

Animal Disease Traceability

The final rule for Animal Disease Traceability was published in the Federal Register on January 9, 2013, with an effective date of March 11, 2013. Under the final rule interstate movement of animals will require official identification and an official certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI or health papers). States have some flexibility and can choose to accept or not accept a few additional forms of identification and documentation. For example, cattle and bison can be officially identified by brands or registration tattoos when this is agreed upon by the state of origin and the state of destination. The Animal Disease Traceability rule applies to cattle and bison, horses and other equine species, poultry, sheep and goats, swine, and captive cervids.

Official identification is required for interstate movement of...

1. All sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or over
2. All female dairy cattle of any age and all dairy males born after March 11, 2013
- 3. Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, recreational events, shows and exhibitions**
4. All horses and other equine species, poultry, sheep and goats, swine, and captive cervids

What qualifies as official identification?

- 1. Cattle and bison.** Unless otherwise agreed upon by the shipping and receiving state animal health authorities, official ear tags are the only acceptable form of identification. When agreed upon by shipping and receiving state animal health authorities two additional methods of identification can become official.
 - a. Brands registered with brand inspection and accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate.
 - b. Tattoos and other methods acceptable to a breed association accompanied by a breed registration certificate.
 - c. Iowa will accept breed registration tattoos for cattle entering from other states but will not accept hot or cold brands of any kind as official identification. Iowa does not have any special agreements established with neighboring states to recognize brands or tattoos for cattle entering those states from Iowa. Show cattle traveling to AK SAR BEN, Kansas City, Denver, etc. must have an official ID tag. Official tags are described in the links below.
 - d. The official calf-hood vaccinate tags that are applied to heifers at the time of Brucellosis vaccination do count as official ID tags for the animal disease traceability program. My advice for heifers would be to vaccinate against Brucellosis and use the orange official calf-hood vaccinate tag as ID.
- 2. Equine.**
 - a. A description sufficient to identify the individual equine including name, age, breed, color, gender, distinctive markings, unique and permanent forms of identification (e.g., brands, tattoos, scars, cowlicks, blemishes, or biometric measurements).
 - b. Microchips. Electronic identification that complies with ISO 11784/11785. Non-ISO electronic identification injected to the equine on or before March 11, 2014.
 - c. Digital photographs sufficient to identify the individual equine.
- 3. Poultry.**
 - a. Sealed and numbered leg bands in the manner referenced in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) regulations (9 CFR parts 145 through 147).

4. **Sheep and goats.**

- a. Electronic implants for animals required to be identified by the Scrapie Free Flock Certification Program (SFCP), when used in a flock participating in the SFCP and when accompanied by a certificate or owner statement that includes the electronic implant numbers and the name of the chip manufacturer
- b. Official eartags, including tags approved for use in the SFCP or APHIS-approved premises identification number eartags when combined with a unique animal identification number
- c. Legible official registry tattoos that have been recorded in the book of record of a sheep or goat registry association when the animal is accompanied by either a registration certificate or a certificate of veterinary inspection. These tattoos may also be used as premises identification if they contain a unique premises prefix that has been linked in the National Scrapie Database with the assigned premises identification number of the flock of origin
- d. Premises identification ear tags or tattoos, if the premises identification method includes a unique animal number or is combined with a flock ear tag that has a unique animal number and the animal is accompanied by an owner statement

5. **Swine.**

- a. Official ear tag.
- b. Ear notching if the ear notching has been recorded in the book of record of a purebred registry association.
- c. Tattoos on the ear or inner flank, if the tattoos have been recorded in the book of record of a swine registry association.

6. **Captive cervids.**

- a. Official ear tag.
- b. Individual tattoo or hot brand that provides unique identification for each animal.

Inclusion of all details and exceptions is beyond the scope of this paper. It is highly recommended that exhibitors communicate with veterinarians, livestock specialists, and animal health authorities to be fully informed. State Veterinarian Dave Schmitt, DVM and Coordinator Dee Clausen can be reached at the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. It will be equally if not more important to contact animal health officials in the state of destination to learn of additional forms of identification and documentation that might be accepted.

Additionally, exhibitors need to follow show guidelines for each specific show. Shows may have additional requirements or more specific requirements beyond the USDA and state guidelines. Following USDA guidelines and state of destination guidelines will give exhibitors the ability to move animals across state lines. Following specific show requirements will give exhibitors the eligibility to compete in the show. Each show will likely continue to have specific means of identification (nose print, DNA, retinal imaging, etc.) required for show eligibility.

Helpful links...

1. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_eartags_criteria.pdf (ear tag options)
2. www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/rule_movement_bison.pdf. (fact sheet)
3. www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/2012/12/pdf/traceability_final_rule.pdf (official final rule)