

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID): Frequently Asked Questions

What is RFID?

RFID stands for Radio Frequency Identification. RFID describes the current technology used for Electronic Identification (EID). The Federal Rule refers to EID to allow for future technological developments, so the terms are currently interchangeable.

What is the change to ID requirements happening November 2024?

“Ear tags must be both visually and electronically readable in order to be recognized for use as official identification for interstate movement of cattle and bison covered under the regulations.” This means visual-only tags like the NUES 9 (metal or plastic) tags will no longer be counted as official unless they are “grandfathered in” and applied to the animal before November 5, 2024.

Source: [USDA’s final rule: Traceability \(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/traceability-final-rule.pdf\)](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/traceability-final-rule.pdf)

When is the change to official ID requirements?

November 5, 2024

Which species are involved in the new ID requirements?

The requirement applies to cattle and bison. Please note, the rule changes what counts as official ID, not when official ID is needed. The rules regarding what needs to be identified when are not changing. Visit the [Board's website \(https://www.mn.gov/bah\)](https://www.mn.gov/bah) to see when these animals require official ID for entering or moving within Minnesota.

What about ID applied before November 5?

All visual-only official identification tags applied to cattle and bison prior to November 5, 2024 will be considered official identification for the lifetime of the animal.

Source: [USDA’s Frequently Asked Questions: Animal Disease Traceability Rule \(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/traceability-faq.pdf\)](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/traceability-faq.pdf)

What do I do with unused tags that won’t be official after November 5, 2024?

Check locally if you can recycle the tags, otherwise they can be discarded in the trash.

How do I acquire RFID tags and tag applicators?

There may be a limited number of free tags available to request on the Board's website. However, these are federally funded tags and there is no guarantee of availability.

Producers can purchase tags from approved manufacturers directly or check with their veterinarian to see if they have a supply of RFID tags.

Purchase tags and tag applicators directly from the following manufacturers. NOTE: Tag applicators are specific to each manufacturer.

- [Allflex \(www.allflex.global/na/\)](http://www.allflex.global/na/): 800-989-8247
- [Ketchum Manufacturing \(www.ketchummfg.com\)](http://www.ketchummfg.com): 800-222-0460
- [National Band & Tag Company \(www.nationalband.com\)](http://www.nationalband.com): 859-261-2035
- [Leadstone \(www.leadstone.com\)](http://www.leadstone.com): 877-608-3877
- [Datamars \(datamars.com/eng/home-us/\)](http://datamars.com/eng/home-us/): 800-433-3112

Where can I learn more about tag readers?

To get the full benefits of RFID ear tags, a RFID tag reader is recommended. Readers can be utilized for different tag brands as long as the tags are compatible. You can learn more about tag readers on the manufacturers' websites.

Can we continue to use herd tags that don't meet the new tagging rules?

Yes, you may use non-RFID tags on your animals for your own purposes. However, if applied after November 5, they will not count as official identification if you move the animal off your property.

What should we use for brucellosis vaccination tags?

You can use a RFID bangs tag by itself, or you can use a metal bangs tag in combination with a RFID tag.

What is Animal Disease Traceability (ADT)?

Knowing where diseased animals are and have been recently, and knowing where at-risk animals are and have been recently, is important to rapidly respond when disease is detected and protect healthy animals. ADT is an efficient and accurate system which helps reduce the number of animals exposed to a disease and the time animal health officials need to respond. Combined, these efforts lower the number of animal owners impacted by an animal disease event and reduces the economic strain on the overall industry.

Source: [USDA's Frequently Asked Questions: Animal Disease Traceability Rule \(https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/traceability-faq.pdf\)](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/traceability-faq.pdf)