

Animal Disease Traceability: A Guide to Identifying Sheep and Goats for Interstate Movement

Q. Are sheep and goats required to be officially identified as part of the new traceability rule?

A. The traceability rule will not have any effect on sheep and goats. Sheep and goats that are moved interstate must conform to existing scrapie regulations (Title 9, Part 79 of the Code of Federal Regulations). The official identification and documentation requirements in the scrapie regulations will be maintained.

Q. What is required to move sheep and goats interstate?

A. Requirements to move sheep and goats interstate remain the same as current scrapie regulations for interstate movement.

Q. What forms of identification may be used for sheep and goats moving interstate?

A. Sheep and goats must be identified by one of the following means of identification and must remain identified until they reach their final destination:

- For animals required to be identified by the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP), electronic implants may be used when the flock participates in the SFCP and is accompanied by a certificate or owner's statement that includes the electronic implant number(s) and the name of the chip manufacturer;
- Official eartags, including tags approved for use in the SFCP or Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)-approved premises identification number eartags, may be used when combined with a unique animal identification number;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) backtags or official premises identification backtags that include a unique animal identification number may be used on sheep or goats moving directly to slaughter when applied within 3 inches of the poll on the dorsal surface of the head or neck;

- Legible official registry tattoos that have been recorded in a sheep or goat industry association's book of record may be used 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 flock of origin's assigned premises identification number;
- Premises identification eartags or tattoos may be used if the premises identification method includes a unique animal number, or is combined with a flock eartag that has a unique animal number, and the animal is accompanied by an owner's statement;
- When allowed, premises identification may be used if the animal is accompanied by an owner's statement; or
- Another official identification method or device may be used if it is approved by APHIS' Administrator.

Q. What kinds of records must I maintain?

A. If official premises identification is required or allowed, the records must include:

- The premises identification number(s) and the number of animals identified with each premises number;
- Copies of any required documents, such as the brand inspection certificate, an owner's statement, an accredited veterinarian's statement, or a health certificate;
- The name, street address (including city and State, or the township, county, and State), and, if available, the telephone number of the flock of origin's owner. If different, the telephone number of the person from whom the sheep or goats were purchased or otherwise obtained must be included.

For animals that are not required to be identified until they reach their final destination, the records must include the final destination.

Each person who is required to keep records must maintain those records for at least 5 years after he or she has sold or disposed of the sheep or goats. The person must make the records available for inspection and copying during ordinary business hours upon USDA request.

Q. When is a certificate required for sheep and

goats?

A. In general, when sheep and goats move interstate, the shipment must be accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) or other approved document. If required by scrapie regulations, the document must show each animal's official eartag number, individual breed association registration tattoo, individual breed association registration brand, individual breed association registration number, or other official individual identification.

Ownership brands may be used on certificates for sheep and goats moved interstate when premises identification is required, provided the ownership brands are legible and are registered with the official brand recording agency and the animals are accompanied by a brand inspection certificate.

Q. May I remove identification from my sheep or goat?

A. No person may remove or tamper with any means of identification required to be on sheep or goats while the animals move interstate. Removing any USDA official identification is unlawful. However, removing non-USDA official identification while the animal is not involved in interstate movement is at the discretion of the person/entity responsible for the animal. In addition, at the time of slaughter, animal identification must be associated with the carcass throughout inspection.

Q. Where can I find more information on sheep and goat identification?

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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