

## Beef Labelling Scheme

### What is the beef labelling system?

An EU-wide system intended to provide customers with clear, reliable information about the beef on sale.

### What type of beef must comply with the labelling rules?

Rules apply to:

Fresh and frozen beef, (ie whole carcasses, quarters, sirloins or rump steak, mince and uncooked beef burgers with no added ingredients).

Rules do not apply to:

Seasoned uncooked beef (seasoning either visible or distinguishable by taste);  
Beef and offal in processed products, (e.g. steak and kidney pies, processed beef burgers).

### How should beef be labelled?

Pre-wrapped meat must be labelled on its packaging.

Non pre-wrapped meat sold to the end customer must have the information displayed in the shop, e.g. on a ticket adjacent to the meat or on a clearly visible sign on the wall.

All reference codes used must ensure that meat can be traced back to its source through your traceability system.

### Must I have a traceability system?

Yes. The exact type of information it should contain depends on your operation but it could contain some or all of the following:

- Intake date (of animal, carcass or cut)
- The supplier
- Delivery note details
- Kill date
- Weight
- UK ear tag/cattle passport or reference code
- Product (cut)
- Tray number or colour
- Date placed on the counter

And link these to:

- The reference number or code
- The compulsory labelling about slaughterhouse and cutting plants
- Any approved labelling claims made against sales.

## What compulsory information must be shown on your labelling?

The following 7 indications must be shown:

1. Reference number or code.
2. "Slaughtered in [name of member state or third country]".
3. Licence number of slaughter house.
4. "Cutting/cut in [name of member state or third country]".
5. Licence number(s) of cutting plant(s).
6. Name of the member state or third country in which the animal or group of animals were born.
7. The name of the member state or third country in which the animal or group of animals were raised.

## What is voluntary Information?

Voluntary information is that information that cannot easily be checked at the point of sale. Voluntary claims could relate to factors such as:

- Origin/Region
- Method of production
- Characteristics of the beef
- Organic
- Breed

Such claims require approval from the Food policy Division of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the address below.

## Do special requirements exist for minced beef?

Yes. The following 4 indications must be shown:

1. Reference number or code.
2. Member state(s) or third country(ies) of slaughter.
3. Member state or third country of mincing.
4. If different from country of mincing, all the countries where the animal or group of animals lived from birth to slaughter, "Origin [name(s) of member state(s) and/or third country(ies)]", or "Origin: Non-EU" if all those countries are outside the EU.

**Note:** These questions/answers are only a guide to the main provisions of the legislation. Full details can be obtained from "*The Beef Labelling Guide*".

Additional copies are available from:

Food Policy Division  
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Room 142, Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SB

Tel: 9052 4536/9052 0844

Fax: 9052 4801

E-mail: [foodpolicy@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:foodpolicy@dardni.gov.uk)

(The Guide is also available via the website [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk))

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### Sample Labels

British Beef

**05/02/02/324694/3** – a reference number or code

Rump Steak

Weight 500 grams

Price £2.40

Unit Price £4.80/kilo

**Born in:** *Derbyshire* – **UK**

**Reared in (or Fattened in):** *Derbyshire and Yorkshire* – **UK**

**Slaughtered in:** *Yorkshire* – **UK (2345)**

**Cutting in (or Cut in):** *Yorkshire* – **UK (6789)**

*Organic*

Minced beef

**06/08/02/958425/2** – a reference number or code

Weight 2 kilos

Price £9.00

**Minced in:** **UK**

**Slaughtered in:** **UK**

**Origin:** **Ireland\***

\* Where the animals of origin were born in Ireland and raised in Ireland and UK

### Sample Wall Signs

#### Minced Beef

|                        |                               |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Tray:</b>           | <b>Reference number/code:</b> |                   |
| <b>Slaughtered in:</b> |                               | <b>Minced in:</b> |
| <b>Origin:</b>         |                               |                   |

|                            |                               |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Tray:</b>               | <b>Reference number/code:</b> |  |
| <b>Slaughtered in:</b>     | <b>Cutting in:</b>            |  |
| Slaughterhouse licence no. | Cutting Plant Licence No.     |  |

|                            |                               |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Tray:</b>               | <b>Reference number/code:</b> |  |
| <b>Slaughtered in:</b>     | <b>Cutting in:</b>            |  |
| Slaughterhouse licence no. | Cutting Plant Licence No.     |  |
| <b>Reared in:</b>          | <b>Born in:</b>               |  |