-tag carried by the animal;
- 2) The loss of the two earring-tags carried by the animal. In this case, the animal must be isolated until re-identification;
- 3) The deterioration or loss of the livestock register or the identification and accompanying card of the animal.

The aforementioned declaration must be made within a period not exceeding seven working days from the date of the event.

Article 13. After the death or slaughter of an animal, including in the case of slaughter for home consumption, the earring-tags of the said animal must be recovered and handed over by the holder to the local veterinary service of the place of the death or slaughter of the animal, together with the identification and accompanying card of the said animal within seven working days from the date of the event.

CHAPTER IV: DISPLACEMENT AND MOVEMENT OF ANIMALS

Article 14. Movements of entry or exit of animals, which in accordance with the provisions of Article 79 of [Decree No 2-10-473](#) referred to above, are recorded on the livestock register, must be declared to the local veterinary service under the authority of the Regional Office of ONSSA in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

Article 15. Any holder of one or more animals belonging to the species referred to in Article 1 above, with the exception of transporters, must declare within a period not exceeding one month from the event, to the local veterinary service under the authority of the Regional Office of ONSSA on the printed form prepared for this purpose by this Office, any birth, sale, purchase and any movement of the animals they hold.

The holder must keep a copy of this declaration submitted by the aforementioned service for at least one year from the date of issue.

Article 16. For any identified animal introduced into an approved slaughterhouse or subject to regular health monitoring, the slaughterhouse veterinary inspector must:

- Check the consistency between the NNI of the earring-tag of the animal admitted to slaughter and the one on its identification and accompanying card;
- Recovering the said card and the earring-tags identifying the animal slaughtered;
- Proceed with the destruction of the earring-tags recovered;
- Affix on the animal's identification and accompanying card the mention "canceled" by means of an indelible marker and keep it for a minimum of five years;
- Record in the national database the information relating to the slaughtered animal;
- Report any anomaly of identification found during the receipt of the animal.

Article 17. This order will be published in the Official Gazette

Rabat, on Chaabane 24, 1436 (June 12, 2015)

The Minister of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, *Aziz Akhannouch*