

IOWA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
2055 Ironwood Court | Ames, IA 50014 | 515-296-2266

2024 USDA APHIS FINAL RULE: EID Eartags as Official Identification for Interstate Movement

ICA Fact Sheet | November 2024

Summary

In 2013, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) set forth animal disease traceability regulations in 2013. In those regulations, requirements were set forth for the identification and documentation of certain classes of cattle and bison to move interstate. These regulations set forth minimum national official identification and documentation requirements for the traceability of livestock moving interstate.

Outlined in the regulations are the following classes of cattle and bison (1) sexually intact and 18 months of age or older, (2) all female dairy cattle of any age, and male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013, (3) cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo or recreational events, and (4) cattle and bison of any age used for shows or exhibitions.

Updates to the Regulations

As of November 5, 2024, the outlined classes of cattle and bison for interstate movement are now required to have an official ID eartag that is both visually and electronically readable. **Only cattle and bison for interstate movement are required to have the EID tags.** This rule only affects the type of eartag that is considered, not the classes of cattle requiring ID.

Official ID tags - i.e. tags with the stamped U.S. shield - placed prior to November 5, 2024, remain official throughout the life of the animal. The NUES or brite tags already in inventor may be used in swine or captive cervids or disposed. No placement of NUES or brite tags in cattle or bison is permitted after November 5, 2024.

As per the definition of dairy in the updated regulations: dairy cross cattle are considered dairy for the purpose of requiring official ID. All dairy cattle (including steers) must have their official ID recorded on their interstate movement document. Veterinarians who place eartags in cattle must keep records in a manner that enables them to report the traceability information to the State Veterinarian or the AVIC with 48 hours of a request.

You may apply a second visually and electronically readable eartag to an animal that is already officially identified with one or more non-EID official eartag (including brucellosis vaccination eartag).

Replacing lost tags or replacing tags with permission

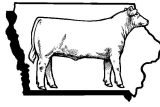
The official tags are not to be removed or replaced unless state, federal, or tribal officials authorize replacement due to (1) deterioration, (2) infection, (3) malfunction, or (4) incompatibility. If any of the issues arise, you must apply to your federal or state animal health official in your state to request to replace that tag.

To replace with a new official EID eartag you must (1) record the date and location plus who replaced the eartag, (2) record the old tag number (if known) and new EID number, (3) keep records of the replacement for 5 years.

If an imported animal loses or needs an eartag replaced, a special EID tag is available to signify imported cattle.

Documentation

Persons responsible for animals leaving a premise for interstate movement; i.e. livestock market, shipper, hauler, broker, veterinarian, and receiving entity (buyer) are responsible for accompanying the documentation for cattle and bison moving interstate.



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The Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI) and Owner-Shipper Statement (OSS) are commonly used documentation forms. The ICVI outlines (1) species, (2) number of animals, (3) address where loaded and destination (consignor and consignee), (4) official ID of each animal unless specific requirement provides exemption. The OSS outlines the same information as the ICVI as well as the address of the shipper and the owner at the time of movement.

A copy of the ICVI or alternate documentation must be maintained in records for 5 years by accredited veterinarians who issued the ICVI and the livestock market receiving the ICVI. The veterinarian who issues the ICVI must also submit a copy to the origin state veterinarian within 7 seven days of issuing the ICVI.

Exceptions to the updated requirements

Regulated cattle and bison are required to have official ID prior to interstate movement unless one of the following:

- (1) Moved as a commuter herd with a copy of the commuter herd agreement or other documents as agreed to by the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.
 - (a) i.e. cattle moved from the original state to another state for grazing and returned back to the home state after the grazing period. However, an agreement with the state where the grazing takes place must be written.
- (2) The cattle and bison are moved directly from a location in one state through another state to a second location in the original state.
- (3) The cattle and bison are moved interstate directly to an approved tagging site and are officially identified before commingling with cattle and bison from other premises or identified by the use of backtags or other methods that will ensure the identity of the animal is accurately maintained until tagging so that official eartag can be correlated to the person responsible for shipping the animal to approved tagging site.
 - (a) In Iowa, all approved livestock markets are approved tagging sites.
- (4) The cattle and bison are moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with another form of identification, as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes. (i.e. Breed registry tattoo or brand accompanying registration paper).
 - (a) Animals using this expectation must be moved with the applicable registration papers
 - (b) This exception applies to only origin and destination states that have agreed to accept the above as ID in lieu of the EID eartags.
- (5) Cattle and bison may also be moved interstate without official identification if they are moved directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment or directly to no more than one approved livestock facility and then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment where they are harvested within 3 days of arrival;
 - (a) and for cattle destined for slaughter, they can be moved interstate with a USDA-approved backtag; or a USDA-approved backtag is applied to the cattle or bison at the recognized slaughtering establishment or federally approved livestock facility.

You can find the Final USDA Ruling on Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) on the Federal Register:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/09/2024-09717/use-of-electronic-identification-eartags-as-official-identification-in-cattle-and-bison>.

Where do I get EID tags?

You can purchase EID tags directly from tag manufacturers at market cost or the USDA has issued the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Lands Stewardship (IDALS) a limited supply to disperse. Accredited veterinarians and producers can request directly from IDALS. You can also request the EID tags from your veterinarian free of charge. Please note, a premise ID is required when requesting your EID tags.