

# Federal Livestock Identification Requirements

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Livestock Marketing Association | Government and Industry Affairs

The USDA final Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) rule became effective on March 11, 2013.

## General requirements

For cattle, the following animals must be identified with official ID if traveling in interstate commerce:

- All sexually intact cattle and bison over 18 months of age,
- All female dairy cattle of any age,
- All dairy males (intact or castrated) born after March 11, 2013, and
- Cattle and bison of any age used for rodeo, shows, exhibition, and recreational events.

*This rule only applies to cattle moving from one state to another and not those staying in state.*

## Backtag option for direct-to-slaughter cattle

Cattle moved direct-to-slaughter from markets can move with approved backtags instead of official identification even if moving between states.

## Health Certificate Recording

Cattle requiring official identification must have an Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (ICVI), commonly called a health certificate, or alternate documentation agreed on by the state to move across state lines.

Generally, the official identification number of cattle must be recorded on this document. However, this is not required for cattle moving from an approved livestock facility directly to slaughter or dairy steers under 18 months of age.

## Owner Shipper Statement Exception

Cattle requiring official ID may move across state lines directly to an approved livestock facility prior to being identified and without a health certificate if moved on an owner shipper statement.

## Other States Requirements Still Apply

States can set identification, documentation, and disease-specific requirements for cattle movement in their states. Contact the state veterinarian's office in the receiving state for specific requirements.

For example, some states require identification of cattle at change of ownership even if the cattle are not leaving the state. Additionally, some states require dairy steers imported into the state to be individually listed on a health certificate even though the federal ADT rule does not require this. LMA is working with states to simplify requirements wherever possible.

## Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about the ADT rule, contact Chelsea Good LMA VP of Government and Industry Affairs at 816-305-9540 or [cgood@lmaweb.com](mailto:cgood@lmaweb.com).

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LMA members with questions regarding this resource may call 1-800-821-2048.