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► **B** REGULATION (EC) No 1760/2000 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 17 July 2000

establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97

(OJ L 204, 11.8.2000, p. 1)

Amended by:

		Official Journal		
		No	page	date
► <b><u>M1</u></b>	Council Regulation (EC) No 1791/2006 of 20 November 2006	L 363	1	20.12.2006
► <b><u>M2</u></b>	Council Regulation (EU) No 517/2013 of 13 May 2013	L 158	1	10.6.2013
► <b><u>M3</u></b>	Regulation (EU) No 653/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014	L 189	33	27.6.2014

Amended by:

► <b><u>A1</u></b>	Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded	L 236	33	23.9.2003
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**REGULATION (EC) No 1760/2000 OF THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**of 17 July 2000**

**establishing a system for the identification and registration of  
bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef  
products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and  
in particular Articles 37 and 152 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee <sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>(3)</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of  
the Treaty <sup>(4)</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 19 of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 of 21 April 1997 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products <sup>(5)</sup>, states that a compulsory beef labelling system is to be introduced and obligatory in all Member States from 1 January 2000 onwards. The same Article also provides that, on the basis of a Commission proposal, the general rules for that compulsory system are to be adopted before that date.
- (2) Council Regulation (EC) No 2772/1999 of 21 December 1999 providing for the general rules for a compulsory beef labelling system <sup>(6)</sup> provides for these general rules to apply only temporarily for a maximum period of eight months, that is to say from 1 February to 31 August 2000.
- (3) For the sake of clarity Regulation (EC) No 820/97 should be repealed and replaced by this Regulation.
- (4) Following the instability in the market in beef and beef products caused by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy crisis, the improvement in the transparency of the conditions for the production and marketing of the products concerned, particularly as regards traceability, has exerted a positive influence on consumption of beef. In order to maintain and strengthen the

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 376 E, 28.12.1999, p. 42.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 117, 26.4.2000, p. 47.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ C 226, 8.8.2000, p. 9.

<sup>(4)</sup> European Parliament opinion of 12 April 2000 (not yet published in the Official Journal), Council Common Position of 6 June 2000 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and European Parliament Decision of 6 July 2000 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ L 117, 7.5.1997, p. 1.

<sup>(6)</sup> OJ L 334, 28.12.1999, p. 1.

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confidence of consumers in beef and to avoid misleading them, it is necessary to develop the framework in which the information is made available to consumers by sufficient and clear labelling of the product.

- (5) To that end it is essential to establish, on the one hand, an efficient system for the identification and registration of bovine animals at the production stage and to create, on the other hand, a specific Community labelling system in the beef sector based on objective criteria at the marketing stage.
- (6) By virtue of the guarantees provided through this improvement, certain public interest requirements will also be attained, in particular the protection of human and animal health.
- (7) As a result, consumer confidence in the quality of beef and beef products will be improved, a higher level of protection of public health preserved and the lasting stability of the beef market will be reinforced.
- (8) Article 3(1)(c) of Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market<sup>(1)</sup> states that animals for intra-Community trade must be identified in accordance with the requirements of Community rules and be registered in such a way that the original or transit holding, centre or organisation can be traced, and that before 1 January 1993 these identification and registration systems are to be extended to the movements of animals within the territory of each Member State.
- (9) Article 14 of Council Directive 91/496/EEC of 15 July 1991 laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC<sup>(2)</sup> states that the identification and registration as provided for in Article 3(1)(c) of Directive 90/425/EEC of such animals must, except in the case of animals for slaughter and registered equidae, be carried out after the said checks have been made.
- (10) The management of certain Community aid schemes in the field of agriculture requires the individual identification of certain types of livestock. The identification and registration systems must, therefore, be suitable for the application and control of such individual identification measures.
- (11) It is necessary to ensure the rapid and efficient exchange of information between Member States for the correct application of this Regulation. Community provisions relating thereto have been established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1468/81 of 19 May 1981 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and the cooperation between the

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 224, 18.8.1990, p. 29. Directive as last amended by Directive 92/118/EEC (OJ L 62, 15.3.1993, p. 49).

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 268, 24.9.1991, p. 56. Directive as last amended by Directive 96/43/EC (OJ L 62, 1.7.1996, p. 1).

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latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs or agriculture matters<sup>(1)</sup> and by Council Directive 89/608/EEC of 21 November 1989 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of legislation on veterinary and zootechnical matters<sup>(2)</sup>.

- (12) The current rules concerning the identification and the registration of bovine animals have been laid down in Council Directive 92/102/EEC of 27 November 1992 on the identification and registration of animals<sup>(3)</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 820/97. Experience has shown that the implementation of Directive 92/102/EEC for bovine animals has not been entirely satisfactory and needs further improvement. It is therefore necessary to adopt specific rules for bovine animals in order to reinforce the provisions of the said Directive.
- (13) For the introduction of an improved identification system to be accepted, it is essential not to impose excessive demands on the producer in terms of administrative formalities. Feasible time limits for its implementation must be laid down.
- (14) For the purpose of rapid and accurate tracing of animals for reasons relating to the control of Community aid schemes, each Member State should create a national computerised data base which will record the identity of the animal, all holdings on its territory and the movements of the animals, in accordance with the provisions of Council Directive 97/12/EC of 17 March 1997 amending and updating Directive 64/432/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine<sup>(4)</sup>, which clarifies the health requirements concerning this database.
- (15) It is important that each Member State take all measures that may still be necessary in order to ensure that the national computerised database is fully operational as quickly as possible.
- (16) Steps should be taken in order to create the technical conditions guaranteeing the best communication possible by the producer with the database and a comprehensive use of databases.
- (17) In order to permit movements of bovine animals to be traced, animals should be identified by an ear tag applied in each ear and in principle accompanied by a passport throughout any movement. The characteristics of the ear tag and of the passport should be determined on a Community basis. In principle a passport should be issued for each animal to which an ear tag has been allocated.
- (18) Animals imported from third countries pursuant to Directive 91/496/EEC should be subject to the same identification requirements.
- (19) Every animal should keep its ear tag throughout its life.
- (20) The Commission is examining, on the basis of work performed by the Joint Research Centre, the feasibility of using electronic means for the identification of animals.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 144, 2.6.1981, p. 1. Regulation repealed by Regulation (EC) No 515/97 (OJ L 82, 22.3.1997, p. 1).

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 351, 2.12.1989, p. 34.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 355, 5.12.1992, p. 32. Directive as last amended by the 1994 Act of Accession.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 109, 25.4.1997, p. 1.

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- (21) Keepers of animals, with the exception of transporters, should maintain an up-to-date register of the animals on their holdings. The characteristics of the register should be determined on a Community basis. The competent authority should have access to these registers on request.
- (22) Member States may spread the costs arising from the application of these measures over the entire beef sector.
- (23) The authority or authorities responsible for the application of each title in this Regulation should be designated.
- (24) A compulsory beef labelling system should be introduced which is obligatory in all Member States. Under this compulsory system, operators and organisations marketing beef should indicate on the label information about the beef and the point of slaughter of the animal or animals from which that beef was derived.
- (25) The compulsory beef labelling system should be reinforced from 1 January 2002. Under this compulsory system, operators and organisations marketing beef should, in addition, indicate on the label information concerning origin, in particular where the animal or animals from which the beef was derived were born, fattened and slaughtered.
- (26) Information additional to the information concerning where the animal or animals from which the beef was derived were born, fattened and slaughtered may be provided under the voluntary beef labelling system.
- (27) The system of compulsory labelling based on origin should be in force from 1 January 2002, it being understood that full information on movements made by bovine animals in the Community is only required for animals born after 31 December 1997.
- (28) The compulsory beef labelling system should also apply to beef imported into the Community. However, provision should be made for the fact that not all the information which is required for labelling beef produced in the Community may be available to a third-country operator or organisation. It is therefore necessary to state the minimum information that third countries must ensure is indicated on the label.
- (29) For operators or organisations producing and marketing minced beef who may not be in a position to provide all the information required under the compulsory beef labelling system, exceptions ensuring a certain minimum number of indications must be provided.
- (30) The objective of labelling is to give maximum transparency in the marketing of beef.
- (31) The provisions of this Regulation must not affect Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 of 14 July 1992 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs <sup>(1)</sup>.
- (32) For all indications other than those falling under the compulsory beef labelling system, a Community framework for labelling of beef should also be provided and, in view of the diversity of

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 208, 24.7.1992, p. 1.

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descriptions of beef marketed in the Community, the establishment of a voluntary beef labelling system is the most appropriate solution. The effectiveness of such a voluntary labelling system depends on the possibility of tracing any labelled beef back to the animal or animals of origin. The labelling arrangements of an operator or organisation should be subject to a specification to be submitted to the competent authority for approval. Operators and organisations should be entitled to label beef only if the label contains their name or their identifying logo. The competent authorities of the Member States should be authorised to withdraw their approval of any specification in the event of irregularities. In order to ensure that labelling specifications may be recognised across the Community, it is necessary to provide for the exchange of information between Member States.

- (33) Operators and organisations importing into the Community beef from third countries may also wish to label their products according to the voluntary labelling system. Provisions should be laid down to ensure as far as possible that labelling arrangements relating to imported beef are of equivalent reliability to those set up for Community beef.
- (34) The change from the arrangements in Title II of Regulation (EC) No 820/97 to those in this Regulation can give rise to difficulties that are not dealt with in this Regulation. In order to deal with that possibility, provision should be made for the Commission to adopt the necessary transitional measures. The Commission should also be authorised to solve specific practical problems where justified.
- (35) With a view to guaranteeing the reliability of the arrangements provided for by this Regulation, it is necessary to oblige the Member States to carry out adequate and efficient control measures. These controls should be without prejudice to any controls that the Commission may carry out by analogy with Article 9 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests<sup>(1)</sup>.
- (36) Appropriate penalties should be laid down in the event of a breach of the provisions of this Regulation.
- (37) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Regulation should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission<sup>(2)</sup>,

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1036/1999 (OJ L 127, 21.5.1999, p. 4).

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

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HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

**TITLE I****Identification and registration of bovine animals***Article 1*

1. Each Member State shall establish a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals, in accordance with this Title.
2. The provisions of this title shall apply without prejudice to Community rules which may be established for disease eradication or control purposes and without prejudice to Directive 91/496/EEC and Regulation (EEC) No 3508/92 <sup>(1)</sup>. ► **M3** ————— ◀

*Article 2*

For the purposes of this title:

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- ‘animal’ means a bovine animal within the meaning of Article 2(2), points (b) and (c) of Directive 64/432/EEC, including animals taking part in cultural and sporting events,

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- ‘holding’ means any establishment, construction or, in the case of an open-air farm, any place situated within the territory of the same Member State, in which animals covered by this Regulation are held, kept or handled,
- ‘keeper’ means any natural or legal person responsible for animals, whether on a permanent or on a temporary basis, including during transportation or at a market,
- ‘competent authority’ means the central authority or authorities in a Member State responsible for, or entrusted with, carrying out veterinary checks and implementing this title or, in the case of the monitoring of premiums, the authorities entrusted with implementing Regulation (EC) No 3508/92.

*Article 3*

The system for the identification and registration of bovine animals shall comprise the following elements:

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- (a) means of identification to identify animals individually;

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- (b) computerised databases;
- (c) animal passports;
- (d) individual registers kept on each holding.

The Commission and the competent authority of the Member State concerned shall have access to all the information covered by this title. The Member States and the Commission shall take the measures necessary to ensure access to these data for all parties concerned, including consumer organisations having an interest which are recognised by the Member State, provided that the data confidentiality and protection prescribed by national law are ensured.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 355, 5.12.1992, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1036/1999 (OJ L 127, 21.5.1999, p. 4).

▼ **M3***Article 4***Obligation to identify animals**

1. All animals on a holding shall be identified by at least two means of identification listed in Annex I and in compliance with rules adopted pursuant to paragraph 3 and approved by the competent authority. At least one of the means of identification shall be visible and bear a visible identification code.

The first subparagraph shall not apply to animals that were born before 1 January 1998 and that are not intended for intra-Union trade. Those animals shall be identified by at least one means of identification.

In order to ensure the adaptation to technical progress, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b concerning the addition of means of identification to the list set out in Annex I, whilst ensuring their interoperability.

The means of identification shall be allocated to the holding, distributed and applied to the animals in a manner determined by the competent authority.

The two means of identification, authorised in accordance with the delegated and implementing acts adopted pursuant to paragraph 3 and this paragraph and which are applied to one animal, shall bear the same unique identification code, which, together with the registration of the animals, makes it possible to identify the animal individually and the holding on which it was born.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, where the characters forming the animal's identification code do not permit the application of an electronic identifier with the same unique identification code, the Member State concerned may allow that, under the supervision of its competent authority, the second means of identification may bear a different code, provided each of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) the animal is born before the date of entry into force of the implementing acts referred to in point (c) of the second subparagraph of paragraph 3;
- (b) full traceability is ensured;
- (c) the individual identification of the animal, including the holding on which it was born, is possible;
- (d) the animal is not intended for intra-Union trade.

3. To ensure adequate traceability and adaptability to technical progress and optimal functioning of the identification system, the Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b concerning the requirements for the means of identification set out in Annex I, and the transitional measures required for the introduction of a particular means of identification.



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On the basis of the relevant ISO standards or other international technical standards adopted by recognised international standard-setting organisations, with the understanding that those international standards are able to guarantee, at the very least, a higher level of performance and reliability than ISO standards, the Commission shall lay down, by means of implementing acts, the necessary rules concerning:

- (a) the format and design of the means of identification;
- (b) technical procedures for the electronic identification of bovine animals; and
- (c) the configuration of the identification code.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 23(2).

4. As from 18 July 2019, the Member States shall ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place in order to provide for the identification of animals on the basis of an electronic identifier as an official means of identification in accordance with this Regulation.

As from 18 July 2019, Member States may introduce national provisions making the use of an electronic identifier compulsory as one of the two means of identification provided for in paragraph 1.

Member States that make use of the option under the second subparagraph shall provide the Commission with the text of such national provisions and make this information available on the internet. The Commission shall assist the Member States in making this information available to the public by providing, on its website, the links to the relevant websites of the Member States.

5. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, bovine animals intended for cultural and sporting events, other than fairs and exhibitions, may be identified by alternative means of identification offering equivalent identification standards to those provided for in paragraph 1.

Holdings making use of alternative means of identification referred to in the first subparagraph shall be registered in the computerised database provided for in Article 5.

The Commission shall, by means of implementing acts, lay down the necessary rules concerning such registration. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 23(2).

In order to ensure traceability based on the identification standards equivalent to those provided for in paragraph 1, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b concerning the requirements for the alternative means of identification referred to in the first subparagraph, including transitional measures required for their introduction.

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The Commission may lay down, by means of implementing acts, the rules concerning the format and design of the alternative means of identification, referred to in the first subparagraph, including transitional measures required for their introduction. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 23(2).

6. Member States shall communicate to each other and to the Commission a model of the means of identification used in their territory. They shall make this information available on the internet. The Commission shall assist the Member States in making this information available to the public by providing, on its website, the links to the relevant websites of the Member States.

*Article 4a***Time period for the application of the means of identification**

1. The means of identification provided for in Article 4(1) shall be applied to the animal before the expiry of a maximum period, to be determined by the Member State in which the animal was born. The maximum period shall be calculated from the date of birth of the animal and shall not exceed 20 days.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, for reasons related to the physiological development of the animals, that period may, for the second means of identification, be extended up to 60 days following the birth of the animal.

No animal may leave the holding where it was born before the two means of identification have been applied to that animal.

2. To enable the application of the means of identification in special circumstances involving practical difficulties, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b to determine the special circumstances under which the Member States may extend the maximum periods for the application of the means of identification as provided for in the first and second subparagraphs of paragraph 1. Member States shall inform the Commission of each use of that option.

*Article 4b***Identification of animals from third countries**

1. Any animal subject to veterinary checks, pursuant to Directive 91/496/EEC, entering the Union from a third country and intended for a holding of destination within the territory of the Union, shall be identified at the holding of destination with the means of identification provided for in Article 4(1).

The original identification applied to the animal in the third country of origin shall be recorded in the computerised database provided for in Article 5 together with the unique identification code of the means of identification allocated to the animal by the Member State of destination.

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The first subparagraph shall not apply to animals destined directly for a slaughterhouse situated in a Member State, provided that the animals are slaughtered within 20 days following those veterinary checks pursuant to Directive 91/496/EEC.

2. The means of identification of animals referred to in Article 4(1) shall be applied within a maximum period to be determined by the Member State in which the holding of destination is located. That period shall not exceed 20 days following the veterinary checks referred in paragraph 1.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, for reasons related to the physiological development of the animals, that period may, for the second means of identification, be extended up to 60 days following the birth of the animal.

In all cases, the two means of identification referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 4(1) shall be applied to the animals before they leave the holding of destination.

3. Where the holding of destination is situated in a Member State that has introduced national provisions under the second subparagraph of Article 4(4) to make the use of an electronic identifier compulsory, the animals shall be identified with that electronic identifier in the holding of destination in the Union, within a period to be determined by the Member State of destination. That period shall not exceed 20 days following the veterinary checks referred in paragraph 1.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, for reasons related to the physiological development of the animals, that period may, for the second means of identification, be extended up to 60 days following the birth of the animal.

In all cases, the electronic identifier shall be applied to the animals before they leave the holding of destination.

*Article 4c***Identification of animals moved from one Member State to another**

1. Animals moved from one Member State to another shall retain the original means of identification applied to them pursuant to Article 4(1).

However, by way of derogation from the first subparagraph, starting from 18 July 2019, the competent authority of the Member State of destination may allow:

- (a) the replacement of one of the means of identification by an electronic identifier without changing the original unique identification code of the animal;
- (b) the replacement of both means of identification by two new means of identification which shall both bear the same, new unique identification code. This derogation may be applied until five years after 18 July 2019, where the characters forming the identification code

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of an animal's conventional ear tag do not permit the application of an electronic identifier with the same unique identification code, and provided that the animal is born before the date of entry into force of the implementing acts referred to in point (c) of the second subparagraph of Article 4(3).

2. Where the holding of destination is situated in a Member State that has introduced national provisions to make the use of an electronic identifier compulsory, the animals shall be identified with that electronic identifier at the latest in the holding of destination within a maximum period to be determined by the Member State where that holding of destination is located. That maximum period shall not exceed 20 days from the date of arrival of the animals on the holding of destination.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, for reasons related to the physiological development of the animals, that period may, for the second means of identification, be extended up to 60 days following the birth of the animal.

In all cases, the electronic identifier shall be applied to the animals before they leave the holding of destination.

However, the first subparagraph shall not apply to animals destined directly for a slaughterhouse situated in the territory of the Member State that has introduced national provisions to make the use of an electronic identifier compulsory.

*Article 4d***Removal, modification or replacement of means of identification**

No means of identification may be removed, modified or replaced without the permission of the competent authority. Such permission may only be granted where the removal, modification or replacement do not compromise the traceability of the animal and where its individual identification, including the holding on which it was born, is possible.

Any replacement of an identification code shall be recorded in the computerised database provided for in Article 5, together with the unique identification code of the original means of identification of the animal.

*Article 5*

The competent authority of the Member States shall set up a computerised database in accordance with Articles 14 and 18 of Directive 64/432/EEC.

Member States may exchange electronic data between their computerised databases from the date on which the Commission recognises the full operability of the data exchange system. The exchange shall be done in such a way that data protection is guaranteed and any abuse prevented in order to protect the interests of the keeper.

In order to ensure the electronic exchange of information between Member States, the Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b to lay down the rules concerning the data to be exchanged between computerised databases of Member States.

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The Commission shall by means of implementing acts lay down the technical conditions and modalities for such exchange and recognise the full operability of the data exchange system. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 23(2).

*Article 6*

1. Where a Member State does not exchange electronic data with other Member States, in the framework of the electronic exchange system referred to in Article 5, the following applies:

- (a) the competent authority of that Member State shall, for each animal that is intended for intra-Union trade, issue a passport based on the information contained in the computerised database set up in that Member State;
- (b) each animal for which a passport is issued shall be accompanied by that passport whenever the animal is moved from one Member State to another;
- (c) upon arrival of the animal at the holding of destination, the passport accompanying the animal shall be surrendered to the competent authority of the Member State where the holding of destination is located.

2. In order to allow for the tracing of animal movements back to the holding of origin situated in a Member State, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b to lay down rules concerning the information from the computerised database to be included in the animal passport, including transitional measures required for their introduction.

*Article 6a*

This Regulation shall not prevent national provisions by a Member State concerning the issuing of passports for animals not intended for intra-Union trade.

**▼ B***Article 7*

1. With the exception of transporters, each keeper of animals shall:

— keep an up-to-date register,

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— report to the competent authority all movements to and from the holding and all births and deaths of animals of the holding, together with the dates of those events, within a maximum period fixed by the Member State concerned; that maximum period shall be at least three days and not exceed seven days following the occurrence of one of those events; Member States may request the Commission to extend the maximum period of seven days.

To take into account practical difficulties in exceptional cases, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b to determine the exceptional circumstances in which

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Member States may extend the maximum period of seven days provided for in the second indent of the first subparagraph, together with the maximum length of that extension, which shall not exceed 14 days following the period of seven days referred to in the second indent of the first subparagraph.

2. To ensure the adequate and effective traceability of bovine animals when put out to seasonal grazing, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b concerning the Member States or part of Member States where special rules for seasonal grazing shall apply, including the time period, specific obligations of the keepers, and rules on the holding registration and registration of movements of such bovine animals, including transitional measures required for their introduction.

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3. Each keeper shall supply the competent authority, upon request, with all information concerning the origin, identification and, where appropriate, destination of animals, which he has owned, kept, transported, marketed or slaughtered.

4. The register shall be in a format approved by the competent authority, kept in manual or computerised form, and be available at all times 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.

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5. By way of derogation from paragraph 4, keeping a register shall be optional for any keeper who:

- (a) has access to the computerised database provided for in Article 5 which already contains the information to be included in the register; and
- (b) enters the up-to-date information, or has it entered, directly into the computerised database provided for in Article 5.

6. To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information to be included in the holding register provided for in this Article, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b to lay down the necessary rules concerning that information, including transitional measures required for their introduction.

**▼ B***Article 9*

Member States may charge to keepers the costs of the systems referred to in Article 3 and of the controls referred to in this title.

**▼ M3***Article 9a***Training**

Member States shall ensure that any person responsible for the identification and registration of animals has received instructions and guidance on the relevant provisions of this Regulation and of any delegated and implementing acts adopted by the Commission pursuant to this Regulation.

Whenever the relevant provisions are amended, the corresponding information shall be made available to the person referred to in the first subparagraph.

Member States shall ensure that appropriate training courses are available.

The Commission shall facilitate the exchange of best practices to improve the quality of information and training across the Union.

**▼ B****TITLE II****Labelling of beef and beef products***Article 11*

An operator or an organisation, as defined in Article 12, which:

- is required, by virtue of Section I of this title, to label beef at all stages of marketing,
- wishes, by virtue of Section II of this title, to label beef at the point of sale in such a way as to provide information, other than that laid down by Article 13, concerning certain characteristics or production conditions of the labelled meat or of the animal from which it derives,

shall do so in accordance with this title.

This title shall apply without prejudice to relevant Community legislation, in particular on beef.

**▼ M3***Article 12*

For the purposes of this Title, the following definitions apply:

- (1) ‘beef’ means all products falling within CN codes 0201, 0202, 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91;

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- (2) 'labelling' means the attachment of a label to an individual piece or pieces of meat or to their packaging material, or, in the case of non-pre-wrapped products, the supply of appropriate information in written and visible form to the consumer at the point of sale;
- (3) 'organisation' means a group of operators from the same or different parts of the beef trade;
- (4) 'minced meat' means any boned meat that has been minced into fragments and contains less than 1 % salt and that falls within CN codes 0201, 0202, 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91;
- (5) 'trimmings' means small pieces of meat recognised as fit for human consumption produced exclusively during trimming operations during the boning of carcasses and/or the cutting up of meat;
- (6) 'cut meat' means meat which has been cut into small cubes, slices or other individual portions that do not require further cutting by an operator before being bought by the final consumer and that can be directly used by that consumer. This definition does not cover minced meat and trimmings.

**▼ B**

## SECTION I

**Compulsory Community beef labelling system***Article 13***General rules**

1. Operators and organisations marketing beef in the Community shall label it in accordance with this Article.

The compulsory labelling system shall ensure a link between, on the one hand, the identification of the carcass, quarter or pieces of meat and, on the other hand, the individual animal or, where this is sufficient to enable the accuracy of the information on the label to be checked, the group of animals concerned.

2. The label shall contain the following indications:
  - (a) a reference number or reference code ensuring the link between the meat and the animal or animals. This number may be the identification number of the individual animal from which the beef was derived or the identification number relating to a group of animals;
  - (b) the approval number of the slaughterhouse at which the animal or group of animals was slaughtered and the Member State or third country in which the slaughterhouse is established. The indication shall read: 'Slaughtered in (name of the Member State or third country) (approval number)';
  - (c) the approval number of the cutting hall which performed the cutting operation on the carcass or group of carcasses and the Member State or third country in which the hall is established. The indication shall read: 'Cutting in: (name of the Member State or third country) (approval number)'.



**▼ M3****▼ B**

5. ► **M3** (a) Operators and organisations shall also indicate on the labels: ◀
- (i) Member State or third country of birth;
  - (ii) all Member States or third countries where fattening took place;
  - (iii) Member State or third country where slaughter took place;
- (b) However, where the beef is derived from animals born, raised and slaughtered:
- (i) in the same Member State, the indication may be given as ‘Origin: (name of Member State)’;
  - (ii) in the same third country, the indication may be given as ‘Origin: (name of third country)’.

**▼ M3**

6. To avoid unnecessary repetition of the indication on the label of the beef of the Member States or third countries where rearing took place, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b pertaining to a simplified presentation for cases of very short stay of the animal in the Member State or third country of birth or of slaughter.

The Commission shall, by way of implementing acts, adopt rules concerning the maximum size and composition of the group of animals referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2(a), taking into account constraints as regards the homogeneity of the groups of animals where those cut meats and trimmings come from. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 23(2).

**▼ B***Article 14***Derogations from the compulsory labelling system**

By way of derogation from Article 13(2)(b) and (c) and from Article 13(5)(a)(i) and (ii), an operator or organisation preparing minced beef shall indicate on the label the words ‘prepared (name of the Member State or third country)’, depending on where the meat was prepared, and ‘origin’ where the State or States involved are not the State of preparation.

The obligation provided for in Article 13(5)(a)(iii) shall be applicable to such meat as from the date of application of this Regulation.

However, such operator or organisation may add to the label of the minced beef:

— one or more of the indications provided for in Article 13, and/or

**▼B**

— the date on which the meat was prepared.

**▼M3**

To ensure conformity with the horizontal rules relating to the labelling in this Section, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 22b to lay down, on the basis of the experience regarding minced meat, rules equivalent to those in the first three paragraphs of this Article for beef trimmings or cut beef.

*Article 15***Compulsory labelling of beef from third countries**

By way of derogation from Article 13, beef imported into the territory of the Union for which not all the information provided for in Article 13 is available, shall be labelled with the indication:

‘Origin: non-EU’ and ‘Slaughtered in (name of the third country)’.

**▼B**

## SECTION II

**Voluntary labelling system***Article 16***General rules**

1. For labels containing indications other than those provided for in Section I of this title, each operator or organisation shall send a specification for approval to the competent authority of the Member State in which production or sale of the beef in question takes place. The competent authority may also establish specifications to be used in the Member State concerned, provided that use thereof is not compulsory.

Voluntary labelling specifications shall indicate:

- the information to be included on the label,
- the measures to be taken to ensure the accuracy of the information,
- the control system which will be applied at all stages of production and sale, including the controls to be carried out by an independent body recognised by the competent authority and designated by the operator or the organisation. These bodies shall comply with the criteria set out in European Standard EN/45011,
- in the case of an organisation, the measures to be taken in relation to any member which fails to comply with the specifications.

Member States may decide that controls by an independent body may be replaced by controls by a competent authority. The competent authority shall in that case have at its disposal the qualified staff and resources necessary to carry out the requisite controls.

**▼B**

The costs of controls provided for in this section shall be borne by the operator or organisation using the labelling system.

2. The approval of any specification shall be subject to the assurance of the competent authority, obtained on the basis of a thorough examination of its components as referred to in paragraph 1, of the proper and reliable functioning of the labelling system envisaged and, in particular, of any specification which does not ensure a link between, on the one hand, the identification of the carcass, quarter or pieces of meat and, on the other hand, the individual animal or, where this is sufficient to enable the accuracy of the information on the label to be checked, the animals concerned.

Specifications which provide for labels containing misleading or insufficiently clear information shall also be refused.

3. Where the production and/or sale of beef takes place in two or more Member States, the competent authorities of the Member States concerned shall examine and approve the specifications submitted in so far as the elements contained therein relate to operations taking place within their respective territories. In such case, each Member State concerned shall recognise the approvals granted by any other Member State concerned.

If, within a period to be fixed in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 23(2), counting from the day following the date of submission of the application, approval has not been refused or given, or supplementary information has not been asked for, the specification shall be considered to be approved by the competent authority.

4. Where the competent authorities of all the Member States concerned approve the specification submitted, the operator or organisation concerned shall be entitled to label beef, provided that the label contains its name or logo.

5. By way of derogation from paragraphs 1 to 4, the Commission, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 23(2), may provide for an accelerated or simplified procedure for approval in specific cases, in particular for beef in small retail packages or prime beef cuts in individual packages, labelled in a Member State according to an approved specification and introduced into the territory of another Member State, provided that no information is added to the initial label.

6. A Member State may decide that the name of one or more of its regions may not be used, in particular where the name of a region:

— could give rise to confusion or difficulties in checking,

— is reserved for beef in the framework of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92.

Where authorisation is given, the name of the Member State shall appear alongside the name of the region.

7. Member States shall inform the Commission of the implementation of this Article and in particular of the indications set out on the labels. The Commission shall inform the other Member States

**▼B**

within the Management Committee for Beef and Veal referred to in Article 23(1)(b) and, where necessary, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 23(2), rules relating to those indications may be laid down and, in particular, limits may be imposed.

*Article 17***Voluntary labelling system for beef from third countries**

1. Where the production of beef takes place, in full or in part, in a third country, operators and organisations shall be entitled to label beef according to this section if, in addition to complying with Article 16, they have obtained for their specifications the approval of the competent authority designated for that purpose by each of the third countries concerned.

2. The validity within the Community of an approval granted by a third country shall be subject to prior notification by the third country to the Commission of:

- the competent authority which has been designated,
- the procedures and criteria to be followed by the competent authority when examining the specification,
- each operator and organisation whose specification was accepted by the competent authority.

The Commission shall transmit these notifications to the Member States.

Where, on the basis of the above notifications, the Commission reaches the conclusion that the procedures and/or criteria applied in a third country are not equivalent to the standards set out in this Regulation, the Commission shall, after consultation with the third country concerned, decide that approvals granted by that third country shall not be valid within the Community.

*Article 18***Sanctions**

Without prejudice to any action taken by the organisation itself or the independent control body provided for in Article 16, where it is shown that an operator or organisation has failed to comply with the specification referred to in Article 16(1), the Member State may withdraw the approval provided for in Article 16(2) or impose supplementary conditions to be respected if its approval is to be maintained.

## SECTION III

**General provisions***Article 19***Detailed rules**

The measures necessary for the implementation of this title shall be adopted in accordance with the management procedure referred to in Article 23(2). These measures concern in particular:

- (a) definition of the size of the group of animals, referred to in Article 13(2)(a);

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- (b) definition of the minced beef, beef trimmings or cut beef referred to in Article 14;
- (c) definition of specific indications that may be put on labels;
- (d) measures required to facilitate the transition from the application of Regulation (EC) No 820/97 to application of this title;
- (e) measures required to resolve specific practical problems. Such measures, if duly justified, may derogate from certain parts of this title.

*Article 20***Designation of competent authorities**

Member States shall designate the competent authority or authorities responsible for implementing this title, no later than 14 October 2000.

► **A1** The Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, and Slovakia shall do so no later than three months after the date of accession. ◀ ► **M1** Bulgaria and Romania shall do so no later than three months after the date of accession. ◀ ► **M2** Croatia shall do so no later than three months after the date of accession. ◀

*Article 21*

At the latest by 14 August 2003, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council, together, if necessary, with appropriate proposals regarding extending the scope of this Regulation to processed products containing beef and beef-based products.

**TITLE III****Common provisions***Article 22*

1. Member States shall take all the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Regulation. The controls provided for shall be without prejudice to any controls which the Commission may carry out pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95.

Any sanctions imposed by the Member State on a holder shall be proportionate to the gravity of the breach. The sanctions may involve, where justified, a restriction on movement of animals to or from the holding of the keeper concerned.

2. Experts from the Commission, in conjunction with the competent authorities:

- (a) shall verify that the Member States are complying with the requirements of this Regulation;

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(b) shall make on-the-spot checks to ensure that the checks are carried out in accordance with this Regulation.

3. A Member State in whose territory an on-the-spot check is made shall provide the experts from the Commission with any assistance they may require in the performance of their tasks.

The outcome of the checks made must be discussed with the competent authority of the Member State concerned before a final report is drawn up and circulated.

4. Where the Commission deems that the outcome of checks so justifies, it shall review the situation within the Standing Veterinary Committee referred to in Article 23(1)(c). It may adopt the necessary decisions in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 23(3).

5. The Commission shall monitor developments in the situation: in the light of such developments and in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 23(3) it may amend or repeal the decisions referred to in paragraph 4.

6. Detailed rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted, where necessary, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 23(3).

#### *Article 23*

1. The Commission shall be assisted:

(a) for the implementation of Article 10, by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund Committee referred to in Article 11 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999 <sup>(1)</sup>;

(b) for the implementation of Article 19 by the Management Committee for Beef and Veal set up by Article 42 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1254/1999 <sup>(2)</sup>;

(c) for the implementation of Article 22 by the Standing Veterinary Committee set up by Council Decision 68/361/EEC <sup>(3)</sup>.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

The period referred to in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at one month.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

The period referred to in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

4. The Committees shall adopt their rules of procedure.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 103.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 160, 26.6.1999, p. 21.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 255, 18.10.1968, p. 23.

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*Article 24*

1. Regulation (EC) No 820/97 shall be repealed.
2. References to Regulation (EC) No 820/97 shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table set out in the Annex.

*Article 25*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall be applicable to beef from animals slaughtered on or after 1 September 2000.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.



## ANNEX

## Correlation table

Regulation (EC) No 820/97	This Regulation
Article 1	Article 1
Article 2	Article 2
Article 3	Article 3
Article 4	Article 4
Article 5	Article 5
Article 6	Article 6
Article 7	Article 7
Article 8	Article 8
Article 9	Article 9
Article 10	Article 10
Article 11	—
Article 12	Article 11
Article 13	Article 12
Article 14(1)	Article 16(1)
Article 14(2)	Article 16(2)
Article 14(3)	Article 16(5)
Article 14(4)	Article 16(4)
Article 15	Article 17
Article 16(1)	Article 16(3)
Article 16(2)	Article 16(3)
Article 16(3)	Article 13(2) (a)
Article 17	Article 18
Article 18	Article 19
Article 19	—
Article 20	Article 20
Article 21	Article 22
Article 22	Article 25