



**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

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To: Interested parties

25 April 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

**IMPORTANT: TRANSFER OF BEEF LABELLING SCHEME WORK TO THE RURAL PAYMENTS AGENCY (RPA) IN CARLISLE**

I am writing to inform you of an important change which will affect the administration and delivery of the EU beef labelling system in England.

Defra is required to transfer its delivery functions, which includes beef labelling, to delivery bodies and with effect from **30 April** this area of work will transfer from Defra to a Defra agency, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in Carlisle. The RPA (together with local authorities), is currently responsible for enforcement activities for the voluntary and compulsory aspects of beef labelling in England (and Wales) and it is therefore a logical progression for the RPA to take on the additional responsibilities for implementation of these provisions in England, together with co-ordination work with the other Agriculture Departments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The RPA will take over responsibility for the day-to-day running of the voluntary Beef Labelling Scheme and compulsory system for England, and becomes the overall UK lead on policy management of the system in place of Defra. Defra will only retain overall core policy responsibility for the Beef Labelling Regulations and interaction on them with the EU Commission, though implementation of any new rules will be carried out by the RPA.

This means that new scheme applications and requests for additional claims, and related enquiries, along with general advice on the system, will be handled by the RPA. Therefore, the contact you currently have with Defra's Beef Labelling Section in London will simply move to the RPA in Carlisle. Following this transfer the current section in London will be disbanded.

**New contacts details:**

Meat Technical Schemes (MTS)  
The Rural Payments Agency (RPA)  
Eden Bridge House  
Lowther Street  
Carlisle CA3 8DX

**Telephone:** 01228 640369  
**Fax:** 01228 640524  
**e-mail:** [MTS.carlisle@rpa.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MTS.carlisle@rpa.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have any questions about this transfer of work please contact Chris Standish (e-mail: [chris.standish@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chris.standish@defra.gsi.gov.uk) - Telephone: 020 7238 3160), who will be in post up until the transfer date.

Yours faithfully,

*Mike Roper*

Mike Roper  
Head of Livestock and Meat Chain Team