

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY(ADT)



BASICS

OVERVIEW

- ADT refers to knowing the date, location, ID and movement information of animals exposed to disease and is very important to ensure a rapid response to an animal disease event.
- An efficient and accurate ADT system reduces the number of animals involved in a disease investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the government.
- ADT systems are internationally recognized as important components to maintain continuity of business, minimize costs and enhance industry recovery, after disease outbreaks such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy and foot and mouth disease.
- In addition to the importance of ADT for animal health, the need for traceability of animal products through other government policies and industry programs is increasing worldwide for various reasons. In particular, consumer demand for safe, wholesome product and the desire to know where food comes from, along with international trade issues has increased the demand for traceability.
- Integration of livestock management ID systems with the ability to track production information, carcass data and enhance marketing opportunities makes the system more economical and valuable to producers.
- Successful ADT systems depend on timely retrieval of accurate records of official ID distribution and application, and movement documentation. Electronic records are becoming widely utilized and are more valuable than paper based methods as they are legible, able to be retrieved quickly and easily searched for specific information.
- Official animal numbering systems provide a way to uniquely identify individual animals. Official ID for certain species is based on ID devices (e.g., official eartags or implants) that have an official animal number.

Note: The remainder of this chapter focuses on ADT regulations specific to the U.S.

- Under 9 CFR Part 86 – ADT, livestock moved interstate are required to be officially identified and accompanied by an ICVI or other approved documentation, such as an OSS or brand certificate, unless otherwise exempt.
- Accredited veterinarians must keep accurate records of tags distributed to producers, tags applied, and ICVI or other interstate movement documentation for 5 years.
- Official ID eartags for individual animals must be:
 - Imprinted with a nationally unique official animal ID number.

- Imprinted with an official eartag shield - the U.S. Route Shield graphic with “U.S.” or the State postal abbreviation or Tribal alpha code imprinted within the shield. 
 - Single use and tamper evident with high retention rates.
 - Removed only upon the death of the animal (e.g. slaughter) or with approval from the State or Tribal animal health official or USDA.
- 9 CFR Part 86 defines the number of official eartags that may be applied to an animal, how to replace eartags for animals that have lost their official eartag and removal of official eartags.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

- States may have additional requirements for livestock movements into or within their state. It is important to check with the state(s) involved to make sure you are meeting all of their requirements. State import requirements for specific classes of livestock are available at: <http://www.interstatelivestock.com/>
- No worldwide standards for animal ID exist. Most animal ID systems are designed to be implemented within a single country.

SIGNALMENT

Species

9 CFR Part 86 provides requirements for official ID and movement documentation for cattle, bison, sheep, goats, equine, poultry, and swine. Camelids are not covered under ADT. State or Tribal animal health officials should be contacted for ID and movement requirements for camelids.



MISCELLANEOUS

Exemptions

9 CFR Part 86 provides exemptions for cattle and bison moving interstate to a custom slaughter facility for personal consumption or when movement occurs within Tribal land straddling a State line and the Tribe has a separate traceability system from the States in which lands are located.

Official ID requirements

For cattle and bison moved interstate:

- An official eartag (e.g. orange brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags, National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) “silver” or “brite” tags, and animal ID number tags (with or without radio frequency ID);
- Brands registered with a recognized brand inspection authority and accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate, or tattoos and other ID methods

- acceptable to a breed association for registration purposes, accompanied by a breed registration certificate, when agreed to by the shipping and receiving State or Tribal animal health authorities;
- USDA approved backtags are permitted for cattle and bison moved directly to slaughter;
 - A GIN may be used for a unit of cattle or bison managed together as one group throughout the life of the animals. The GIN is recorded on documents accompanying the animals moving interstate; it is not necessary to attach the GIN to each animal.

For sheep and goats moved in interstate commerce:

A proposed rule has been published that proposes to make changes to the sheep/goat requirements, please check the USDA website www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie for updates. USDA provides sheep and goat eartags at no cost to producers. Producers may call 866-USDA-TAG toll free to request tags or get a Flock ID.

Sheep and goats must conform to existing scrapie regulations (9 CFR Part 79) and be individually identified to their flock of origin prior to being sold, transported, received for transportation, or offered for sale or transportation in interstate commerce unless exempted by the regulations. The owner of the flock of origin and anyone else who handles the animals in interstate commerce is responsible for the ID of sheep/goats.

Each person who buys or sells, for his or her own account or as the agent of the buyer or seller, transports, receives for transportation, offers for sale or transportation, or otherwise handles sheep or goats in interstate commerce must ensure that the animals are identified and keep records relating to the transfer of ownership, shipment, or handling of the sheep or goats, such as yarding receipts, sale tickets, invoices, and waybills.

- Official Sheep and Goat Eartags - This includes serial, 840, and Flock ID eartags approved by APHIS for use in National Scrapie Eradication Program including the SFCP;
- Official Registry Tattoos - These must be legible and recorded in a sheep or goat industry association book of record. The animal must also be accompanied by a registration certificate or ICVI that lists the registry tattoo and registry;
- Flock ID Tattoos - These tattoos are a combination of the flock ID number and an individual animal ID number unique within the flock, and may be used when the animal is accompanied by an owner's statement.
- Electronic Implant - May be used to officially identify sheep or goats enrolled in the SFCP that are moving to another flock in the SFCP program or that are registered with a breed registry when the registration certificate includes the implant number. Such animals must be accompanied by an implant reader and an owner's statement for SFCP animals or for registered animals the registration certificate or an ICVI that includes the electronic implant number(s);

- Backtags- Must be USDA approved and may only be used on sheep or goats moving directly to slaughter. Backtags must be applied within 3 inches of the poll on the top of the head or neck.
- Ownership brands - May be used for low-risk commercial sheep moved in interstate commerce when official ID is required, provided the ownership brands are legible and registered with the official brand recording agency and the animals are accompanied by a brand inspection certificate, owner's statement, and veterinary statement.
- Another official ID method or device - May be used if approved by USDA.

Movement documentation requirements

The persons responsible for animals leaving a premises for interstate movement must ensure that the animals are accompanied by an ICVI or other approved document for the interstate movement of animals.

Cattle and bison moved interstate must be accompanied by an ICVI unless:

- They are moved directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment, or directly to an approved livestock facility (livestock market) and then directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment. (For the movement to the approved market, an OSS is required).
- They are moved directly to an approved livestock facility with an OSS and do not move interstate from the facility unless accompanied by an ICVI.
- They are moved from the farm of origin for veterinary medical examination or treatment and returned to the farm of origin without change in ownership.
- They are moved directly from one State through another State and back to the original State.
- They are moved as a commuter herd with a copy of the commuter herd agreement or other document as agreed to by the States or Tribes involved in the movement.

The official ID number of cattle or bison must be recorded on the ICVI or alternate documentation unless:

- The cattle or bison are moved from an approved livestock facility directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment; or
- The cattle and bison are under 18 months of age and sexually intact, or are steers or spayed heifers. This exception does not apply to sexually intact dairy cattle of any age or to cattle or bison used for rodeo, exhibition, or recreational purposes.

For sheep and goats moved interstate:

- In general, sexually intact sheep/goats that move interstate for purposes other than slaughter must be accompanied by an ICVI. Exceptions include, moving to a federally approved livestock market accompanied by an owner statement that contains the information needed for the market to officially identify the animal or moving for management purposes such as grazing between premises owned or leased by the animal owner.
- If required by scrapie regulations, the ICVI must show each animal's official eartag number, individual breed association registration tattoo or number,

individual breed association registration brand, or other official individual ID unless the animals are identified with Flock ID eartags or tattoos in which case the Flock ID may be recorded instead.

AGE-RELATED FACTORS

The following require official ID:

- Sexually intact beef cattle over 18 months of age or over. At this time, beef cattle under 18 months of age are exempt from official ID requirements, unless they are moved interstate for shows, exhibitions, rodeos, or recreational events.
- Dairy cattle of any age (all cattle, regardless of age, sex or current use, that are of a breed(s) used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption)
- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo or recreational events
- Cattle and bison of any age used for shows or exhibitions.
- Sexually intact sheep and goats of any age that move interstate for purposes other than slaughter except low-risk commercial goats.
- Slaughter sheep over 18 months of age.

ABBREVIATIONS

CFR = code of federal regulations

GIN = group/lot identification number

ICVI = interstate certificate of veterinary inspection

ID = identification

OSS = owner – shipper statement

SFCP = Scrapie Flock Certification Program

USDA = United States Department of Agriculture

Internet Resources

Animal Disease Traceability website for educational resources on ADT requirements
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/SA_Traceability

CFR Title 9 – Animals and Animal Products, Chapter I APHIS, Department of Agriculture Subchapter C – Interstate Transportation of Animals (Including Poultry) and Animal Products Part 79 Scrapie in Sheep and Goats and Part 86 Animal Disease Traceability: http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=cbf33f29759647ecbf7a976f3c8f8ef6&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title09/9cfrv1_02.tpl#0

Scrapie website for educational resources on scrapie requirements
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/scrapie

Authors Sunny Geiser-Novotny and Neil Hammerschmidt

Consulting Editor Kaitlyn Lutz