

New Federal Animal Disease Traceability Rule Released

On January 9th, 2013, USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services released the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Final Rule. The new federal rule's effective date is March 11th, 2013. The goal of ADT is to improve the traceability of animals involved in a disease outbreak. Two implications of the new rule for veterinarians will be in the:

- Writing of interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs / health certificates)
- Ear-tagging/identification process in some species

Livestock producers affected the most by the rule will be those who have cattle; other species have minimal changes to current identification standards.

We have compiled a summary of the rule here, however all accredited veterinarians are encouraged to read more details at USDA's Traceability website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/>

Main Components of the Rule:

Animals travelling interstate must be officially identified per their species' requirement and be accompanied by an interstate CVI with their individual official animal identification listed. Animals travelling directly to slaughter may be identified with USDA-approved back-tags. Other terms of shipping may be agreed upon between individual states or tribes, such as acceptance of brands and owner-shipper statements. As always, we recommend veterinarians contact the receiving state to ensure proper import requirements are met.

For **Cattle**, the following animals must be identified with official ID ear tags:

- All sexually intact cattle and bison over 18 months of age
- All dairy female cattle of any age
- All dairy males (intact or castrated) born after March 11, 2013
- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, shows, exhibition, and recreational events.
- The most common official ID ear tags for cattle that will be used by producers and veterinarians are:
 - 840 tags (RFID, "bangle" visual tags, or a combination RFID/bangle)
 - Brucellosis or Bangs' Tags (orange metal or orange RFID)
 - Silver, "Brite" or NUES Tags (silver metal)

Horses: Must be officially identified unless being used as a mode of transportation (e.g. buggy or horseback) for travel to another location and returning to the original location or being transported for veterinary care and returning to the original location without change of ownership. Official identification can include physical description, ISO-compliant microchips (non-ISO if implanted before 3/11/2014 – 1 year grace period), and digital photographs.

Sheep & Goats: No major changes to current requirements. Follow Scrapie rules.

Swine: No changes.

Captive Cervids: No changes.

Poultry: Chicks from hatcheries or redistributors received by poultry growers do not need to be identified, but the growers need to keep records of suppliers.

Poultry moving to live-bird markets will need an interstate CVI (or other acceptable document per state) unless the market is considered a custom slaughter facility under state regulations. Poultry are exempt from an interstate CVI when going directly to slaughter or rendering.

Record Keeping:

Veterinarians are required to retain records of interstate CVIs and other documents related to animal movement for 2 years for poultry and swine, 5 years for all other species. CVIs must be submitted to the issuing/shipping state within 7 days.

What does this mean for producers, veterinarians, and auction markets?

- Veterinarians will need to individually list all official ID tags for animals moving on an interstate CVI. Livestock that need individual official IDs listed on the CVI are
 - ✓ Sexually intact beef cattle and bison over 18 months of age
 - ✓ Intact dairy cattle of any age (dairy steers need to have official ID but do NOT need the official IDs listed on the CVI)
 - ✓ Rodeo, show, exhibition cattle of any age
- Attachments with a list of official IDs for the individual animals can be used when accepted by the shipping and receiving state, e.g. VS-622 Tuberculosis Test Record.
- Producers and veterinarians will need to order 840 official ID ear tags from tag manufacturers or distributors who are required to keep records as to which livestock location has received the official ID ear tags
- Veterinarians will still need to order metal brucellosis and “brite” tags (NUES tags) or brucellosis RFID tags from the Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL).
- ***If the livestock that are being moved interstate already have an official ID, that particular ID must be read and recorded on the CVI instead of placing another official ID in the animal’s ear***

The main purpose of the new ADT rule is to ensure a rapid response when livestock disease events take place. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government.