

Animal Disease Traceability: A Guide to Identifying Cattle and Bison for Interstate Movement

Q. What would be required to move cattle and bison interstate under the proposed rule?

A. Unless otherwise exempt, cattle and bison would have to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) or other movement document.

Official Identification: The official identification requirement for cattle and bison will be phased in. Beginning on the effective date of the final rule, the official identification requirement would apply to:

- all sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or over,
- dairy cattle of any age,
- cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo or recreational events, and
- cattle and bison used for shows or exhibitions.

Beef cattle under 18 months of age, unless they are moved interstate for shows, exhibitions, rodeos, or recreational events, would be exempt from the official identification requirement when the rule is first published and until a notice is published in the *Federal Register* defining the effective date for including these cattle into the requirement. Additionally, during this period, cattle and bison moved directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, or through no more than one approved livestock facility and then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, may be identified with a U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved backtag.

In addition, cattle and bison would be exempt from the official identification requirement (such exemptions would not expire) if they are:

- Moved as a commuter herd with a copy of the commuter herd agreement.
- Moved directly from a location in one State through another State to a second location in the original State.
- Moved interstate directly to an approved tagging site and officially identified before commingling with cattle and bison from other premises.

- Moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with another form of identification, including but not limited to brands, tattoos, and breed registry certificates, as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.

ICVI/Movement Document: Cattle and bison moved interstate must be accompanied by an ICVI unless:

- They are moved directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, or directly to a livestock facility approved to handle “for slaughter only” animals and then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, and accompanied by an owner-shipper statement.
- They are moved directly to an approved livestock facility with an owner-shipper statement and do not move interstate from the facility unless accompanied by an ICVI.
- They are moved from the farm of origin for veterinary medical examination or treatment and returned to the farm of origin without change in ownership.
- They are moved directly from one State through another State and back to the original State.
- They are moved as a commuter herd with a copy of the commuter herd agreement.

Additionally, cattle and bison under 18 months of age may be moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with documentation other than an ICVI, such as a brand inspection certificate, as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.

Q. What would be the official identification methods and devices for cattle moving interstate?

A. Official identification for cattle would include:

- An official eartag.
- Group/lot identification when a group/lot identification number is applicable.

Additionally, cattle and bison could be moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with another form of identification, including but not limited to brands, tattoos, and breed registry certificates, as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.

A complete listing of official eartags can be found at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/eartag_listing.pdf

Q. What types of records must I maintain for interstate livestock movement?

A. While the person or entity shipping cattle and bison interstate is required to ensure that a copy of the ICVI or other interstate movement document accompanies the shipment, there is no requirement that the person or entity maintain a record of the shipment. However, it is highly encouraged that herd records with this information be maintained to assist animal health officials in the event that any of the animals are part of a disease investigation.

Q. Where can I find more information on cattle and bison identification requirements for interstate movement?

A. More information is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/> or from your State animal health official's office.

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