

Questions Commonly Asked by Zoos on the CWD Interim Final Rule

Q. What is the CWD Interim Final Rule?

A. The chronic wasting disease (CWD) Interim Final Rule establishes a national CWD herd certification program (HCP) and minimum requirements for the interstate movement of deer, elk and moose in the United States. Participation in the program is voluntary. The program provides consistent national minimum standards to certify cervid herds to be low risk for CWD and to establish minimum standards for the interstate movement of cervids. The rule was established to help to control the spread of CWD while supporting the growing U.S. cervid industry, and complementing existing state CWD programs.

Q. When does the CWD Rule become effective?

A. The CWD Interim Final Rule was published on June 13, 2012 and became effective on August 13, 2012. However, APHIS is delaying the enforcement of the interstate movement requirements for cervids in Part 81 of this regulation until December 10, 2012.

Q. Which animals are included in the CWD Rule?

A. The federal rule applies to cervids in the genera *Cervus*, *Odocoileus*, and *Alces* and their hybrids. These genera represent cervids known to be susceptible to CWD based on reports of natural infection. Individual States may have additional requirements for other cervid species not included in the federal rule.

Q. Are zoos required to participate in the national CWD herd certification program?

A. This is a voluntary program, so zoos are not required to participate in the national CWD herd certification program. However, to be eligible to move interstate any types of cervids covered by this regulation, the animals must:

- Achieve Certified Status in the national CWD herd certification program
- OR
- Be considered exempt from the interstate movement requirements section of this regulation.

Exemptions to the Federal interstate movement requirements include animals moved directly to a recognized slaughter facility, animals moved for research, and other interstate movements approved by USDA (provided that adequate surveillance and mitigation procedures are in place to prevent dissemination of CWD).

Zoos should also check with their State of residence and the receiving State in case they have additional or more stringent requirements.

Q. How can a zoo request an exemption?

A. During the initial planning for interstate movement of the cervids covered by the CWD rule, the zoo should contact their AVIC in the local APHIS VS Area Office to request an exemption. The zoo must

provide documentation that adequate surveillance and mitigation procedures are in place at their zoo to prevent dissemination of CWD and include a signed statement from that State's regulatory agency having authority for these animals that these procedures are in place. The zoo also must document that they have met the entry/ import requirements established for cervids by the State regulatory authority in the state of destination.

Q. What type of animal identification is required to move farmed or captive deer, elk, or moose interstate?

A. Farmed or captive deer, elk, or moose to be moved interstate are required to have two forms of animal identification (ID) on each animal. One of those forms of ID must be an official ID. The official ID requirement includes several types of APHIS-approved numbering systems and devices. APHIS-approved numbering systems include:

- National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES),
- Animal Identification Number (AIN),
- Premises-based number system, or
- Any numbering system approved by the APHIS Administrator.

APHIS-approved devices can be an electronic implant (microchip), legible flank tattoo, legible ear tattoo, tamper-resistant ear tag, or other device approved by APHIS Administrator.

This is consistent with the proposed traceability rule and is described in the CWD rule, the CWD Program Standards, and on the Traceability website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/eartag_listing.pdf

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/AIN_device_list.pdf

The second form of ID must be a unique ID for that animal in the herd.

Q. What about interstate movement of other cervid "species" not known to be susceptible to CWD?

A. The interstate movement of other cervid species not known to be susceptible to CWD is not restricted by this rule. However, individual States may have additional requirements for other cervid species not included in the federal rule.