

Animal Disease Traceability: A Guide to Identifying Horses and other Equines for Interstate Movement

Q. Are equines required to be officially identified as part of the new traceability rule?

- A.** Under the new traceability rule, horses and other equines moving interstate must be officially identified prior to interstate movement unless they are:
- Used as the mode of transportation (horseback, horse and buggy) for travel to another location and then return direct to the original location.
 - Moved from the farm or stable for veterinary medical examination or treatment and returned to the same location without change in ownership.
 - Moved directly from a location in one State through another State to a second location in the original State.
 - Moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with another form of identification as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.

Equines commercially transported to slaughter must be identified in accordance with Title 9, Part 88 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Q. What are the official identification methods for equines?

- A.** Official identification methods for equine include:
- A description sufficient to identify the individual equine including, but not limited to, name, age, breed, color, gender, distinctive markings, and unique and permanent forms of identification when present (e.g., brands, tattoos, scars, cowlicks, blemishes or biometric measurements). When the identity of the equine is in question at the receiving destination, the State or Tribal animal health official in the State or Tribe of destination or APHIS representative may determine if the description provided is sufficient; or

- Electronic identification that complies with ISO 11784/11785; or
- Non-ISO electronic identification injected to the equine on or before February 26, 2014; or
- Digital photographs sufficient to identify the individual equine.

For equines being commercially transported to slaughter, a device or method authorized by Title 9, Part 88 of the CFR is required.

Q. Do horses and other equines moving interstate need to be accompanied by movement documentation?

- A.** Horses and other equines moved interstate must be accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other interstate movement document unless they meet one of the following exemptions:
- They are used as the mode of transportation (horseback, horse and buggy) for travel to another location and then return direct to the original location.
 - They are moved from the farm or stable for veterinary medical examination or treatment and returned to the same location without change in ownership.
 - They are moved directly from a location in one State through another State to a second location in the original State.
 - Additionally, equines may be moved between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with documentation other than an ICVI, e.g., an equine infectious anemia test chart, as agreed to by the shipping and receiving States or Tribes involved in the movement.

In addition, equines moving commercially to slaughter must be accompanied by documentation in accordance with Title 9, Part 88 of the CFR, and equine infectious anemia reactors moving interstate must be accompanied by documentation as required by Title 9, Part 75 of the CFR.

Q. Where can I find more information on equine identification requirements for interstate movement?

- A.** More information is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/> or from your State animal health official's office.

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