Q. Are swine required to be officially identified as part of the new traceability rule?
A. The traceability rule will not change the current requirements for the identification and movement of swine interstate. Swine that are moved interstate must currently meet identification requirements (Title 9, Part 71.19 of the Code of Federal Regulations). The official identification requirements in the existing regulations will be maintained.

Q. When are swine required to be identified during interstate movement?
A. There are no new requirements. Existing regulations require that, with certain exceptions, swine must be identified at whichever of the following comes first:
   • The point of first commingling in interstate commerce with swine from any other source;
   • Upon unloading in interstate commerce at any livestock market;
   • Upon transfer of ownership in interstate commerce;
   or
   • Upon arrival in interstate commerce at their final destination.

Q. What forms of identification may be used for swine moving interstate?
A. The proposed rule does not include any additional methods of swine identification or modify any of the existing methods.

Current regulations provide for flexibility in the way that swine can be identified. Any form of swine identification approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) Administrator may be used for interstate movement. Swine identification methods approved by APHIS’ Administrator include:
   • Official ear tags for any swine;
   • U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) backtags for swine moving to slaughter;
   • Official swine tattoos for swine moving to slaughter, when their use has been requested by a user or State animal health official;
   • Tattoos of at least 4 characters for swine moving to slaughter, except sows and boars;
   • Ear notching of any swine, if the ear notching has been recorded in a purebred registry association's book of record;
   • Tattoos on the ear or inner flank of any swine, if the tattoos have been recorded in a swine registry association's book of record;
   • An ear tag or tattoo for slaughter and feeder swine that bears the premises identification number assigned by the State animal health official to the premises on which the swine originated; and
   • Any other official identification device or method that APHIS’ Administrator approves.

Q. When can I use group identification for swine moving interstate?
A. Existing regulations specify that group identification can be used for interstate movement of swine if:
   • They were born on the same premises; they were raised on the same premises where they were born; they are moved in a group directly to a slaughtering establishment from the place where they were raised;
   • They are not mixed with swine from any other premises between the time they are born and the time they arrive at the slaughtering establishment, and
   • They are slaughtered one after another as a group and not mixed with other swine at slaughter; or approved identification is applied to the swine after entry into the slaughtering establishment.

In addition, swine may move as groups within a production system where the movements between locations are routine and part of a valid swine production health plan, in which both the sending and receiving States have agreed to allow the movement.

The proposed rule does not change any of these provisions.

Q. What kinds of records must I create and maintain for interstate movement of swine?
A. No new records need to be created or maintained as a result of the proposed rule. Current regulations require that persons assigned serial numbers of
If an animal loses an official identification device

A.

For general interstate movement, records must

• The telephone number, if available, of the person
  or the township, county, and State) of the
  premises where the approved means of
  identification were applied; and

• The street address (including the city and State,
  or the township, county, and State) of the
  swine to its previous owner

• Any other serial numbers and approved
  identification appearing on the swine that are
  needed to identify the swine

• All serial numbers applied to the swine;

USDA backtags, official swine tattoos, and official
eartags must record:

• The official identification number on
  the swine that is applied; the official identification number on
  the premises back to its previous premises and (2)
  maintain copies of all swine production health plans
  signed by the producer, all interstate swine movement
  reports issued by the producer, and all reports

In addition, traceability records must be

maintained at premises involved in a swine production
system in which swine move interstate without

individual identification. These records must be

maintained for 3 years from the time the records

were created. Each premises must (1) maintain

records that will allow an APHIS representative or

State animal health official to trace any animal on

the premises back to its previous premises and (2)

maintain copies of all swine production health plans

signed by the producer, all interstate swine movement

reports issued by the producer, and all reports

issued by the swine production system's accredited

veterinarian(s) that document the health status of the

swine on the premises.

Q. May I remove official identification devices from
my swine?

A. Official identification devices are intended to

provide permanent identification of livestock and to

ensure the ability to find the source of animal disease

outbreaks. Removal of these devices, including
devices applied to imported animals in their countries
of origin and recognized by APHIS' Administrator as

official, is prohibited except at the time of slaughter,
at any other location upon the death of the animal, or

as otherwise approved by the State or Tribal animal

health official or an area veterinarian in charge when

a device needs to be replaced.

If an animal loses an official identification device

and needs a new one, the person applying the new

official identification device must record the following

information about the event and maintain the record

for 5 years: the date the new official identification
device is applied; the official identification number on

the device; and the official identification number on

the old device if known.

Q. Where can I find more information on swine
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.

Eartags may be replaced for reasons other than
loss when a State or Tribal animal health official or an
area veterinarian in charge authorizes it for reasons
that include, but are not limited to:

• Deterioration of the device such that loss of the
  device appears likely or the number can no longer

  be read;

• Infection at the site where the device is attached,
  necessitating application of a device at another

  location (e.g., a slightly different location of an

  eartag);

• Malfunction of the electronic component of a radio

  frequency identification (RFID) device; or

• Incompatibility or inoperability of an RFID device's

  electronic component with the management

  system or unacceptable functionality of the

  management system due to the use of an RFID

  device.

Any time an official identification device is

replaced, as authorized by the State or Tribal animal

health official or area veterinarian in charge, the

person replacing the device must record the following

information about the event and maintain the record

for 5 years:

• The date on which the device was removed;

• Contact information for the location where the
device was removed;

• The official identification number (to the extent

  possible) on the device removed;

• The type of device removed (e.g., metal eartag,

  RFID eartag);

• The reason for the removal of the device;

• The new official identification number on the

  replacement device; and

• The type of replacement device applied.

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