

Council Directive 2008/71/EC of 15 July 2008 on the
identification and registration of pigs (Codified version)

Article 1

This Directive sets out the minimum requirements for the identification and registration of pigs, without prejudice to more detailed Community rules which may be established for disease eradication or control purposes.

It shall apply without prejudice to Decision 89/153/EEC and to implementing rules laid down in accordance with Directive 91/496/EEC.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Directive, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) 'animal' means any animal of the *Suidae* family, excluding feral pigs as defined in Article 2(b) of Council Directive 2001/89/EC of 23 October 2001 on Community measures for the control of classical swine fever⁽¹⁾;
- (b) 'holding' means any establishment, construction or, in the case of an open-air farm, any place in which animals are held, kept or handled;
- (c) 'keeper' means any natural or legal person responsible, even on a temporary basis, for animals;
- (d) 'competent authority' means the central authority of a Member State competent to carry out veterinary checks or any authority to which it has delegated that competence for the purposes of implementing this Directive;
- (e) 'trade' means trade as defined in point (3) of Article 2 of Directive 90/425/EEC.

Article 3

- 1 Member States shall ensure that:
 - a the competent authority has an up-to-date list of all the holdings which keep animals covered by this Directive and are situated on its territory, specifying the keepers of the animals; such holdings must remain on that list until three consecutive years have elapsed with no animals on the holding. That list must also include the mark or marks which permit the identification of the holding in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 5(2) and Article 8;
 - b the Commission and the competent authority can have access to all information obtained under this Directive.
- 2 Member States may be authorised in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 18 of Directive 90/425/EEC to exclude from the list in paragraph 1(a) of this Article natural persons who keep one single animal which is intended for their own use or consumption, or to take account of particular circumstances, provided that this animal is subjected to the controls laid down in this Directive before any movement.

Article 4

- 1 Member States shall ensure that any keeper contained in the list provided for in Article 3(1)(a) keeps a register stating the number of animals present on the holding.

That register shall include an up-to-date record of movements (numbers of animals concerned by each entering and leaving operation) at least on the basis of aggregate movements, stating as appropriate their origin or destination, and the date of such movements.

The identification mark applied in conformity with Articles 5 and 8 shall be stated in all cases.

In the case of pure-bred and hybrid pigs, which are entered in a herd-book in accordance with Council Directive 88/661/EEC of 19 December 1988 on the zootechnical standards applicable to breeding animals of the porcine species⁽²⁾, an alternative registration system based on individual identification allowing the animals to be identified may be recognised in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 18 of Directive 90/425/EEC if it offers guarantees equivalent to a register.

- 2 Member States shall also ensure that:
- a any keeper supplies the competent authority, upon request, with all information concerning the origin, identification and, where appropriate, the destination of animals which he has owned, kept, transported, marketed or slaughtered;
 - b any keeper of animals to be moved to or from a market or collection centre provides a document, containing details of the animals in question, to the operator, on the market or in the collection centre, who is a keeper of the animals, on a temporary basis.

That operator may use the documents obtained in accordance with the first subparagraph to carry out the obligations laid down in the third subparagraph of paragraph 1;

- c the registers and information are available on the holding and to the competent authority, upon request, for a minimum period to be determined by the competent authority but which may not be less than three years.

Article 5

- 1 Member States shall ensure that the following general principles are respected:
- a identification marks must be applied before animals leave the holding of birth;
 - b no mark may be removed or replaced without the permission of the competent authority.

Where a mark has become illegible or has been lost, a new mark shall be applied in accordance with this Article;

- c the keeper shall record any new mark in the register referred to in Article 4 in order to establish a link with the previous mark applied to the animal.

- 2 Animals must be marked as soon as possible, and in any case before they leave the holding, with an eartag or tattoo making it possible to determine the holding from which they came and enabling reference to be made to any accompanying document which must mention such eartag or tattoo and to the list referred to in Article 3(1)(a).

Member States may, by derogation from the second subparagraph of Article 3(1)(c) of Directive 90/425/EEC, apply their national systems for all movements of animals in their territories. Such systems must enable the holding from which they came and the holding on which they were born to be identified. Member States shall notify the Commission of the systems which they intend to introduce for this purpose. In accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 18 of Directive 90/425/EEC, a Member State may be asked to make amendments to its system where it does not fulfil that requirement.

Animals bearing a temporary mark identifying a consignment must be accompanied throughout their movement by a document which enables the origin, ownership, place of departure and destination to be determined.

Article 6

1 Where the competent authority of the Member State of destination decides not to keep the identification mark allocated to the animal in the holding of origin all charges incurred as a result of replacing the mark shall be borne by that authority. Where the mark has been so replaced, a link shall be established between the identification allocated by the competent authority of the Member State of dispatch and the new identification allocated by the competent authority of the Member State of destination; that link shall be recorded in the register provided for in Article 4.

The option in the first subparagraph may not be invoked in the case of animals intended for slaughter which are imported under Article 8 without bearing a new mark in accordance with Article 5.

2 Where the animals have been traded, the competent authority of the Member State of destination may, for the purposes of Article 5 of Directive 90/425/EEC, have recourse to Article 4 of Directive 89/608/EEC in order to obtain the information relating to the animals, their herd of origin and any movement to which they have been subject.

Article 7

Member States shall ensure that any information relating to movements of animals not accompanied by a certificate or a document required by veterinary or zootechnical legislation remains available to the competent authority, upon request, for a minimum period to be set by the latter.

Article 8

Any animal imported from a third country which has passed the checks laid down by Directive 91/496/EEC and which remains within Community territory shall, within thirty days of undergoing those checks, and, in any event, before their movement, be identified by a mark complying with Article 5 of this Directive unless the holding of destination is a slaughterhouse situated on the territory of the competent authority responsible for veterinary checks and the animal is actually slaughtered within that 30-day period.

A link shall be established between the identification established by the third country and the identification allocated to it by the Member State of destination. That link shall be recorded in the register provided for in Article 4.

Article 9

Member States shall adopt necessary administrative and/or penal measures to punish any infringement of Community veterinary legislation, where it is established that the marking or identification or the keeping of registers provided for in Article 4 has not been carried out in conformity with the requirements of this Directive.

Article 10

Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field governed by this Directive.

Article 11

Directive 92/102/EEC, as amended by the acts listed in Annex I, Part A, is repealed, without prejudice to the obligations of the Member States relating to the time limits for transposition into national law of the Directive set out in Annex I, Part B.

References to the repealed Directive shall be construed as references to this Directive and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table set out in Annex II.

Article 12

This Directive shall enter into force on the 20th day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 13

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 15 July 2008.

For the Council

The President

M. BARNIER

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally adopted).

- (1) [OJ L 316, 1.12.2001, p. 5](#). Directive as last amended by Commission Decision 2007/729/EC ([OJ L 294, 13.11.2007, p. 26](#)).
- (2) [OJ L 382, 31.12.1988, p. 36](#). Directive as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 806/2003 ([OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 1](#)).