

Cattle that have been refused passports

A guide for cattle keepers who have recently had passports for cattle refused

You recently applied to the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) to be issued with cattle passports for your calves.

These have been refused by BCMS because you applied late. The animal(s) will be registered on the Cattle Tracing System and you will receive a notice of registration.

If you make any further late applications, the cattle subject to applications will also be refused passports. In order to avoid this situation, ensure that you apply for cattle passports within 27 days of the birth of each calf.

It is an offence under the Cattle Identification Regulations 2007 not to register cattle within the legal time limits, i.e. apply for a passport.

What can I do with cattle that do not have passports?

In the first instance, you should consider appealing against BCMS's refusal to issue passports. Grounds for appeal are limited but include the following:

1. Postal delays - This is a common reason for appeal, but BCMS will require independent evidence, such as a certificate of posting. (In future, you are advised to ask for a certificate of posting for all your applications.)
2. Exceptional circumstances that led to your late application, such as ill health or bereavement.

It is imperative that if you are going to appeal, you do so immediately.

BCMS may issue a cattle passport outside the specified time, but only if they are satisfied that the animal's identity and all the information in the application is accurate.

Cattle, both male and female, without passports cannot be moved off your holding alive (except, if over 24 months old, they may be moved under licence issued by BCMS (helpline: 0845 0501234) to an OCDS slaughterhouse for slaughter - no payment will be received. The cattle (if under 24 months old) can be shot on the farm and removed to a knackers, hunt kennel, rendering or incinerator plant.

If the beast is over 24 months old, you must inform Animal Handling Facilities (tel: 0800 525890) who will arrange for the animal to be shot and collected. (No payment will be received.)

Female cattle can be used as milking or suckler cows and their calves are eligible for passports. Cows used in this way, at the end of their commercial life, will have no value and can be moved under licence to an OCDS slaughterhouse as mentioned above.

Male cattle (except for a bull kept for breeding purposes) have **no value** and should be shot and disposed of as animal by-products as soon as possible, to avoid the cost of keeping them and the subsequent disposal cost. **In**

financial terms, the sooner the cattle are slaughtered, the less the cost that will be incurred by you.

It is in your interest to have these animals slaughtered without delay.

However, cattle without passports CAN be slaughtered on the farm for your own consumption. Please see the [advice leaflet 'The slaughter of cattle for private consumption by the owner'](#).

You may be required by DEFRA or Local Authority Inspectors to account for all the cattle on your holding that have been refused passports.

What are the consequences of non-compliance?

If you move a live animal that does not have a cattle passport off your holding, without a licence, it is a criminal offence. The maximum penalty on conviction in a Magistrates' Court is a fine of £5,000 and/or three months imprisonment. The maximum penalty on conviction in the Crown Court is a £5,000 fine and two years imprisonment.

Please note

This leaflet is not an authoritative interpretation of the law and is intended only for guidance.

For further information, please contact **Environmental Protection, Animal Health Section, Swindon Borough Council, Premier House, Station Road, SN1 1TZ**

Telephone – (01793) 466068

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