

CHANGES TO MONTBELIARDE UK CERTIFICATES - in accordance with new EU legislation

Last year the EU brought in new legislation (EU Regulations 2016/1012 and 2017/717) regarding the standards for animal registration. This also included the roll-out of a consistent format for registration certificates and export documents, to create clearer understanding. The new legislation not only impacts on cattle, but also pig, sheep and goats, equines and their germinal products.

To allow Montbeliarde UK to remain a recognised breed society, we have had to adhere to these new legislations. It is also not only countries within the EU that have had to adapt to the changes in legislation, but also all countries which wish to trade their animals or germinal products with the EU. Working with our service provider Holstein UK and communicating with DEFRA, we hope to ensure everything has been adhered to at this stage.

For our members the main changes you will notice will be:

- New double-sided certificate, one side landscape the other portrait
- A consistent layout and numbering system for the portrait side of certificates for animals in and coming into the EU
- Removal of classification stamps on certificates
- Removal of sales and transfer section on the reverse along with on-farm identification
- New rules regarding the supplementary register

Employees within the Holstein UK Group comment about what impact these changes will have:

Meurig James, Head of Breed Development (Head Classifier) on the removal of the space for classification stamping on pedigree certificates.

“These days many breeders have their pedigree certificates in electronic format, this format is often more reliable and up-to-date whilst also being backed up. By all certificates not being available on farm for stamping during classification visits, this inconsistency has made the stamping process slightly irrelevant. It has also been noted, that valuers will often look to electronic records, rather than the hard certificates. However, whilst there will be no space for stamping on the new certificates, be assured that classifiers will continue to produce reports for each customer.”

Marion Holliday, Field Development Officer, on the new rules regarding the supplementary register.

“The new rules mean that all animals being registered into either the main or supplementary herd books must be sired by an animal which is registered in the main section of the Herdbook. Whilst this might mean that there will be animals no longer eligible to be registered, it does greatly increase and protect the integrity and purity of a breed.

Whilst animals that are no longer eligible have a very important role to play in farming systems, unfortunately as a breed society we must protect the authenticity of our Herdbooks.”

Christine Clarke, Membership Services Co-ordinator, comments on the format of the new certificates.

“For the team in membership services, we spend a lot of time inputting information from certificates around globe, but particularly Europe, on to our system for foreign registrations. By all of the certificates having to follow a standardised format and numbering system on the portrait side, it will be easy for us to locate the information we require. It is also important that we have kept the landscape side, detailing 3 generations of the animal, as this information is also used. ***Please remember, when purchasing a foreign animal from any country to request an export certificate which can be sent to Membership Services for dual registration.*** Whilst the sales and transfer section of the certificate has been removed, we can update records by simply calling or emailing our team with the animal detail, purchase date and prefix of the new owner. Our team will be on hand to deal with any queries regarding the new certificates once they are live.”

Whilst these are all changes which we have had to make to allow us to comply with legislation, we will in the future be discussing the following elements in conjunction with Holstein UK:

- The importance of QR codes on printed certificates
- The use of the 4 holes at the top of certificates
- The frequency of printing and posting of certificates
- The use of large or smaller envelopes (causing the folding of certificates)

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