Animal Reporting & Movement Service (ARAMS)
(Sheep / Goat / Deer)

Information for Assembly & Collection Centers
April 2018
Frequently Asked Questions – Assembly & Collection Centers

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Electronic Movement Reporting System for Sheep, Goats & Deer

On the 1st April 2014 a new electronic movement reporting system was launched by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The new Animal Reporting & Movement Service (ARAMS) is provided by Capita Customer Solutions from their Bedford office. The ARAMS system takes over the processing of Sheep/Goat/Deer movements from each Local Authority in England.

The delivery of electronic movement reporting for farmed livestock was one of the key recommendations of the Farming regulation Task Force chaired by ex NFU Director General Richard MacDonald (cattle and pig movements can already be electronically reported).

In this document an Assembly Centre will be denoted as AC, and a Collection Centre will be denoted as CC. Some of the key questions regarding the new system are outlined below:

**Q1. What does the ARAMS service entail?**
ARAMS essentially involves 2 parts. The first is the Capita Customer Solutions Bureau operation in Bedford where the staffs process all paper movements onto the ARAMS database.

The second part is an electronic interface with some premises’ back office IT systems (or a web portal) to automatically transfer movement information into the system.

Once all the movement information has been validated by the ARAMS database, the information is then transferred onto the government’s central movement’s database; AMLS (Animal Movement Licensing System).

**Q2. What are the benefits of the new service?**

- It is a modern, easy to use service
- Movement documents can be created electronically, rather than by hand
- Movements can be confirmed electronically (instead of having to post off a paper copy to get the move reported)
- ARAMS will interface with the back-office IT systems used by markets, abattoirs, collection centers and assembly centers
- A paper bureau service will continue for farmers unable to access the internet or who choose not to e-report
- 70% of movements will be reported electronically within a few months of the service commencing (markets, abattoirs, collection centers and assembly centers will e-report)
- It will reduce costs for both industry as well as Government
- Faster and more accurate movement data improving Governments’ ability to track and trace animal moves in a disease outbreak
- Over time the database may be able to be used to provide commercial services of benefit to keepers (if that happens the development of such services would be industry led).
Q3. **Who has to report electronically to ARAMS?**

By law all English markets, abattoirs, **collection centers and assembly centers** will have to report electronically to the new system from 1st April 2014.

These premises account for approximately 70% of all sheep movements in England. Under the new system these premises will report electronically to ARAMS, resulting faster and more accurate movement data.

Q4. **My CC / AC has a back-office IT system. How will it interface with ARAMS? What do I need to do?**

Some ACs and CCs in England will have back-office IT systems in place. Capita Customer Solutions have liaised with these back-office system providers and provided them with detailed specification documents that outline how their system will interface with the ARAMS database and transfer movement records across to the database.

The AC/CC software providers that have received documentation include:

- Newline
- TGL / XKO
- Infoscience

It is expected that these back-office system providers have liaised with their AC/CC customers directly in tailoring their systems to provide this movement information to the database. If you are an AC/CC operator, with a back-office IT system, please contact your software provider to ensure that your AC/CC is prepared for the switch to electronic reporting.

Q5. **My AC/CC is relatively small in scale & throughput. Do I have to report movements electronically?**

All ACs/CCs, that are based in England and process sheep/goat/deer, will have to report movements electronically to the database. The underpinning legislation covers all ACs/CCs, regardless of their scale and throughput.

Q6. **My AC/CC doesn’t have a back-office IT system. How will I report movements electronically?**

Every AC/CC, in England, will be required to report (sheep/goat/deer) movements electronically to ARAMS. For those ACs/CCs with no back-office system, they can register for an Assembly Centre portal, or a Collection Centre portal account on the ARAMS website (www.arams.co.uk).

They will be able to access this portal through an internet browser and upload tag numbers and complete / report the requisite movement details electronically through that route.

Q7. **When do we transfer the movement data to ARAMS?**

The back-office IT system providers of ACs/CCs have been provided with detailed specification documents regarding how their system will interface with ARAMS. Movement information can either
be submitted during the day (as the moves occur), or can be transferred at the end of the business day.

Note: The receiving keeper (AC/CC) will still have 3 days to notify the ‘on’ movement to ARAMS. However, it is important that ACs/CCs report the ‘on’ movement (of animals into the AC/CC) as quickly as possible i.e. either during the day, or at the end of business. When those animals subsequently move out of the AC/CC (‘off move’), that outbound move should ideally be notified electronically as soon as possible as this will facilitate the receiving keeper being able to view the details electronically (e.g. through their ARAMS portal account) and confirm receipt electronically if they wish.

**Q8. Does my AC/CC have to print movement forms for the ‘off’ move?**
Yes. Legislation requires that a paper movement document must accompany the animals in transit. Furthermore if the receiving keeper is a farmer, he/she can either confirm receipt electronically (through their ARAMS portal) or on paper, by posting the paper movement form to SouthWestern. Therefore the AC/CC will have to print movement forms for the ‘off’ movement.

**Q9. Will we need training on the new reporting system?**
ACs/CCs with a back-office IT system should liaise directly with their IT provider. In these instances, the information will be captured by the IT system and reported automatically through to ARAMS. Therefore there should be a very low impact on day-to-day business of the AC/CC.

For ACs/CCs that do not have a back-office IT system, the ARAMS web portal is an easy-to-use alternative. User Guides are available, on www.arams.co.uk, which give a step-by-step guide as to how to register for an account, how to create ‘on’ movements, ‘off’ movements etc.

**Q10. What happens if my AC/CC did not switch over to electronic reporting from the 1st April 2014?**
By the end of June, Defra expect that all ACs/CCs will be reporting movements electronically to ARAMS. If premises are not complying with the legislation after this period, Local Authorities will be advised, and they will follow up directly with the premises concerned.

**Q11. Once we switch to e-reporting, what do we do with the ‘on’ movement documents? Do we still have to retain them?**
Yes, ACs/CCs are required to (continue to) store the ‘on’ paper movement documents for 3 years from the date of receipt. This is a requirement on all receiving keepers. You may keep the paper
version or a scan of it. (Also, some of the information, which may be stored on the movement form, will not necessarily be stored on ARAMS e.g. WATO, FCI).

**Q12. If we are reporting electronically to ARAMS, do we have to input the WATO and FCI information?**

The ARAMS system (both interfacing with AC/CC IT systems and the ARAMS web portal) will provide for this information to be included on the ARAMS movement form that accompanies the animals. There is however no legal requirement for WATO & FCI information to be recorded on a central database including the ARAMS database. Therefore it is only the statutory information that must be inputted on ARAMS.

**Q13. Are there new movement documents and where are these available?**

An ARAMS-1 document replaced the AML1 document since the 1st April 2014 for movements of sheep and goats. An ARAMS-2 document replaced the previous AML24 form for deer movements.

As many farmers collected the AML1 forms from their local markets, Capita Customer Solutions are distributing the new forms through English (sheep) markets also. Forms will also be available at some of the major show-grounds. Local Authority offices will carry a stock of these forms during an interim period. In addition forms will be available online (www.arams.co.uk) where farmers can use the editable PDF forms, enter the movement information, and print out the necessary copies pre-populated if they wish.

**Q14. Where will I get further information on how to report electronically?**

The ARAMS website includes a User Guide for the Assembly Centre and Collection Centre Portals. This gives details on how to register an account, how to create ‘on’ and ‘off’ movements etc. If you have a back-office IT system, you should contact your service provider directly as they have been provided with documentation regarding how their system can interface with ARAMS.

**Q15. Will there be a helpline available for ACs/CCs?**

Capita Customer Solutions are providing a Technical Helpdesk as part of their service. The helpline number, available from 1st April, is 0844 573 0137. The helpline will be able to provide assistance with general queries on the new process as well as assistance to ACs/CCs that avail of the ARAMS web portal method. ACs/CCs with a back-office IT system should first refer all queries to their IT supplier.

**Q16. Who do I contact if I have queries about tagging / recording / reporting rules and EID questions?**

An AC/CC’s first port of call should be the Defra helpline on 08459 33 55 77 although the ARAMS helpline may be able to answer basic questions on these issues.

Queries on these matters can also be emailed to defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Furthermore the RPA Livestock Identification helpline will also be available for farmers on 0845 050 9876.

Defra published a revised Guidance document for keepers and this was posted to all registered sheep/goat keepers (in England) in March.
Q17. Will ARAMS cover Wales and Scotland also?
No, ARAMS relates to sheep/goat/deer movements in England only. 
The ScotEID system represents movements in Scotland and EIDCymru represents in Wales. 
The ARAMS database will interface with its Scottish and Welsh counterparts to share movement information relating to cross-border movements.

User Guides are available which give a step-by-step overview of how to create ‘on’ and ‘off’ movements etc.