

Animal Disease Traceability: A Guide to Identifying Poultry for Interstate Movement

Q. Is poultry required to be officially identified as part of the new traceability rule?

A. Poultry moved interstate, unless exempt, are required to be officially identified under the new traceability rule with one of the following devices or methods:

- Identification devices or methods approved for use in the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), such as sealed and numbered leg bands
- Group/lot identification with a group/lot identification number

Poultry are exempt from the official identification requirement for the following interstate movements:

- The shipment of poultry is from a hatchery to a redistributor or poultry grower; or
- The shipment is from a redistributor to a poultry grower and the person responsible for receiving the chick maintains a record of the supplier of the chicks.

Additionally, other identification devices or methods may be used as agreed upon by animal health officials of the States or Tribes involved in the interstate movement.

Q. Does poultry moving interstate need to be accompanied by documentation? If so, are there any exceptions to the requirement?

A. An interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) must accompany poultry moving interstate unless the poultry is moved:

- From a flock participating in the NPIP and accompanied by the documentation required by that program;
- Directly to a recognized slaughtering or rendering establishment;
- From the farm of origin for veterinary medical examination, treatment, or diagnostic purposes and either returned to the farm of origin without

change in ownership or euthanized and disposed of at the veterinary facility;

- Directly from one State through another State and back to the original State;
- Between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with a VS Form 9-3 or documentation other than an ICVI, as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes; or
- Moved under permit in accordance with 9 CFR part 82.

Q. I see that several options for traceability involve participating in the NPIP. What is the NPIP?

A. The NPIP is a cooperative industry-State-Federal program through which new diagnostic technology can be effectively applied to improve poultry and poultry products throughout the United States. The NPIP establishes standards for the evaluation of poultry breeding stock and hatchery products with respect to freedom from egg-transmitted and hatchery-disseminated diseases.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service assigns each participant an official approval number. This number, prefaced by the numerical code of the State, may be used on each certificate, invoice, shipping label, or other document used by the participant in the sale of his or her products.

Participants in the NPIP may buy or receive products from flocks that are neither participants nor part of an equivalent program for use in breeding flocks or for experimental purposes. Participants must maintain records of purchases, sales, and any products handled.

Q. Where can I find more information on poultry 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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