



**The file specification for sending cattle records to Signet in an electronic format
(Version 9. 8th July 2016)**

The Signet Beefbreeder service has the facility to accept data in an electronic format. Supplying data in this format will enable results to be uploaded directly to BASCO, reducing operator error and enabling results to be processed faster. This approach will be particularly useful for larger herds and those with their own on-farm software.

The following output files can be submitted to Signet

- Calving Records
- Weight Records
- Additional Traits
 - Cow Mature Size Record
 - Udder and Teat Score Records

1). Calving Records

For data to be uploaded it needs to be supplied in the exact format shown overleaf. There are 26 fields in total, but only 10 are compulsory. Many fields (such as ET recipient or Breed) will have a standard replicated entry. These notes assume records will be sent using an Excel spreadsheet or csv file.

User notes:

- All UK born animals born since 1st January 2000 must have a UK ear number. Older cattle and imported animals can be entered with a herdbook number.
- Identities need to match Signet records exactly – extra or missing, spaces or dashes within ear number fields will cause records to be rejected.
- If you need to check the Signet recognised UK number or Herdbook Number for a sire or dam known to Signet, please check it using “EBV search” on the Signet website www.signetfbc.co.uk
- Sires and dams must be no more than 16 years older than their progeny
- Sires and dams must be at least 200 days older than their progeny
- Although Prefixes and Names of up to 50 characters can be used, long IDs should be avoided as they may create reporting problems
- Herdmark is the numeric part of the holding identifier in the UK number. For animal “UK 123123/456789” the herdmark will be “123123”. This field enables Signet to identify the breeder (if it is a Signet client), as well as establishing the owner.

AHDB, Signet Breeding Services

Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2TL

Tel: 0247 647 8826 Fax: 0247 641 9071

Email: signet@eblex.ahdb.org.uk www.signetfbc.co.uk

- Breed – use exact Signet recognised breed name (see table)
- Breed Code – use exact Signet recognised breed code (see table)
- Where a sire or dam is not known by Signet, the parent’s details should be supplied as a separate record. This approach allows multi-generational pedigrees to be imported onto BASCO for previously unknown herds (see example).

Breed	Breed Code
BLONDE D'AQUITAINE	BA
HIGHLAND	HI
LIMOUSIN	LIM
LINCOLN RED	LR
LUING	LU
RED POLL	RP
SALERS	SA
STABILISER	ST
SUSSEX	SU
CROSSBRED	XX

Important

- The Constituent Breed/Sixteenths of Breed column can be left blank and these will be assigned based on the parents breed make up
- If Breed 16^{ths} are assigned, the four sixteenths of breed boxes must equal 16.

2). Weight Records

Signet clients can export weights directly to Signet. Signet requests the raw weights collected on the day, not weights that have been adjusted to 100, 200, 300 days etc.

User notes:

- All weight records must be reported against a UK ear number.
- UK ear numbers need to match Signet records exactly – extra or missing spaces or dashes within the UK ear number field will cause records to be rejected.
- Weight should be measured in kilogrammes – to the nearest whole number
- Each animal weight record must be assigned to a management group – details are given in Appendix 3.
- Only one weight file per animal can be uploaded at a time.

3). Additional Traits

Signet clients can export data for a series of “other traits” that are held on the Signet database. These include:-

- Cow Mature Weight - Code B661
- Cow Body Condition Score - Code B660
- Udder Shape - Code B630
- Teat Shape - Code B640

Breeders are encouraged to take these measurements at weaning time – but in reality the database can store records taken at other times – and cow mature weights and body condition scores taken at other times during the year may have a scientific value in the future.

Validation checks are shown in appendix 4. Details on recording protocols for each trait can be obtained from Signet.

Appendix 2 Calving Records: Example file: Providing a record for “Son of Dave” and his previously unrecorded parents

	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3	FIELD 4	FIELD 5	FIELD 6	FIELD 7	FIELD 8	FIELD 9	FIELD 10	FIELD 11	FIELD 12	FIELD 13	FIELD 14	FIELD 15
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	UKMINISTRYTAG	HERDBOOKNUMBER	SEX	DATEOFBIRTH	PREFIX	NAME	BIRTHWEIGHTACT_KG	STATUS	EOCALVING	SERVICEID	BIRTHTYPEID	TWINSEX	GESTATIONLENGTH_DAYS	HERDMARK	BREED
Record 1	UK 123123/300056		M	09/03/2005	TOWN	DAVE		LIVE		NATURAL	SINGLE			123123	SUSSEX
Record 2	UK 286999/600158		F	14/03/2006	BRIDGE	DAISY	38	LIVE	1	AI	SINGLE		287	286999	SUSSEX
Record 3	UK 286999/700159	ABCD99X	M	14/03/2010	BRIDGE	SON OF DAVE	43	SOLD	2	NATURAL	SINGLE			286999	SUSSEX

Continued....

	FIELD 16	FIELD 17	FIELD 18	FIELD 19	FIELD 20	FIELD 21	FIELD 22	FIELD 23	FIELD 24	FIELD 25	FIELD 26	FIELD 27
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	EAR_NUMBER_OF_DAM	EAR_NUMBER_OF_SIRE	FERTILISED_OVUM_TRANSFER	EAR_NUMBER_OF_RECIPIENT_DAM	CONSTITUENT_BREED_ONE	SIXTEENTH SOFBREEDED_ONE	CONSTITUENT_BREED_TWO	SIXTEENTH SOFBREED_TWO	CONSTITUENT_BREED_THREE	SIXTEENTH SOFBREED_THREE	CONSTITUENT_BREED_FOUR	SIXTEENTH SOFBREED_FOUR
Record 1	-	UK 123123/100099	N		SU	8	LIM	8				
Record 2	UK 286999/400032	UK 286999/932123	Y	UK 286999/40123	SU	16						
Record 3	UK 286999/600158	UK 123123/300056	N		SU	12	LIM	4				

Note:

Record 1 is listed as Sire (Field 17) of Record 3
Record 2 is listed as Dam (Field 16) of Record 3

It is assumed that the Sire and Dam of Records 1 & 2 are on the Signet database, if not these also need to be supplied.

Appendix 3 Weight Records: File specification for sending weight records to Signet electronically

	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3	FIELD 4	FIELD 5	FIELD 6	FIELD 7 (Optional)
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	UKMINISTRYTAG	WEIGHT	WEIGH_DATE	MANAGEMENT_CODE	SCROTAL	STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH
FIELD	UK TAG	WEIGHT	WEIGH DATE	MANAGEMENT CODE	SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE	STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH
COMPULSORY FIELD? NOTES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
	UK Ministry Tag must be in format: UK 123456/123456 UK Ministry Tag cannot exist in database already or be duplicated in the file.	Weight in kg. To nearest 1kg	Must be in format: DD/MM/YYYY or DDMMYYYY or DD-MM-YYYY	See box for appropriate three digit numeric management code Where animals have been managed differently -they must go into different management groups	Measurements for bulls only. Bulls should be 300 days of age or older. Measurements in cm	EITHER LIVE DEAD SOLD	This isn't required for upload but is really helpful in validating management group
WHERE FIELD IS BLANK					For unknown leave blank.	If blank animal status assumed not to have changed	

Example

	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3	FIELD 4	FIELD 5	FIELD 6	FIELD 7 (Optional)
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	UKMINISTRYTAG	WEIGHT	WEIGH_DATE	MANAGEMENT_CODE	SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE	STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH
Record 1	UK 123123/800100	197	01/02/2014	221		LIVE	01/08/2013
Record 2	UK 123123/900187	435	01/02/2014	441	34	SOLD	15/01/2013
Record 3	UK 123123/700188	388	01/02/2014	451		DEAD	15/01/2013

Management Codes

Enter a code to describe the current management of your calves / yearlings.

For cattle 15-369 days of age.

Up to weaning:

- 221 = suckling dam only
- 222 = suckling dam and creep feed
- 223 = suckling nurse cow and creep
- 224 = suckling nurse cow only
- 225 = bucket fed
- 226 = double suckling with creep

For cattle 370-600 days of age

After weaning: Bulls

- 441 = commercial management
- 442 = standard pedigree management
- 443 = show management

After weaning: Steers

- 461 = commercial management
- 462 = standard pedigree management

After weaning: Heifers

- 451 = commercial management
- 452 = standard pedigree management
- 453 = show management

Appendix 4 New Measurements: File specification for sending weight records to Signet electronically

	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3	FIELD 4	FIELD 5	FIELD 6	FIELD 7	FIELD 8
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	UKMINISTRYTAG	SEX	BREED	HERDMARK	SYSTEM VARIABLE CODE	MEASUREMENT	MEASUREMENT DATE	MANAGEMENT GROUP
FIELD	UK TAG	SEX	BREED	HERDMARK	CODE	MEASURE	WEIGH DATE	MANAGEMENT GROUP
COMPULSORY FIELD?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NOTES	UK Ministry Tag must be in format: UK 123456/123456 UK Ministry Tag cannot exist in database already or be duplicated in the file.	M, F or C	Breed Name		Must be one of B661, B660, B630, B640	Various – see validation checks	Must be in format: DD/MM/YYYY or DDMMYYYY or DD-MM-YYYY	
WHERE FIELD IS BLANK								

Measurement Code

The measurement code indicates the type of measurement being supplied

Code B661 - Cow Mature Weight
Code B660 - Cow Body Condition Score
Code B630 - Udder Shape
Code B640 - Teat Shape

Validation

B661 – A weight in kilogramme
B660 – Value 1-5 (including halves i.e. “1.5”)
B630 – Value between 1 and 3
B640 – Value between 1 and 3

See Signet Recording Booklet for more details

Example for one cow with four different measures supplied

	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3	FIELD 4	FIELD 5	FIELD 6	FIELD 7	FIELD 8
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	UKMINISTRYTAG	SEX	BREED	HERDMARK	CODE	MEASURE	WEIGH_DATE	MANAGEMENT GROUP
Record 1	<i>UK 123123/800500</i>	F	SUSSEX	123123	B661	752	01/02/2014	1
Record 2	<i>UK 123123/800500</i>	F	SUSSEX	123123	B660	3.5	01/02/2014	1
Record 3	<i>UK 123123/800500</i>	F	SUSSEX	123123	B630	2	01/02/2014	1
Record 4	<i>UK 123123/800500</i>	F	SUSSEX	123123	B640	3	01/02/2014	1

Appendix 5 Census: File specification for sending weight records to Signet electronically

	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3	FIELD 4
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	UKMINISTRYTAG	SEX	BREED	ANIMAL STATUS
FIELD	UKMINISTRYTAG	SEX	BREED	ANIMAL STATUS
COMPULSORY FIELD?	YES	YES	YES	YES
NOTES	UK Ministry Tag must be in format: UK 123456/123456 UK Ministry Tag cannot exist in database already or be duplicated in the file.	M, F or C	Breed Name	LIVE, DEAD or SOLD
WHERE FIELD IS BLANK				

Animal Status

There are three recognised status codes:

- LIVE
- DEAD
- SOLD

Example for two cows with different fate codes

	FIELD 1	FIELD 2	FIELD 3	FIELD 4
OFFICIAL BADUT FIELD NAME	UKMINISTRYTAG	SEX	BREED	ANIMAL STATUS
Record 1	<i>UK 123123/800500</i>	F	SUSSEX	SOLD
Record 2	<i>UK 123123/900501</i>	F	SUSSEX	DEAD