

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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POLICY

Voluntary - Public

Date: 9/6/2018

GAIN Report Number: MO1847

Morocco

Post: Rabat

Animal Identification and Traceability Requirements

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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

FAIRS Subject Report

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

This report is an unofficial translation of 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. Measure has not been notified to the WTO.

CODE OF PROCEDURES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF CATTLE
AND CAMELS
IN THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND
TRACEABILITY
(SNIT)

January
2015

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Code of Procedures is to:

- Define and clarify the practical arrangements for the identification of bovine animals and camels, as well as the declaration of the different events that may occur during their productive life (sale, purchase, transfer, slaughter, death, birth).
- Specify the various stakeholders during the process of identification and reporting of movements of cattle and camels.
- Specify the responsibilities of each of the aforementioned stakeholders in identifying and reporting the movement of the aforementioned species.

I- LEGAL AND REGULATORY BASES:

- [Law No. 25-08](#) establishing the National Office for the Safety of Food Products promulgated by Dahir No. 1-09-20 of 22 safar 1430 (February 18, 2009).

- [Law No. 28-07](#) on the safety of foodstuffs promulgated by Dahir No. I 10-08 of 26 safar 1431 (11 February 2010).

A - [Decree No. 2-10-473](#) of 7 chaoual 1432 (6 September 2011) issued for the application of certain provisions of Act No. 28 -07 on the safety of food products.

II- PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY (SNIT)

2-1. Fundamental components of the SNIT

Within the framework of the National Animal Identification and Traceability System (SNIT), the identification of cattle and camels consists in carrying out the following operations, which represent the fundamental components to ensure the traceability of animals:

a) Affixing Tags

Each animal identified must wear two tags: a visual loop (conventional tag or classic) affixed by the identifier agent on the left ear and an electronic tag on the right ear, both of which bear the same National Identification Number (NNI).

The National Identification Number (NNI) is composed of 16 alphanumeric characters as specified below. It must be assigned to a single animal in a unique way (it is this number which makes it possible to ensure the uniqueness of the animal identified at the national level.) However, in the event of loss of one of the two tags (electronic or normal tag), this number will be replaced by another, while maintaining a link in the national database between the new and the old identification number.

b) Recorded data on the readers of electronic tags

The electronic tag reader instantly allows the holders and owners of the animal to access information from the NNI on the animal (address, identification number, geographical coordinates of the farm, etc.) as well as data on cattle and camel identified (race, sex, age, parents' NNI number, etc.)

c) Data transfer or storage at the reader

The transfer of the data recorded in the reader to the national database can be done:

- Either directly via a 3G connection (where it exists);
- or indirectly (in deferred mode): in this case the data are stored at the reader level by the identifier agent and the data transfer operation will be carried out once at the office, either directly to the database (via a connection cable) or via Wi-Fi.

d) Production of the accompanying identification document for bovine / camels (CIAB/CIAC)

The CIAB/CIAC edition will be handed over to the holder of the animal after identification of the animal, after it has been signed by the identifying agent, after filling in all the necessary information.

e) Livestock Register

Identification documents (livestock register, CIAB/CIAC) must be kept under the responsibility of the holder and presented whenever requested by ONSSA agents.

The CIAB/CIAC must accompany the animal during its movements, in particular during the rearing of livestock, commercial transactions (sale, purchase), loan, grazing, exit to the slaughterhouse, etc.

2.2. Description of the identification material:

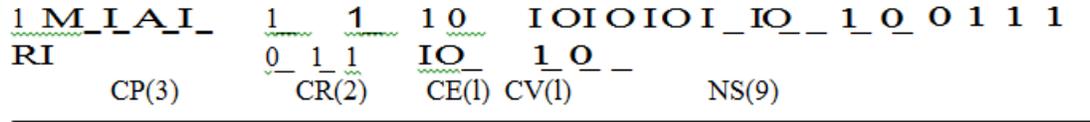
a) Tags:

The tags used within the framework of the SNIT are of two types:

- A tag containing an electronic chip (equipped with an antenna and a capacitor). They are coated in plastic and operate according to Half Duplex [HDX] technology. They are inviolable. The NNI is encoded at the chip level and read by a special reader. The color of the tag is yellow for cattle. For camels, the colors used are yellow, salmon and white.
- A conventional plastic buckle made of soft, hypoallergenic plastic material of bright yellow color;
- The two tags are tamper-proof, single-use and indelibly marked for a minimum duration of 7 years.

The electronic and visual tags are provided and presented in pairs (one pair = two loops with the same national identification number (NNI)):

- An electronic tag marked with a visual number (NNI) and,
- A visual tag marked with the same number (NNI).
- Each pair of tags is packaged in a way that ensures that it is used for a single bovine or camel, thereby reducing the risk of mismatched visual tag and electronic tag.
- The size and format of the tags conform to the standards set by the concerned services of ONSSA. They are numbered and laser-marked in a legible and indelible manner according to the following diagram:



Identification number of cattle / camels

CP: ISO code of the Kingdom of Morocco.

CR: Code of the Region.

CE: Code of the animal species represented by the letter B (bovine) or C (camels).

CV: Unique verification code in the form of a letter.

NS: A unique sequential number assigned to each animal identified by species.

Only tags approved by ONSSA may be used by the identifying agents.

b) The tag applicator:

Also called a clamp that is suitable for visual tags and electronic tags. It is used to fix the tags on the ears of the animal.

c) The electronic tag reader:

This mobile all-in-one reader is capable of:

- Read the electronic tags and store the read numbers in memory;
- Allow the capture and storage of additional data (such as owner data, age of the animal, sex, breed, etc.) relating to the tag number;
- Connect to the national mobile phone network via a 3G connection to transmit the data to the national database;
- Download files from the central database, query the database, and display query results using the national mobile network;
- Connect to computers and printers via cable.

All the equipment offered (reader, reader antenna, connection cables, spare battery, etc.) is packaged in a sturdy case for field travel.

III- ROLE OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS IN IDENTIFICATION OPERATIONS:

A. National Office for the Safety of Food Products (ONSSA)

1. At the central level:

ONSSA is the owner of the National System of Animal Identification and Traceability. Its mission is to:

- Ensure the implementation and proper functioning of the SNIT according to the legislative and regulatory framework in force;
- Establish the annual bovine / camel identification program;
- Implement procedures for the execution of the identification program;
- To lay down the detailed rules for the operation of the national database on animal identification and traceability;
- Acquire or approve identification equipment and supplies;
- Specify the models of documents relating to the traceability of animals (breeding register, notification of events ...).
- Establish the conventions for the realization or the delegation of one or more stages of the identification process.
- Ensure the management and control of the national database associated with the SNIT; technical training of identifying agents.

2. At regional and local level:

The ten Regional Directorates of ONSSA Are responsible for ensuring the implementation and monitoring of SNIT at the level of their areas of action, ensuring:

- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the annual identification program;
- Coordinating the implementation of the identification program with all relevant stakeholders;
- Supervision and monitoring of the identification program;
- Distribution and management of the stock of equipment and identification supplies;
- Estimating requirements for identification equipment and supplies;
- Monitoring and control of the execution of the identification operation by the bodies or individuals to whom the implementation of one or more stages of the identification process has been delegated.
- Manage requests for replacement of tags and accompanying documents for animals;
- Reissue identification and accompanying documents;
- Retrieve and archive identification and accompanying documents for bovine / camel slaughtered or deceased for at least 5 years;
- Prepare and transmit the periodic reports to the Regional Directorate concerned;
- Verify and update the provincially-identified bovine / camel census file; control and monitor the execution of identification operations carried out within the framework of agreements established between ONSSA and the professionals concerned (Moroccan Inter-professional Milk Federation - FIMALAIT and Inter-Professional Federation of Red Meat-FIVIAR) and with the Veterinarians National Order (ONV).

B. Role of Other Stakeholders

The commitments and activities of the inter-professional federations (FIMALAIT-FIVIAR) and the ONV are specified in the conventions signed for this purpose with ONSSA.

IV- PRACTICAL TERMS OF IDENTIFICATION

1. Identifying agents

The identification agent authorized by ONSSA (having an identification code) proceeds to the identification of the animals according to the modalities fixed in this code of procedures. To this end, it is responsible for:

- Applying the identification marks, in this case an electronic tag and a visual tag for each animal. For this purpose, it is the responsibility of the user to use only the ear tags delivered by the provincial veterinary service of ONSSA to which it belongs and to ensure that the animal has not been previously identified according to the new system SNIT; in addition, it must ensure that the tag-free animal has not previously been identified according to SNIT by asking the question to the breeder and checking the livestock register.
- Drawing up and editing the accompanying document of the identified animal, which must contain all the information requested and hand it to the holder forthwith. This document should be legible, complete, signed on location by the identifying agent and given to the holder after identification of the animal in question. A part of the document must be kept by the holder and the other part shall be kept at the level of the provincial veterinary service for minimum period of 5 years after the slaughter or death of the animal;
- Recording at the tag reader all data relating to the identified animal, breeder and holder for transfer to the national database, either instantaneously or deferred for updating of the national identification database;
- Creating and updating the identified animal file;
- Checking and updating the breeding register (model no. 1) by verifying the authenticity of the breed (registration number, address, holder, ...). Thereafter, he is required to mark the date of the intervention, sign next to the added or updated information with his signature and identifier code;
- To intervene to correct the anomalies observed;
- To manage the tag stock under his jurisdiction;
- To declare to the provincial veterinary service suspicions of fraud or falsification as well as anomalies and difficulties encountered;
- To return the equipment and the supply of defective identification to the provincial veterinary service, or in the event of cessation of identification activity (departure, retirement, sickness, etc.).

- To respond to the application of each declaration by the holder of the animals in order to identify the animals or to register the movements of newly introduced animals or those which have left the holding (sold, transferred or dead).

2. Holder:

The holder of animals is defined as any natural or legal person responsible for animals, even temporarily, including during transport or in a market of livestock; in addition to births at the level of his breeding, all movements of the animals (cattle or camels) present in this breeding (sale, purchase, death, slaughter, exit to the abattoirs, loan, transfer ...). In addition, he must declare any loss or anomalies relating to tags or accompanying documents relating to his animals.

To this end, the holder of the animals shall:

- Declare for the registration of her breeding at the nearest provincial veterinary service under the ONSSA Regional Directorate, in accordance with the rules and regulations in force;
- Report to the provincial veterinary service or directly to the identifying agent the events relating to the animals held by him in the manner and within the time limits laid down in this Code of Procedures;
- Ensure the lineage of newborn babies until the identifying agent affixes the ear tags and the accompanying documents;
- Maintain a livestock register that includes:
 - The identification of the holding;
 - The identity of the holder of the live animals;
 - The identification data of the animals and species present in the farm;
 - Medicines or medicinal products administered to animals or any other veterinary products including vaccination and screening of animal diseases;
 - Food distributed to animals;
 - The mortality observed;
 - The inputs and outputs of the animals from the farm;
- Report to the Provincial Veterinary Service or the Identifying Agent any evidence of loss or abnormality on the tags or accompanying documents of their animals.

3. Health Veterinary mandates:

The authorized veterinary must ensure, during the course of his activities in the context of diseases deemed to be legally infectious, the identification of animals and to include on the animal its accompanying intervention documents (vaccination, screening, sampling, etc.); it shall also be responsible for notifying the provincial veterinary service concerned of any finding of non-identification of the animals, anomaly or errors in the tags or accompanying documents.

V- MANAGEMENT OF THE IDENTIFICATION OPERATION:

A- At the breeding level

1. Registration of farms:

Every holder of one or more cattle / camels, other than transporters and persons responsible or owner of assembly centers, and any collector of bovine carcasses, shall notify the Provincial Veterinary Service under the Regional Directorate of ONSSA, according to the procedures in force, each of the farms for which it is responsible for registration and any change in this situation.

The keeper shall also ensure that the said service always has up-to-date information on the holdings for which it is responsible, indicating any modification or cessation of their activities or transfer to another holder.

The provincial veterinary service registers the farm in question in the national database and assigns a livestock registration code.

Where the holding holds other animal species, the same national number shall be used for all animal species in the holding.

2. Identification of animals:

Every holder of one or more bovines / camels must declare to the identification agent or the provincial veterinary service the existence of unidentified cattle or camels on his holding by means of a form conforming to model No 2 in the Annex, specifying :

- The number of births on its holding within a period not exceeding 30 days;
- The number of new bovines / camels acquired by the holder, without having been identified by the original holder in accordance with the current national identification system, within a period not exceeding 30 days;
- Travel to and from the holding within 30 days;
- Deaths, exits of animals for slaughter, migratory herding, loan, etc., within a period not exceeding 30 days.

Following the holder's declaration, the identifying agent shall proceed as appropriate:

(i) The identification of bovine/camels or adult bovine/camels for the first time:

The identification agent shall have a maximum period of 30 days from the date of receipt of the holder's declaration for the purpose of identifying births and any newly acquired cattle or camels. To do this, it affixes the tags on both ears of the animal bearing the same national identification number.

Subsequently, he is required to verify the sex of the animal, its age and genetic lineage before entering the animal data into the reader. It performs a final check before the information entered to the national database is transmitted (in connected or disconnected mode depending on whether or not the 3G connection is available).

The final step is to publish the identification and accompanying document (CIAB or CLAC).

In addition, when visiting a holding, the identifying agent is required to identify all the bovines and camels present (tagging, editing identification and accompanying documents, updating the database and breeding register).

(ii) the identification of imported cattle:

Imported cattle must be identified during quarantine by the mandated veterinary surgeon in accordance with the terms of this Code of Procedures. To this end, the mandated health veterinarian is required:

- To establish the correspondence between the national identification number and the identification number of the bovine animals according to the system of identification of the country of origin. It clearly states that it is an imported bovine (in the field reserved for the origin of the animal);
- To ensure consistency between the ear marks carried by imported bovine animals and their pedigrees;
- Edit the identification and accompanying document;
- Enter the data into the reader and send it to the national database;
- To return the ear tags from the country of origin to the provincial veterinary service concerned, this shall check the correspondence between the two identification numbers and their destruction. A report of this destruction must be drawn up for this purpose.

B- Cattle/camel movement:

No animal shall leave the holding of origin if it is not properly identified, in accordance with this Code Procedure. In addition, it must be accompanied by its CIAB (for cattle) or his CIAC (for camels).

In this sense, only cattle/camels identified and accompanied by their CIAB/CIAC can access cattle markets and slaughterhouses. Furthermore, in the case of a commercial transaction, the holder-seller and the holder-buyer must declare within 30 days simultaneously the sale and purchase of the animals to the closest identifying agent (or veterinary service professional association if it is a member).

It is the responsibility of the cardholder to verify prior to any business transaction or travel to ensure that the CIAB/CIAC corresponds to the bovine/camel sold or purchased.

In the event of the death of a bovine/camels , the holder is required to remove the official tags from the deceased animal and return them **within 15 days** with the declaration form and identification document and (or to the professional association if he is a member of the veterinary service).

If the two tags and the accompanying identification document of the deceased animal have been recovered by the identity agent of a professional association, the latter must, in turn, deliver them to the relevant provincial veterinary service. Tags shall be destroyed by incineration under the responsibility of the Provincial Veterinary Service Manager and the identification and accompanying document shall be crossed by two diagonal lines and archived at the level of that veterinary service for a minimum period of 5 years. Minutes must be drawn up for this purpose.

In the case of presentation of a bovine/camel at slaughter, the animal must carry the official identification tags and be accompanied by its accompanying identification document. To this end, the veterinary inspector or the meat inspection technician at the slaughterhouse must systematically check the correspondence between the animal's tags and its documents before admitting animals at slaughter identification and accompaniment. The tags and the accompanying identification document must be submitted to the provincial veterinary service at the place of slaughter. They will be subjected to the same procedure described for deceased cattle / camels.

In the case of slaughter for own consumption outside the slaughterhouse, the holder is required to deposit, at the nearest provincial veterinary service, the duly completed declaration form (model 2) with the two tags and the CIAB / CIAC for the animal in question.

The keeper is obliged to update the register of his breeding or to ask the identifying agent to carry out this operation while specifying the reason and the date of slaughter.

The identifying agent is also required to submit to the Provincial Veterinary Service a monthly report in accordance with the framework in force concerning:

- The inventory status of equipment and supplies of identification;
- The number of animals identified;
- Movements of animals (sale, purchase, death, slaughter ...).

The provincial veterinary service updates data on the different movements of animals (change of ownership, slaughter, death, etc.).

In the event of a loan, donation or repurchase of a bovine / camel, successive holders are subject to the same identification requirements under this Code of Procedures.

C- Declaration of loss of tags or accompanying identification document and error detection:

In the event of loss of tags or accompanying identification documents, the holder of the animal shall immediately declare the event to the identifying agent or the provincial veterinary service within 7 days of the loss being detected. To this end, the declaration must be made in accordance with model No 3 in the Annex and a copy must be kept by the holder for a minimum period of one year.

Following this declaration, the provincial veterinary service is required to deliver to the identifying agent a new tag pair to replace the old tag.

After the new tags have been laid, the identifying agent must provide the veterinary service with the necessary supporting documents specifying that the tags have been actually affixed so that the veterinary service can proceed to the entry and change of the new NNI and to make the correspondence between the two numbers in the SNIT computer application.

Furthermore, in the event of loss of accompanying identification documents, the provincial veterinary service concerned will republish a new document with the words 'duplicate' and hand it over to the identifying agent within a maximum of 3 days. The latter will issue to the holder, within one week, the new identification and accompanying document.

After receiving the new pair of tags, identification, and the accompanying documents, the identification agent must move to the breeding farm in question and carry out the necessary checks (livestock register, declaration of the holder, bovine / camel identified, and accompanying identification document...). If no anomaly has been detected, it will replace the lost tag by affixing its duplicate and / or replacement of the accompanying identification document. Otherwise, the identifying agent shall inform the relevant provincial veterinary service, which shall take the necessary measures.

The identification and accompanying documents shall be marked "duplicate" and this information shall be entered in the Livestock Register and the national database.

In the event of errors in the accompanying identification document, the holder is required to notify the identifying agent immediately and in all cases before the animal is removed from the delivery of the document in question to the identifying agent.

Following this complaint, the identifying agent shall re-issue a new identification and accompanying document and shall deliver it to the holder within 3 days of receipt of the declaration of the error. The former CIAB / CIAC must be crossed out and delivered to the veterinary service of the locality concerned.

The identifier agent is required to record in his / her monthly report to the provincial veterinary service cases of republication of identification and accompanying documents.

D- Transcription of health actions:

Inspection veterinary surgeons and mandated health veterinarians, each as far as he is concerned, are required to supplement the identification and accompanying documents with the sanitary measures undertaken (vaccination, withdrawal, tuberculin ...) and the national database.

VI. MANAGEMENT OF DATA AND IDENTIFICATION MATERIALS:

Information on the identification of animals and the declaration of their movements collected by the identifying agents, the sanitary veterinarians mandated, the veterinary inspectors and the breeding technicians belonging to ONSSA must be used for the day of the national database. This information will be verified and analyzed at the level of the provincial veterinary service. These data will also be verified and monitored at the regional level.

The identification equipment and supplies are placed in stock at the level of the ONSSA Regional Directorates responsible for the distribution of the equipment and supplies as well as the management and control of the flow of information.

To this end, each Regional Directorate is required to manage the identification equipment and supplies made available to it. Provincial veterinary services must also maintain their management system at the provincial level. It is also their responsibility to verify the correspondence between the states of the identification and accompanying documents and the records of destruction of the tags; an update of the animal file is carried out taking into account the numbers of dead animals (slaughter, mortality).

In order to successfully implement a national animal identification and traceability system that is effective and sustainable, all stakeholders (administrations, mandated health veterinarians, professional organizations, dairy units, etc.) are invited to strictly apply terms and conditions of this Code of Procedures.

**The General Director of the
National Office of Food Safety**

Rabat, January 27, 2015