

Animal Disease Traceability Frequently Asked Questions

Veterinarians Working with Cattle Moving Interstate FROM Wisconsin

Effective March 11, 2013

What animals need official identification?

- All dairy animals unless moving directly to slaughter. This includes all dairy steers BORN after March 11, 2013.
- All cattle or bison of any age/sex/breed used for rodeo, recreational events, shows, or exhibitions.
- Sexually intact beef animals older than 18 months of age, unless moving directly to slaughter.
- For sexually intact beef animals younger than 18 months of age, beef steers, and spayed heifers, check with state of destination.

What animals do NOT need official identification?

- Animals moving directly to slaughter (including moving through no more than one approved livestock facility and then directly to slaughter)
- Dairy steers BORN before March 11, 2013: check with state of destination
- Beef steers and spayed heifers: check with state of destination
- Sexually intact beef animals younger than 18 months of age: check with state of destination
- Any animal that needs official identification that is going to an approved tagging site

What is considered official identification for interstate movement?

- National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags (brite tags/silver tags) (Example: 35ABC1234).
- Brucellosis and Johne's vaccination tags are acceptable as well but should only be applied when vaccinating against these respective diseases.
- Animal identification number (AIN): 15 digit number beginning with 840 (RFID or visual tags are both acceptable). Make sure all 15 digits are included on tag and any paperwork to be official.
- 15-digit tags beginning with a manufacturer's code (980, 985, 982). This type of identification applied prior to March 11, 2015 will be considered official for that animal for its lifetime. Make sure all 15 digits are included on tag and any paperwork to be official.
- American ID: 8-12 digit number preceded by "USA". This type of identification applied prior to March 11, 2015 will be considered official for that animal for its lifetime. Make sure all digits, including "USA" are included on the tag and any paperwork to be official. (Be sure to look for the "USA" on the tag which might be above and to the right of the rest of the number.)

What is NOT official identification for interstate movement?

- Breed registration tattoos and registration numbers (not official for interstate movement even if receiving state accepts this type of identification as official as Wisconsin does not have agreements with other states).
- 15-digit tags beginning with a manufacturer's code (980, 985, 982) if applied AFTER March 11, 2015. (This type of identification applied prior to March 11, 2015 will be considered official for that animal for its lifetime.)
- American ID: 8-12 digit number preceded by "USA" if applied AFTER March 11, 2015. (This type of identification applied prior to March 11, 2015 will be considered official for that animal for its lifetime).

Can multiple forms of official identification be applied to an animal?

- Not after March 11, 2013 with the following exceptions (not common)—records are required:
 - Official identification bearing the same official identification number as an existing one
 - State animal health officials or the USDA Veterinary Services Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) may approve additional official eartags in situations where the need to maintain the identity of an animal is intensified such as for export shipments, quarantined herds, field trials, experiments, or disease surveys.
 - An 840 tag (RFID or visual tag) can be applied to an animal with a NUES (brite) tag. (A NUES tag CANNOT be applied to an animal with an 840 tag except for brucellosis vaccination tag as noted below.)
 - A brucellosis vaccination tag can be applied if an animal being vaccinated against brucellosis is already identified.

Can I replace official identification in an animal?

- Identification can be replaced in an animal with authorization of state animal health officials or the USDA Veterinary Services Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC) in the following situations:
 - Loss of identification device seems likely
 - Numbers worn off
 - Infection at the existing tag site
 - RFID tag not reading
 - Incompatibility of RFID device with management system

How do I get authorization to replace official identification in an animal?

- Contact the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection—Division of Animal Health at 608-224-4872

OR

- Contact USDA Veterinary Services Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC)

What records do I need to keep if I apply official identification to an animal that already has official identification (Rare)?

- Date the identification was added
- Official identification numbers of existing AND new identification devices
- If adding identification in situations of increased need to maintain identity of an animal, reason for additional device

What records do I need to keep if I replace an animal's official identification?

- Date the identification was removed
- Contact information for location where the device was removed
- Official ID number of the device removed (as much as can be determined)
- Type of device removed (RFID, NUES tag)
- Why the device was removed
- Official ID number of the replacement device
- Type of replacement device applied

How do I manage official identification devices I have received for use in my clients' animals?

- Official identification eartags are accountable property of the USDA and veterinarians who receive tags for use in their clients' animals are responsible for the proper use.
- Records must be kept including:
 - Address at which tags used
 - Producer name
 - Official identification numbers
- It is recommended that records are kept in such a way that tags can rapidly be traced following a request from federal or state animal health officials.

When do animals moving interstate need an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)?

- All animals moving interstate require an ICVI with the following exceptions:
 - Moved directly to a slaughter establishment. Owner needs to complete owner shipper statement (no veterinary involvement necessary).
 - Moved directly to an approved livestock facility. Owner needs to complete owner shipper statement (no veterinary involvement necessary).
 - Can move interstate for veterinary exam/treatment if returned to farm of origin without change in ownership

What are dairy animals vs. beef animals?

- Dairy—breeds used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption including, but not limited to Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Milking Shorthorn, Red and Whites, and crosses of dairy only breeds (e.g. Holstein x Jersey)
- Beef—cattle breeds other than dairy and bison. In Wisconsin, bovine animals that are a crossbreed of beef and dairy animals (e.g. Jersey x Angus) are classified as a beef breed. Contact the state of destination if exporting a crossbreed animal.

How do I know if a steer is born before March 11, 2013 (and therefore does not need official ID)?

- Take the owner's word if it seems reasonable
- It is recognized that there will be a few years during which these animals will be in interstate commerce. If not given a specific birth date and an animal appears that it was likely born before March 11, 2013, check with the state of destination. If official ID is not required, make sure the animal's estimated age is noted on the CVI and add a statement that the animal does not belong to a class of cattle to which the official identification requirements apply.

What are the required contents of the Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)?

- Species of animals
- Number of animals
- Purpose for which animals will be moved
- Address at which animals were loaded for interstate movement
- Address to which animals are destined
- Name of consignor and address IF different from address at which animals were loaded
- Name of consignee and address IF different than animal destination
- Official identification of animals as noted below:
 - **All cattle or bison of any age/sex/breed used for rodeo, recreational events, shows, or exhibitions** must be individually identified and ID must be listed. If the animals are not already identified, official ID should be added at that time, recorded, and listed on the ICVI. If the animals ARE already identified, all ID needs to be read and listed on the ICVI. Additional ID cannot be applied.
 - **All dairy animals except dairy steers** must be individually identified and ID must be listed. If the animals are not already identified, official ID should be added at that time, recorded, and listed on the ICVI. If the animals ARE already identified, all ID needs to be read and listed on the ICVI. Additional ID cannot be applied.
 - **Dairy steers born after March 11, 2013** must be individually identified but ID may not need to be listed. Contact the state of destination. If ID is not required to be listed, a statement indicating the animals are officially identified should be added instead.
 - **All sexually intact beef animals over 18 months of age** must be individually identified and ID must be listed as noted above under dairy animals.
 - **Sexually intact beef animals under 18 months of age** may not need official individual identification to go from Wisconsin to another state. Contact the state of destination. If ID is not needed, a statement should be included on the ICVI indicating that these animals do not belong to a class of cattle/bison to which the official identification requirements for interstate movement apply.
 - **Beef steers and spayed heifers** may not need official identification. Contact the state of destination. If ID is not needed, a statement should be included on the ICVI indicating that these animals do not belong to a class of cattle/bison to which the official identification requirements for interstate movement apply.

How do I know if an official identification device with manufacturer's code (980, 982, 985) or American ID was applied prior to March 11, 2015?

- Take the owner's word if it seems reasonable
- It is recognized that there will be many years during which these animals will be in interstate commerce. If it seems reasonable that the identification device was applied prior to March 11, 2015, it will be accepted as official identification for interstate movement.