

Final Rule: Traceability for Livestock Moved Interstate

January 11, 2013

Summary of Revisions to the Final Rule from Proposed Rule

Effective Date: March 11, 2013

The Supplementary Information section of the final rule explains the comments received on the proposed traceability regulation as well as USDA's response to the comments. The following summarizes revisions made to the proposed rule on topics and issues that received significant comment.

Applicable to More Than One Species

The final rule:

- Clarifies that all interstate movements of livestock to a custom slaughter facility are exempt from the regulation's official identification and movement document requirements.
- Revises the recordkeeping limit for movement documentation for poultry and swine from 5 years to 2 years while maintaining a 5-year requirement for sheep, cervids, and equine.
- While maintaining the change to the Animal Identification Number (AIN) that would transition from multiple prefixes (840, USA, and manufacturer codes) to having only the 840 prefixed recognized as official, the final rule expands the transition period from 12 months to 24 months. USDA acknowledged the suggestion to accept manufacturer-coded tags when animals with such tags are part of an Agriculture Marketing Services (AMS) Process Verified or Quality System Assessment program and when the numbers are reported to the State animal health official. USDA indicated that the rule allows such flexibility, but takes the position that such options are best determined locally by producers and State and Tribal animal health officials. APHIS and AMS will collaborate to standardize identification methods to achieve greater uniformity and compatibility.
- Revises the requirement of the U.S. Shield being on all official eartags to allow an Official Eartag Shield where the eartag shield is defined as the graphic of the U.S. Route Shield with the letters "US" inside the shield, with the option for States to use their postal abbreviation instead of "US".  [US Route Shield](#)
- Adjusts the definition and requirements of the Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) to:
 - Account for instances where the examination of the animals and preparation of the ICVI may not occur where the animals are initially loaded for an interstate shipment. For example, animals could be transported to a veterinary clinic where the accredited veterinarian would complete the inspection and prepare the ICVI.
 - Provides an option for State-approved addenda to be attached to each copy of the ICVI, including a computer-generated report with the official identification numbers when agreed to by the receiving State or Tribe.
- Revised the format of Group/Lot Identification Numbers (GIN) to account for scenarios where the group is assembled over a period of more than 1 day. Previous explanations of the format indicated that date component of the GIN is the date the group was assembled.

The date component now reflects the date the group was assembled or the initial date if assembling takes more than 1 day.

- Clarifies that Animal Identification Number (AIN) eartags with the 840 prefix may have a duplicate (replacement) tag issued with the same number of the original AIN tag if an animal loses the tag after it was applied.

Captive Cervids

- No revisions from the proposed rule (the final rule maintains the reference to Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations* (9 CFR) part 77).

Cattle and Bison

The final rule:

- Revises the official identification methods to include brands, tattoos, and breed registries when accepted by the shipping and receiving State and Tribe.
- Revises the ICVI requirement to allow other movement documentation for all ages of cattle when accepted by the shipping and receiving State or Tribe. (The proposed rule restricted this option to sexually intact animals under 18 months of age.)
- Removed Phase 2 which pertained to official identification requirements for beef cattle under 18 months of age (feeder/stocker cattle) which will be established through a separate rule making at a later date.
- The option to use backtags on animals moved directly to slaughter instead of official identification is now a permanent exemption to official identification. (The proposed rule eliminated the option to use backtags in Phase 2.)
- Incorporates the option for tagging sites to maintain the animal's identity by means other than an official eartag on arrival at the tagging site so such animals can be commingled with other animals before the official identification eartag is applied.
- Revises the restriction regarding multiple identification methods to multiple official eartags. The final rule provides for a combination of official identification methods (for example, official eartags and brands when accepted as official by the shipping and receiving States).

Horses and Other Equines

The final rule:

- Clarifies that animal health officials of the receiving State need only examine and approve identification by description of an equine when there is a question about the accuracy of the equine's identify. Commenters had interpreted the proposed rule to require that all horses identified by a description would require review by the receiving State's animal health official. The final rule allows veterinarians, producers, or others to request the review of an animal health official where the horse's identity is in question.
- Revises the official identification requirements to include:
 - Biometric measurements.

- Non-ISO electronic identification injected into the equine on or before March 11, 2014.
- Exempts equines from specific ICVI/movement document requirements when:
 - They are used as the mode of transportation (horseback, horse and buggy) for travel to another location and directly back to the original location.
 - They are moved from the farm or stable for veterinary medical examination or treatment and returned to the same location without change in ownership.
 - They are moved directly from a location in one State through another State to a second location in the original State.

Note: The final rule maintained the exemption that equines may be moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with documentation other than an ICVI, e.g., an equine infectious anemia test chart, as agreed to by the shipping and receiving States or Tribes involved in the movement.

Poultry

- As noted earlier, the final rule clarified, through the general exemption for all livestock moved to a custom slaughter facility, that such poultry movements are exempt from the traceability regulation's requirements.
- The final rule also exempts chicks moved from hatcheries from the official identification and movement requirements and adds that the persons responsible for receiving the chicks are to maintain a record of the chicks' suppliers.
- The final rule also expanded the exemption for ICVIs to include movements to rendering establishments as well as to slaughter facilities.

Sheep and Goats

- No revisions (the final rule maintains the reference to regulations in 9 CFR part 79).

Swine

- No revisions (the final rule maintains the reference to regulations in 9 CFR 71.19).
- For movement documentation, the final rule adds a reference to 9 CFR part 85 when applicable.

Note: As explained earlier in this summary, the date component of the GIN was revised to reflect the date the group was assembled or the initial date of assembling the group if assembly took longer than 1 day.