THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

# Protocol for the Voluntary Sampling of Animal Identification Devices

## Concept

ID device voluntary sampling is a service for national Competent Authorities or other service users, other than manufacturers or their agents. It is a quality verification service to ensure that devices available in the relevant market(s) remain compliant with the appropriate ISO and ICAR test protocols. Voluntary sampling does not lead to certification of the devices.

## Principles

1. **Sampling Protocols**
   a. Devices should be collected by the service user, organisation or body making the request. It is a basic requirement that the device samples are obtained from the local market stock, with batch ID details given, and not from the manufacturer or his local agent.
   b. The number of device samples required to be submitted for testing can be determined by reference to the appriopriate test protocol documents. (see Annex 1)
   c. After receipt of the samples by the test laboratory but before the test begins, ICAR will notify the respective manufacturer about the voluntary sampling request and seek confirmation from the manufacturer that the device obtained from the specific country or market, is indeed a device that the manufacturer recognises as being or having been marketed in that country.

2. **Testing**
   a. The service user or national Competent Authority making each request is responsible for the intervals at which they require voluntary sampling to be carried out.
   b. Device(s) will be tested against the current ICAR standards and the results compared with original or earlier results for the same device(s) by a certified laboratory designated by ICAR.
   c. A basic test will be carried based on:
      - The Limited Test protocol for the RFID conformance tested devices.
      - The Preliminary Assesment protocol for the material performance of the tested devices.
   d. Additional Testing: The service user may also request or specify additional test protocols, beyond those specified in the Limited Test or Preliminary Assessment, provided those additional test(s) are defined in other existing ISO or ICAR higher level test protocols. The designated test laboratory will then quote the additional cost(s) in the test plan they submit to ICAR. ICAR will then pass on those additional costs to the service user making the request.

3. **Ownership, publication and reporting of results**
   a. The test results will be compiled into a confidential report, a copy of which will then be transmitted to the service user(s) who signed the application. The service user or applicant then becomes the owner of that report. ICAR will retain a confidential copy of the report for reference and comparison purposes.

b. Ownership of the reports:
   - Service user: Owns the test report. Should not access any previous reports or reports owned by other service users.
   - Manufacturer: Owns the original or previous test report(s). Can obtain the test report upon agreement with the service user.
   - Laboratory: Issues the test report. Needs the manufacturer's permission to access any previous reports, if these were not produced by the same laboratory.

c. Test results relating to the same device(s), but submitted in requests from different applicants may be compared by Service-ICAR or the designated laboratories acting on its behalf.
In cases where the test results reveal differences between samples of the same device(s) between tests from different applicants or service users, the test report will detail those differencies and their implications. It will then become the responsibility of the respective Competent Authority who submitted the request(s) to take any initiative they require to resolve or explain those differences with the relevant manufacturer, to the mutual satisfaction of those parties. If the case reveals a misuse of ICAR device certification protocols, then the case must be reported to ICAR. ICAR has an established procedure for the handling of misuse cases.

**4. Costs**

a. ICAR is the responsible body for the contracting of tests under the various ICAR standards for ID devices. ICAR will bill each device test, including the cost of any additional test protocols mentioned above on the principle that the service user pays, based on the laboratory test fee plus any applicable ICAR administrative fee.

**5. Confidentiality**

a. ICAR will not publish the names of the Competent Authorities and/or service users using their voluntary sampling services. Nor share the results of tests requested by independent authorities directly with the relevant device manufacturers unless the authority's permission is asked and granted.
b. ICAR will not disclose information about which devices are being or have been tested from which countries/markets.
c. All test results shall be kept confidential between ICAR and the authority making the request, with the exception of comparisons between tests of the same devices mentioned under 'Ownership, publication and reporting of results'. Specific test results are returned only to the authority making the request(s) and providing the specific samples.

**Annex 1. Device sampling requirements**

Samples and other material to submit*:

- For RFID devices (testing of transponder): 10 transponders
- For conventional ear tags or external RFID devices (testing of external material): 130 ear tags (complete with male and female)

(* or as differently specified by ICAR)