Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Information for livestock stakeholders

Livestock exports or movements to the EU and Northern Ireland from Great Britain from 2021 – changes to the country code displayed on livestock ear tags

Issued: November 2020

ID tags for livestock moved from GB to the EU or Northern Ireland
(Options from 1 January 2021)

From 1 January 2021, the UK will trade with the EU as a third country.

New rules for entry into the EU of certain animals and products including livestock will also apply then.

This means that we will have to use a different country code to identify livestock exported to EU Member States.

The UK currently uses the visual code 'UK' in accordance with EU rules for Member States. From 2021, we will need to include a the ISO[1] country code 'GB' for animals intended for export to the EU.

EU Health Certificates for imports of animals from third countries must show individual ID, type of ID used and the ISO country code GB.

Under the Northern Ireland Protocol, movements of these live animals from Great Britain to Northern Ireland will also need to meet these requirements.

1 *International Standardisation Organisation*

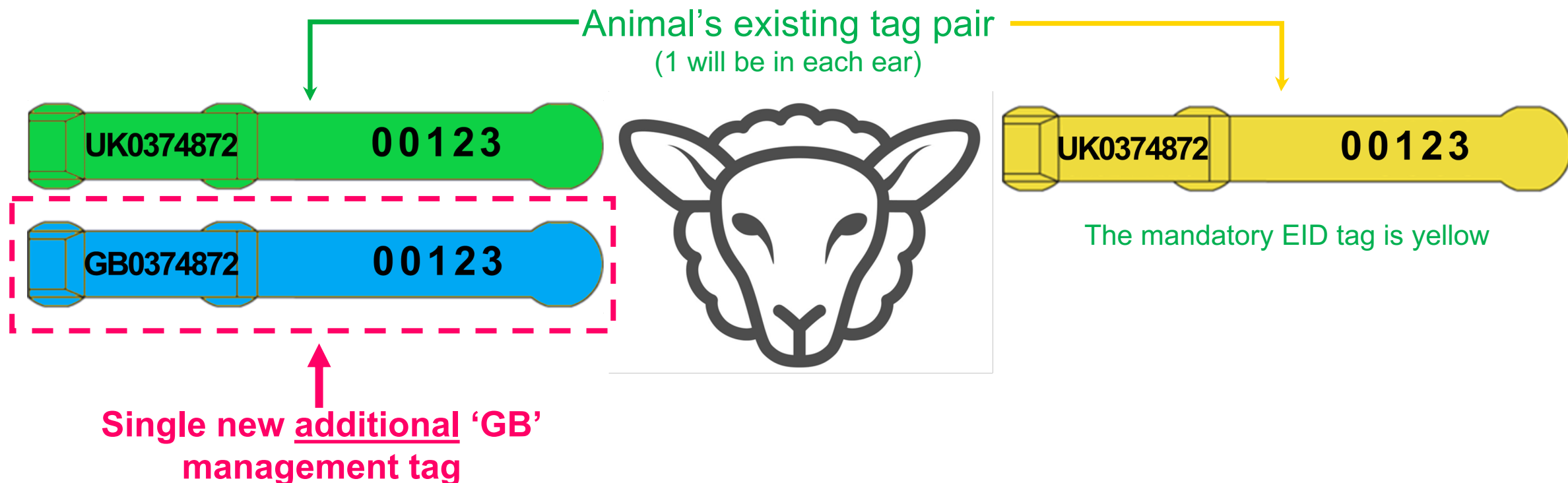# Options from 1 January 2021

For **cattle, sheep, or goats**

- *For animals already identified (i.e. with UK tags)* - **an additional ear tag showing 'GB' followed by the animal's existing individual ID number**

or

- *For new-born as yet unidentified* animals – **apply tags(s) with the GB suffix displayed after UK and the animal's ID number.**

For **pigs**

- The existing requirement for a single export tag or ear tattoo is unchanged – but you must now apply a tag with the GB suffix displayed after UK and the animal's herd + ID number.
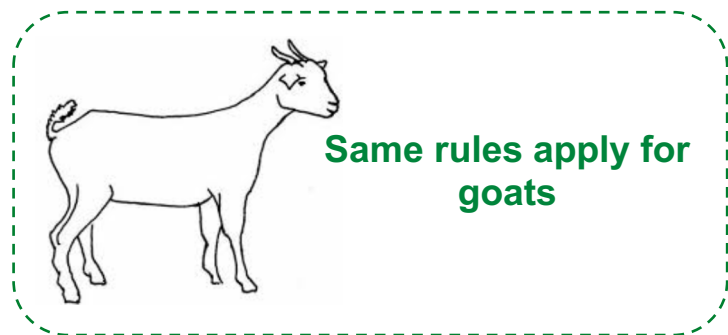
So what does this look like in practice **. . .** ?

Sheep – _<u>already</u> identified_ with a UK tag pair

Animal's existing tag pair
(1 will be in each ear)

UK0374872   0 0 1 2 3

UK0374872   0 0 1 2 3

The mandatory EID tag is yellow

GB0374872   0 0 1 2 3

Single new <u>additional</u> 'GB' management tag

(No prescription as to colour other than it shouldn't be yellow – reserved for UK EID tags)

❑ **Same 12 digit individual no. printed on <u>all</u> the tags following the visual country code (in this case: 0 37842 00123)**

❑ **An EID chip in the <u>yellow</u> tag contains the same number – preceded by the '826' (the ISO numeric code for UK or GB)**

❑ **This illustration uses loop tags other types (e.g. flag or button) are available.**
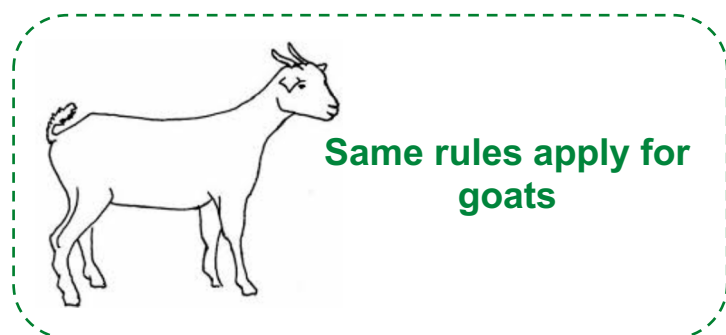
Same rules apply for goats
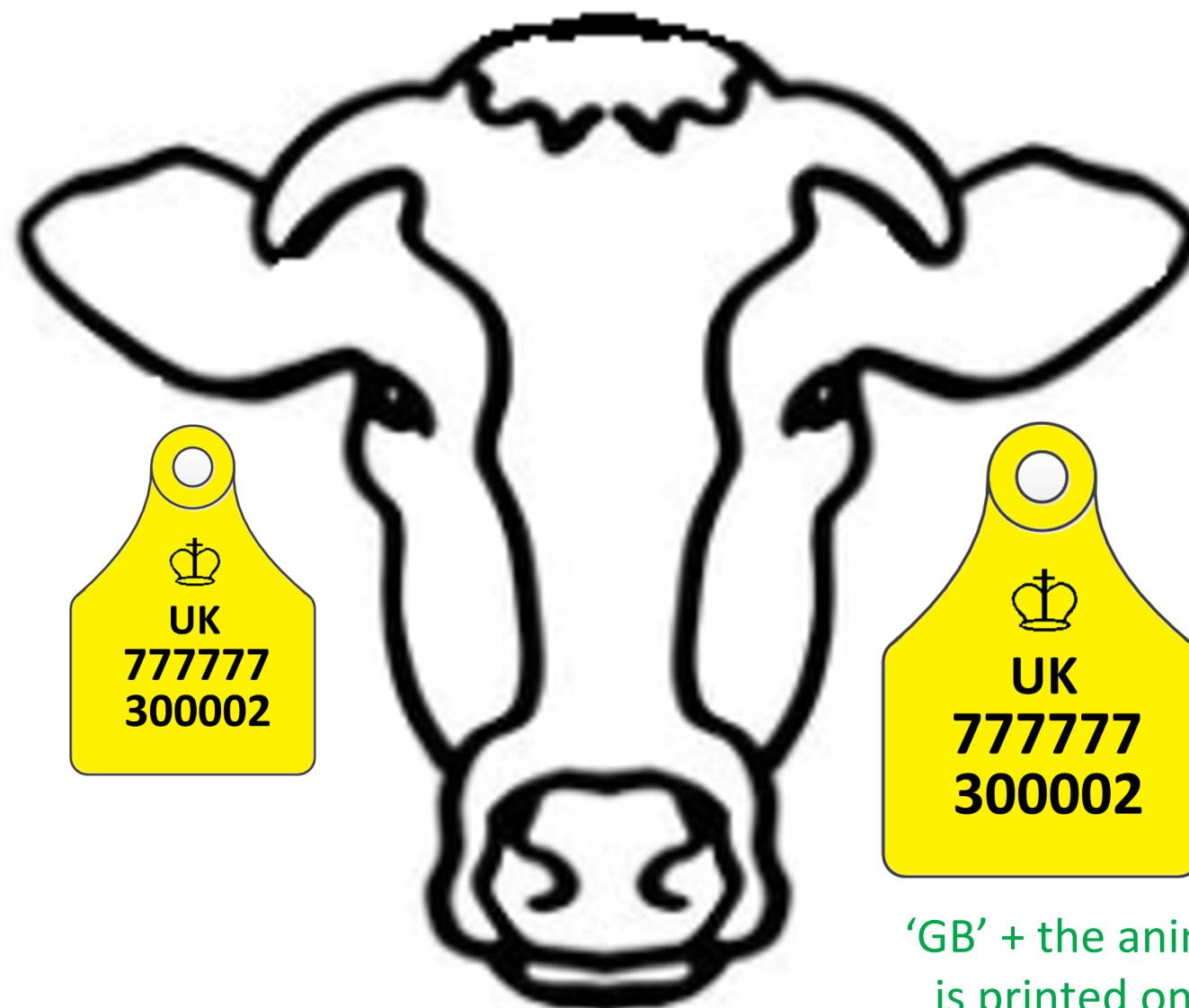
Sheep – *_not_ already identified*
(_or_ lambs being upgraded from the slaughter/batch tag)

New tag pair
(1 applied to each ear)

UK0374872   **0 0 1 2 3   G B**

UK0374872   **0 0 1 2 3   G B**
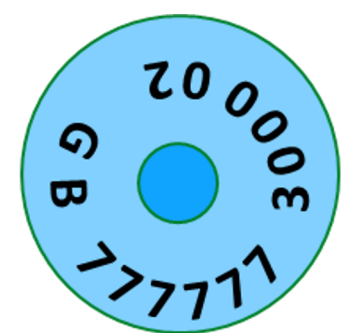
The mandatory EID tag is yellow

❑ **Same 12 digit individual number (in this case: 0 37842 00123) printed on _both_ tags - between the two visual country codes. An EID chip in the _yellow_ tag contains the same number – preceded by the '826' (the ISO numeric code for UK and GB)**

❑ **For lambs upgraded away from the birth holding _both_ the tags must be red – a visual indicator that their original ID was _replaced_ after leaving the birth holding. (To be recorded in the replacing keeper's holding register).**

❑ **This illustration uses loop tags other types (e.g. flag or button) are available.**

Same rules apply for goats

Cattle – *already* identified with a UK tag pair

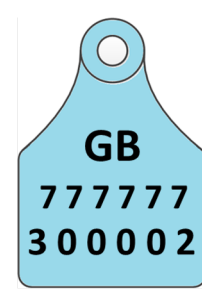UK 777777 300002

UK 777777 300002
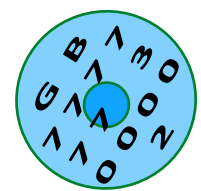
+

GB 777777 300002

'GB' + the animal's existing ID number is printed on a 3rd management tag
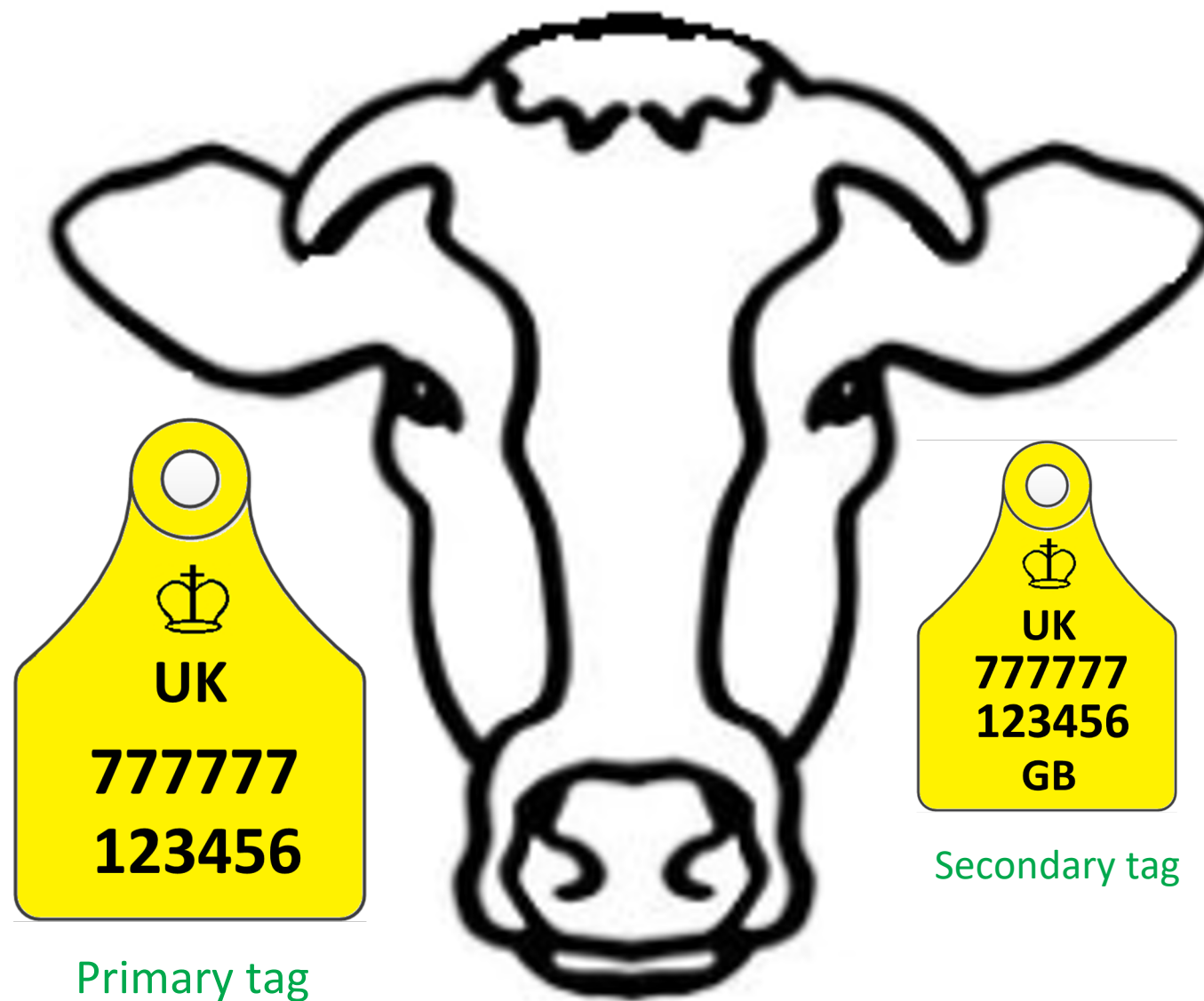
'GB' is printed on a 3rd management tag along with the animal's existing ID number

GB 777777 300002

Button and flag tag options

Cattle – *not* already identified with UK tags

Primary tag
UK
777777
123456

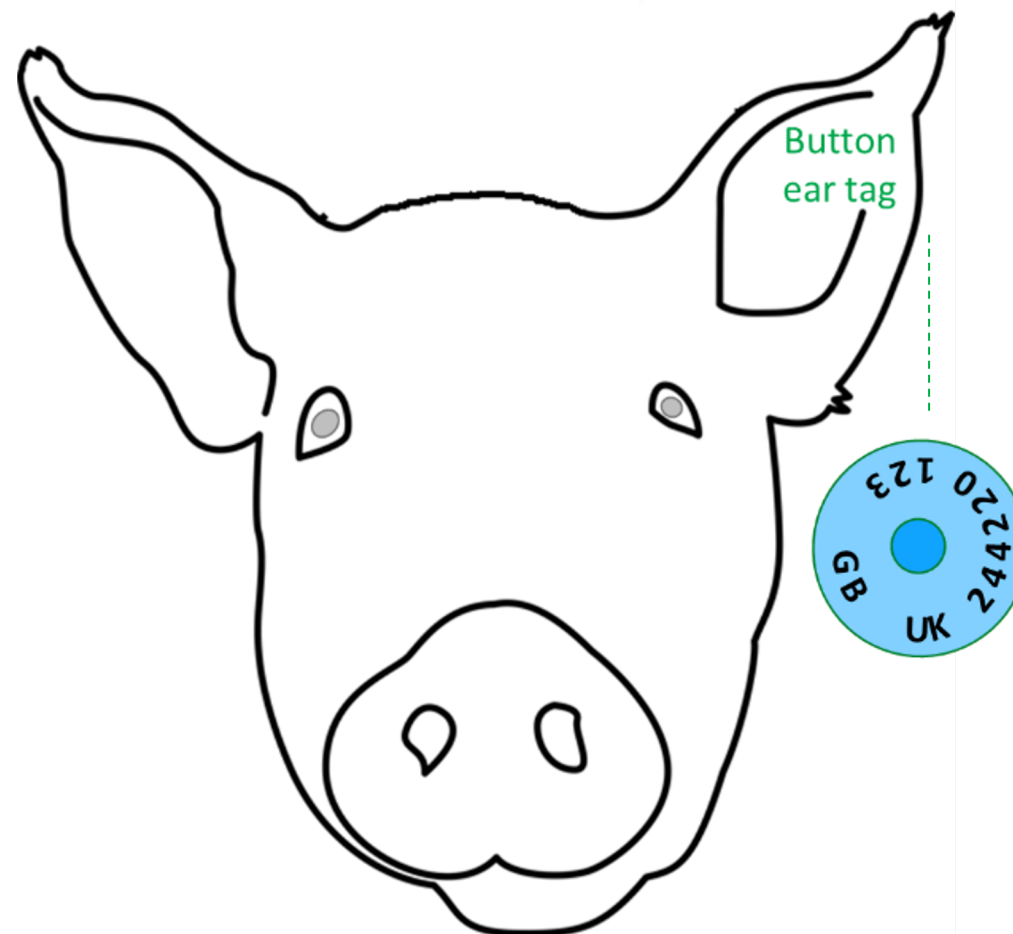**Secondary tag**
UK
777777
123456
GB

Pigs

Most pigs are batch identified with:

- double slap marks
  (one on each front shoulder) displaying an
  alpha-numeric herd mark e.g. AB1234,
  or a single ear tag displaying this mark

- Some may have been
  individually identified if moving to shows
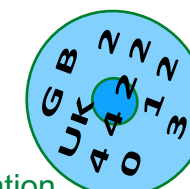 or AI Centres (e.g. AB1234 – 9).

Export pigs are presently identified with a
(single) ear tag displaying
UK + herd mark + individual number.

From 2021, for pigs exported or moved to
the EU or NI this tag will additionally also
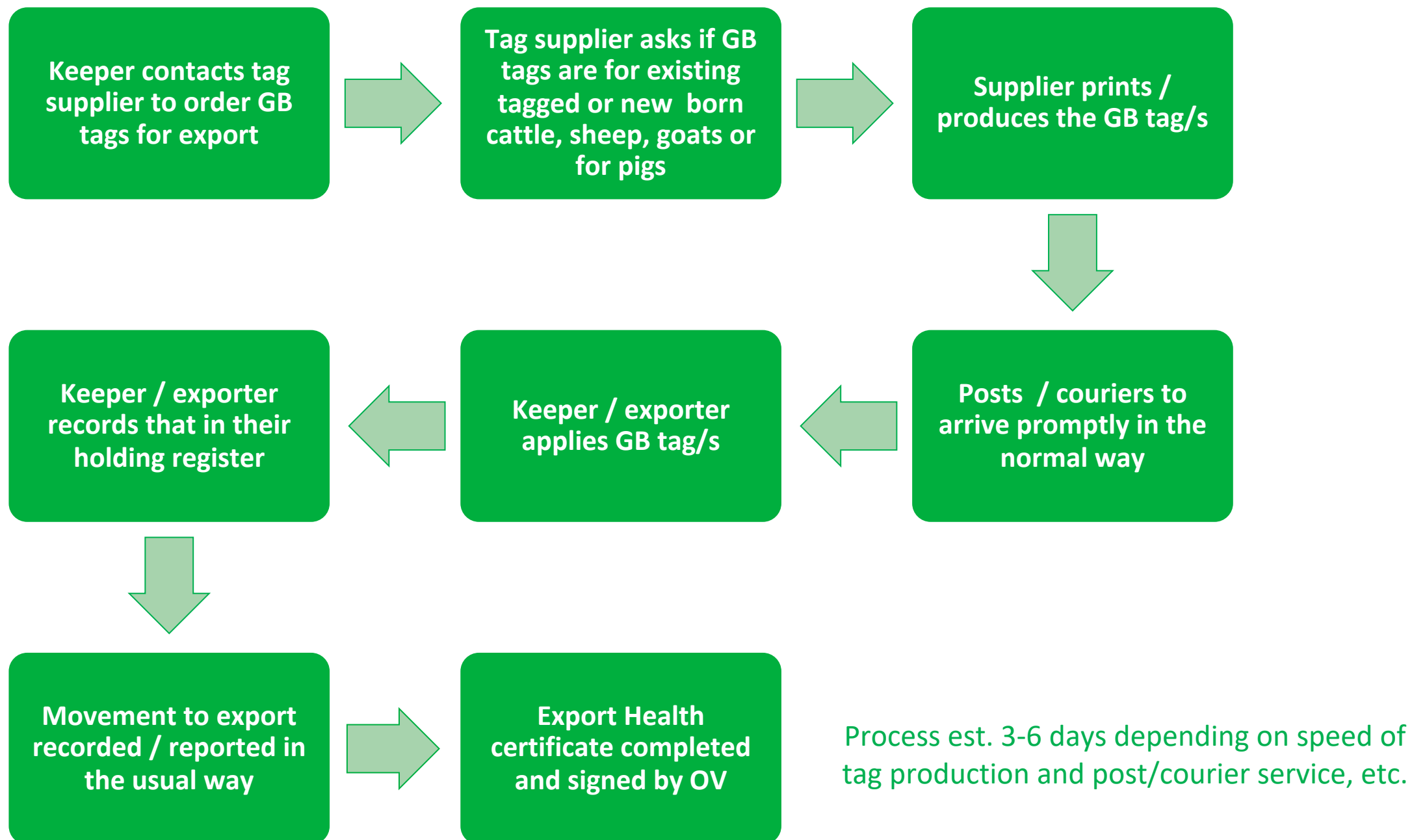have 'GB' printed on it.

Button
ear tag

UK 24220 123 GB

UK
24220
123
GB

No prescription
on tag type

Alternative option
is a tattoo in the ear
displaying the same information

Ordering GB tags – Process

Keeper contacts tag supplier to order GB tags for export → Tag supplier asks if GB tags are for existing tagged or new born cattle, sheep, goats or for pigs → Supplier prints / produces the GB tag/s ↓

Keeper / exporter records that in their holding register ← Keeper / exporter applies GB tag/s ← Posts / couriers to arrive promptly in the normal way

↓

Movement to export recorded / reported in the usual way → Export Health certificate completed and signed by OV

Process est. 3-6 days depending on speed of tag production and post/courier service, etc.

How will exports and movements from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland be identified?

- Exports and movements of livestock to the EU <u>and Northern</u> <u>Ireland</u> from Scotland and Wales from 2021 will be identified in the same way as those from England.

- Livestock can continue to move from Northern Ireland to Great Britain using their UK tags.

- For exports from Northern Ireland to the EU, you will need to contact DAERA.