

# Animal Disease Traceability Frequently Asked Questions

## Markets and Market Veterinarians Working with Cattle Moving Interstate TO Wisconsin

Effective March 11, 2013

---

### *What animals need official identification?*

---

- All dairy animals unless moving directly to slaughter. This includes all dairy steers BORN after March 11, 2013.
- All cattle or bison of any age/sex/breed used for rodeo, recreational events, shows, or exhibitions
- Sexually intact beef animals of any age unless moving directly to slaughter

---

### *What animals do NOT need official identification?*

---

- Animals moving directly to slaughter (including moving through no more than one approved livestock facility and then directly to slaughter).
- Dairy steers BORN before March 11, 2013
- Beef steers and spayed heifers

---

### *What is considered official identification for interstate movement?*

---

- National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags (brite tags/silver tags) (Example: 35ABC1234)
- Brucellosis and Johne's vaccination tags are acceptable as well but should only be applied when vaccinating against these respective diseases.
- Animal identification number (AIN): 15 digit number beginning with 840 (RFID or visual tags are both acceptable). Make sure all 15 digits are included on tag and any paperwork to be official.
- 15-digit tags beginning with a manufacturer's code (980, 985, 982) or USA prefix. This type of identification applied prior to March 11, 2015 will be considered official for that animal for its lifetime. Make sure all 15 digits (including "USA" if applicable) are included on tag and any paperwork to be official.

---

### *What is NOT official identification for interstate movement?*

---

- Breed registration tattoos and registration numbers
- 15-digit tags beginning with a manufacturer's code (980, 985, 982) or USA prefix if applied AFTER March 11, 2015. (This type of identification applied prior to March 11, 2015 will be considered official for that animal for its lifetime.)
- NOTE: These forms of identification will continue to be accepted in Wisconsin for other activities requiring official identification such as TB/Brucellosis/Johne's testing, although Wisconsin rules are expected to be updated in the future to align with the new federal rules.

---

*Can multiple forms of official identification be applied to an animal?*

---

- Not after March 11, 2013 with the following exceptions (not common)—records are required:
  - Official identification bearing the same official identification number as an existing one
  - State animal health officials or the area veterinarian in charge may approve additional official eartags in situations where the need to maintain the identify of an animal is intensified such as for export shipments, quarantined herds, field trials, experiments, or disease surveys.
  - An 840 tag (RFID or visual tag) can be applied to an animal with a NUES (brite) tag. (A NUES tag CANNOT be applied to an animal with an 840 tag except for brucellosis vaccination tag as noted below.)
  - A brucellosis vaccination tag can be applied if an animal being vaccinated against brucellosis is already identified.

---

*Can I replace official identification in an animal?*

---

- Identification can be replaced in an animal with authorization of state animal health officials or the area veterinarian in charge in the following situations:
  - Loss of identification device seems likely
  - Numbers worn off
  - Infection at the existing tag site
  - RFID tag not reading
  - Incompatibility of RFID device with management system

---

*How do I get authorization to replace official identification in an animal?*

---

- Contact the Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection—Division of Animal Health at 608-224-4872

**OR**

- Contact USDA Wisconsin Area Veterinarian in Charge at 608-662-0600

---

*What records do I need to keep if I apply official identification to an animal that already has official identification?*

---

- Date the identification was added
- Official identification numbers of existing AND new identification devices
- If adding identification in situations of increased need to maintain identity of an animal, reason for additional device

---

*What records do I need to keep if I replace an animal's official identification?*

---

- Date the identification was removed
- Contact information for location where the device was removed
- Official ID number of the device removed (as much as can be determined)
- Type of device removed (RFID, NUES tag)
- Why the device was removed
- Official ID number of the replacement device
- Type of replacement device applied

---

*When do animals moving through the market from states other than Wisconsin need an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)?*

---

- All animals moving from a state other than Wisconsin, to the market, and then to any other location except direct to slaughter need an ICVI.
- Animals that arrived at the market from another state WITH an ICVI do not need another ICVI written to be released into Wisconsin.
- Direct to slaughter means moving from the market to the slaughtering establishment without being unloaded at any other location.

---

*What are the required contents of the Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI)?*

---

- Species of animals
- Number of animals
- Purpose for which animals will be moved
- Address at which animals were loaded for interstate movement (this can be the address of the market)
- Address to which animals are destined
- Name of consignor (this can be the name of the market) and address IF different from address at which animals were loaded
- Name of consignee and address IF different than animal destination
- Official identification of animals moving interstate into Wisconsin required as noted below:
  - Only the animals going to a specific destination should be indicated. This means that either only those animals should be listed on the ICVI OR if a group of animals was initially included on the ICVI and that group is being split into multiple destinations, the animals not going to the destination on the ICVI should be lined out.
  - All dairy animals except dairy steers must be individually identified and ID must be listed. If the animals are not already identified, official ID should be added at that time if the market is an approved tagging site, recorded, and listed on the ICVI. If the animals ARE already identified, all ID needs to be read and listed on the ICVI. Additional ID cannot be applied.
  - Dairy steers born after March 11, 2013 must be individually identified but ID does not need to be individually listed. If the animals are not already identified, official ID should be added at that time if the market is an approved tagging site and recorded. If the animals are already identified, no further identification or reading of ID is needed. A statement indicating the animals are officially identified should be added to the ICVI.
  - All sexually intact beef animals of any age must be individually identified and ID must be listed as noted above under dairy animals.
  - Beef steers and spayed heifers do not need official identification. A statement should be included on the ICVI indicating that these animals do not belong to a class of cattle/bison to which the official identification requirements for interstate movement apply.
  - For animals moving on to other states, check with the state of destination.

---

*What are dairy animals vs. beef animals?*

---

- Dairy—breeds used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption including, but not limited to, Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Milking Shorthorn, Red and Whites, and crosses of dairy only breeds (e.g. Holstein x Jersey)
- Beef—cattle breeds other than dairy and bison. In Wisconsin, bovine animals that are a crossbreed of beef and dairy animals (e.g. Jersey x Angus) are classified as a beef breed.

---

*As a market, what identification/paperwork is required to accept an animal from a state other than Wisconsin?*

---

- If not destined for slaughter, animals should be identified as noted in this guide unless the market has signed an agreement to be an approved tagging site and will identify animals that do not go direct to slaughter. (Call USDA's Tom Dressel at 608-662-0604 for a tagging site application.)
- If not destined for slaughter, animals should arrive with an ICVI unless the market is an approved livestock facility (federally approved livestock import market), will collect required information and record on a docking slip or similar, and will have an ICVI written by an accredited veterinarian for animals that do not go direct to slaughter. (Call USDA's Tom Dressel at 608-662-0604 for information on becoming an approved livestock facility.)
- If destined for slaughter, animals can be accepted without ID and identified with a backtag as defined in 12.05(1)(b).
- If destined for slaughter, animals can arrive with an owner-shipper statement. If there is no owner shipper statement, the animals can still be accepted if the required information is collected and recorded on a docking slip or similar.

---

*What information needs to be collected when animals are accepted from a state other than Wisconsin?*

---

- Origin address
- Destination address
- Number of animals
- Species of animals
- Name and address of owner at time of movement
- Name and address of the shipper
- Identification of animals as required. Animals can be initially identified at the market with backtags and then identification can be read and recorded or applied and recorded as needed after the sale if sold other than direct to slaughter.

---

*How do I know if a steer is born before March 11, 2013 (and therefore does not need official ID)?*

---

- Take the owner's word if it seems reasonable
- It is recognized that there will be a few years during which these animals will be in interstate commerce. If not given a specific birth date and an animal appears that it was likely born before March 11, 2013, indicate this on the ICVI and that the animal does not belong to a class of cattle to which the official identification requirements apply.

---

*How do I know if an official identification device with manufacturer's code (980, 982, 985) or USA prefix was applied prior to March 11, 2015?*

---

- Take the owner's word if it seems reasonable
- It is recognized that there will be many years during which these animals will be in interstate commerce. If it seems reasonable that the identification device was applied prior to March 11, 2015, it will be accepted as official identification for interstate movement.