

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 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. Records requirements are summarized on page 30 to 33 of the Scrapie Eradication Program UM&R at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/scrapie/downloads/umr_scrapie.pdf

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 low-risk commercial sheep moved interstate when official 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. 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 <http://www.eradicatescrapie.org/Educational%20Resources/ID%20Requirements%20for%20Sheep%20&%20Goats.html> or from your State animal health official's office.

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