

ELECTRONIC PIG MOVEMENTS OFFICIAL FROM THIS AUTUMN

From the beginning of October this year, the electronic recording of pig movements will be written into legislation.

Following a recent consultation, Defra intends to amend the existing Pigs, Records, Identification and Movements Order (PRIMO) 2007 to reflect the requirement of pre-notification of movements.

Dorothea Schiemann of BPEX said: "There will be a transitional period of six months for the phasing out of the paper-based AML2 forms, planned to start from 1 October 2011. This will give producers and businesses the opportunity to adjust to the change in process.

"From April 2012 the AML2 paper forms will cease to be a valid method of reporting movements. Pig movements will either have to be reported using the free eAML2 online service or the free eAML2 bureau service and there will also be third party agents such as marketing groups or the British Pig Association."

Following extensive trialling, the eAML2 system for farm to slaughter movements was launched in April 2011 across England and Wales. The functions for movements from farm to farm, market, collection centre and show, and for import and export, will be introduced soon.

What does it mean for a market?

Keepers moving pigs to market will have the following options to report their movements:

1. Keeper enters movement details himself online in advance
2. Keeper contacts the free bureau service to have movement set up on his behalf (by phone/fax/post)
3. Keeper handwrites a paper haulier summary sheet on the day (if not pre-notifying)

In all cases the haulier will have a legally required paper copy (haulier summary sheet) to move with the pigs - as will the pig keeper who is not using the online service.

Markets will have an online eAML2 account where they have access to the electronically submitted moves (1 and 2 above) or will have to enter the movement information retrospectively (3 above) to set up the market outbound move.

This will replace the issuing of a movement licence by the Animal Health.