STATE OF MONTANA

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MEMORANDUM

From: Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, State Veterinarian

Subject: Traceability Requirements for Cattle Imported into Montana

Date: August 24, 2026 (Original effective date: August 1, 2013)

In general, all cattle imported into Montana must have the following:

- **Official individual identification (ID) (840-RFID Tag),**
- **A certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) with all required ID listed*, and**
- **An import permit for handwritten CVIs ONLY.**

Additionally,Canadian origin cattle must have a CΛN hot iron brand that is 2-3 inches tall and applied high on the right hip OR a CΛN ear tattoo.

Identification exemptions:

- Cattle from farm of origin only direct to an approved MT tagging site to be tagged upon arrival - Required statement on CVI: “Animals in shipment are moving to an approved tagging site from farm of origin.”
- Beef calves less than 6 months of age with dams – Dams must have official individual ID.
- Beef steers and spayed heifers
- Beef heifers less than 18 months of age for FEEDING ONLY - Required statement on CVI: "Heifers are for feeding only."

Documentation exemptions:

- Cattle from farm of origin only to a USDA Federally Approved Livestock Market for qualification upon arrival do not require a CVI.
- Cattle from farm of origin only to a USDA Federally Approved Slaughter Facility do not require a CVI if accompanied by an owner shipper statement.
- Sexually intact beef cattle less than 18 months of age and not in feeding channels do not require ID to be listed on the CVI. Required statement on CVI: “All animals in shipment have official individual ID.”

** When a range of tags is listed on a CVI, a minimum of 90% of the listed tag numbers must represent animals in the shipment.*