

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule states that effective March 11, 2013 cattle moved across state lines are required to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI). Cattle affected by this rule include: sexually-intact beef cattle over 18 months of age, all dairy cattle, and all cattle being moved for shows, rodeos, or other exhibitions.

Current exemptions to the rule include beef cattle less than 18 months of age and cattle moving directly to a recognized slaughter establishment or to an approved tagging facility. These animals may move with an owner-shipper statement (OSS) in lieu of an ICVI.

Official identification is an official ear tag. This can be either a metal NUES “brite” tag or a tag that bears a 15 digit identification number beginning with 840. The ear tag must also have the official USDA shield imprinted on it. In order to purchase official ID tags, cattle owners must have a premise identification number.

