



United States
Department of
Agriculture

VETERINARY SERVICES MEMORANDUM NO. 557.13

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

TO: Veterinary Services Management Team (VSMT)

Veterinary Services

FROM: John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator

Washington, DC
20250

John R. Clifford 3/7/11

SUBJECT: Requirements for Using Electronic Implant Devices (EID) in Registered Sheep and Goats as Official Identification in the Scrapie Eradication Program

I. PURPOSE

This memorandum explains the requirements for using EID in registered sheep and goats as official identification in the scrapie eradication program.

II. CANCELLATION

This memorandum cancels VS Memorandum No. 557.13 dated August 16, 2004.

III. GENERAL

A. Sheep or goats registered with national associations that allow the use of electronic implants for registry identification may use EIDs as official identification, as defined in Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, parts 54 and 79, if the following conditions are met:

1. The animals are registered with a national registry association.
2. The electronic implant number is recorded by the registry on the registration certificate accompanying the animal, and the animal is accompanied by a reader that can read the implant.
3. At exhibitions, a reader that can read the implant in the animal is available for use by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or State authorities.
4. The animal is moved for either exhibition purposes or sale, with transfer of the registration papers to a new owner who has a reader that can read the implant in the animal.



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5. The implant is placed in a site allowed by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and in accordance with any applicable Federal, State, or local laws or regulations. To ensure that adulteration of the carcass does not occur and that the EID implant is collected, owners should tell plant management and FSIS when animals with EID implants are delivered for slaughter and the location of the implant.
- B. To ensure compatibility with readers used by APHIS, implanted EIDs must be compliant with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11784 and 11785 regarding radio frequency identification of animals. Producers should check the product insert to ensure that the device to be used meets these requirements.
- C. Sheep or goats that are required to be officially identified by 9 CFR part 79 that are moved to a market or slaughter establishment or placed for sale without registration papers must be identified with visible official identification, such as an official eartag or an official flock ID tattoo. The regulations at 9 CFR part 79 allow sheep and goats to be moved unidentified to approved markets or slaughter establishments, if:
1. The market or slaughter establishment has agreed to act as an agent for the owner to apply official identification, or, in the case of slaughter establishments, maintain the lot identity through slaughter;
 2. The animals are moved in single source lots; and
 3. The owner provides flock of origin information to the market or establishment.

Animals that are required to be officially identified must be identified before leaving an approved market even if the animals did not cross a State line to get to the market.