Bovine Traceability and Identification

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AIM Database – Bovine Traceability

- Approx 115,000 herds with bovines

- Population peaks each June
with approx. 7 million, dropping to approx.
6.3 million each December

- 2.3 Million calf births in 2015

Users of AIM

Farmers
(Herd keepers)

Marts

Slaughter Plants

Live Exports

Shows

Vets

Knackeries

Regulatory Framework for Bovine Traceability

Council Regulation EC 1760/2000 (as amended) establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals

S.I. No. 77 of 2009 (Tagging and Registration of Bovines)

S.I. No. 521 of 2014 Animal Health and Welfare (Movement of Bovines) Regulations 2014

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4 Pillars of Bovine Traceability

1. Tagging – must bear 2 official ear tags

2. Registration – Passports

3. On-Farm Herd Register

4. Database - Animal Identification and Movement Database (AIM System)

Tag Approval Process

•In 2016 the Department moved to an approval process for the approval of bovine tag suppliers

•previously one supplier was selected using a public procurement competition

•the Department continues to require cattle tags to have strong security features and very low loss rates

•approved tag suppliers are also required to have in place ancillary services such as secure premises, IT, helpdesk and print facilities for tags and documents

•2 companies are presently approved to supply cattle tags

Mullinahone Co-op – supply the Allflex Ultra tag (French tag)

Cormac Tagging Ltd – supply the Caisley Flexo tag (German tag)

The suite of Tag Types

1. Conventional Tag

2. Tissue Tag (for the purposes of Bovine
   Viral Diarrohea (BVD) eradication scheme)

3. Electronic Tag

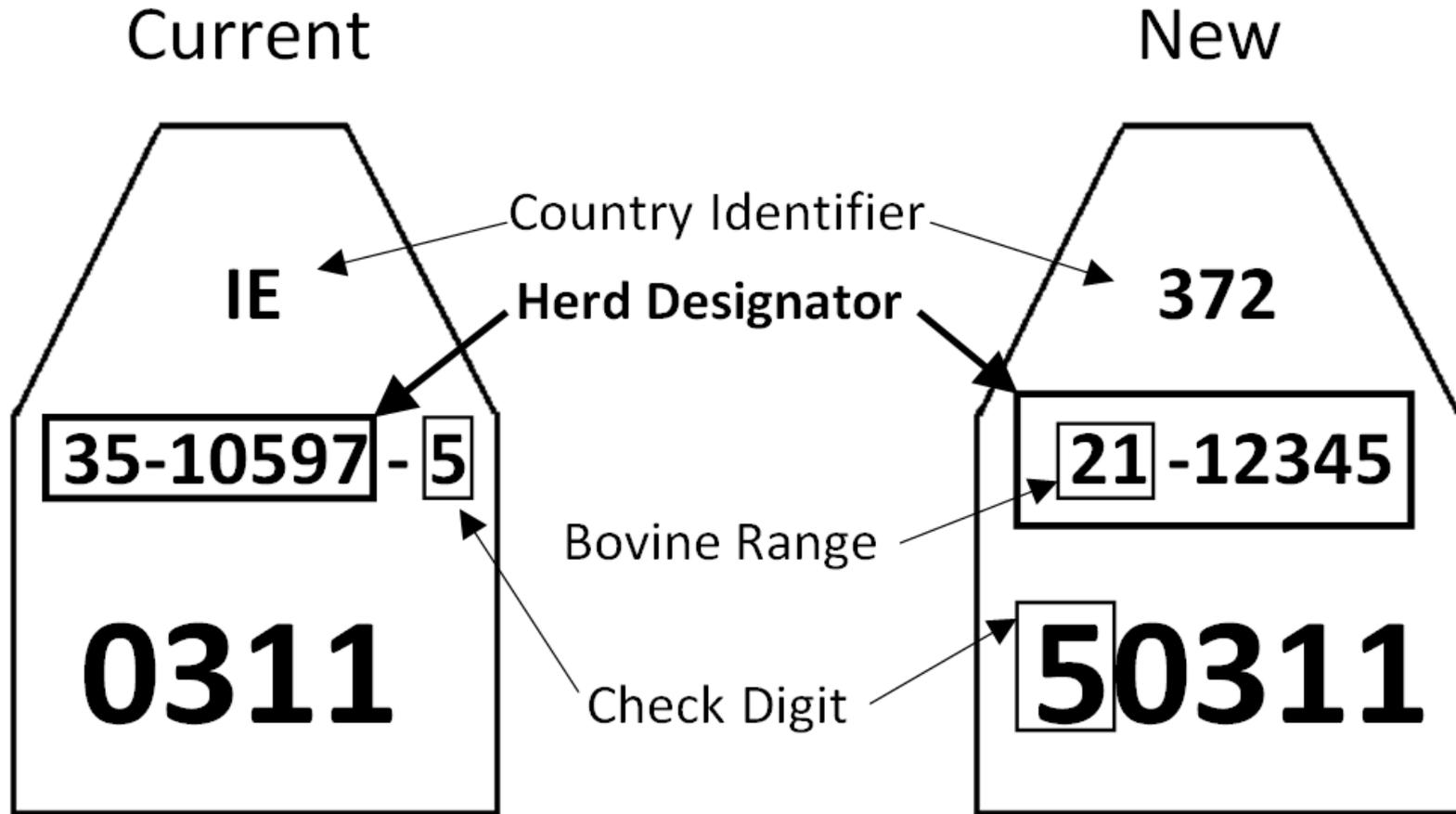   - Keeper applies a conventional tag
     and a tissue tag to each calf

New Numbering system for cattle tags

• Regulation No 653/2014/EC provides for the introduction of electronic identification of bovines on a voluntary basis

• Member States are also permitted to make bovine electronic identification compulsory on their territory

• the Department currently does not intend to introduce compulsory electronic identification

• the old cattle numbering system in Ireland was not compatible with EID numbering, whereby the tag format began with county identifiers ranging from 11 to 39. EID tag numbers cannot begin with anything greater than 27 for reasons related to how the binary system translates into decimal

New Numbering system for cattle tags

• on 1 November 2016 the Department introduced a new cattle numbering format in order to ensure that the numbering system in place in Ireland is compatible with an agreed EU wide electronic identification (EID) format

• herd keepers are permitted to use old stocks of tags on hand up to 31 December 2017

•the herd keeper retains the current herd number

New Numbering system for cattle tags

Any Questions

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