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# STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

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## MT DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

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## BACKGROUND

The Montana Department of Livestock initially set an implementation date of January 1, 2021, to require all certificates of veterinary inspection (CVIs) for Montana origin animals be issued electronically. Based on feedback from the Montana Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA), the Department delayed implementation until 2022, allowing veterinarians to write up to 20 paper health certificates during the calendar year. During the first two months of 2022, seven of 3,181 export CVIs received by our office were issued on paper. This is an electronic adoption rate of 99.78%.

## APPROVED POLICY

The Department will extend the 2021 policy of a 20 paper CVI allowance through 2022. With the recent announcement the AgMove platform will no longer be available, veterinarians are left with only one option for offline issuance of electronic CVIs. VET-CVI, a free option with offline capabilities, is expected to be available to Montana veterinarians in the coming months.

Assuming adequate options for the offline issuance of CVIs, beginning January 1, 2023, all CVIs for Montana origin animals will be required to be issued electronically with allowance for the issuance of paper CVIs in cases of hardware or software failure and with notification of the Department. The Department has received feedback asking for clarification on what constitutes justifiable instances to use paper CVIs and a timeframe for reporting. Because the Department cannot outline all potential scenarios and to eliminate the need for policy interpretation by veterinarians, the Department's policy on allowable use of paper CVIs will be 5% of total CVIs issued by an individual veterinarian.

This policy was voted on and approved at the March 18, 2022 Board of Livestock Meeting.

## RESPONSE TO NON-COMPLIANCE

Montana veterinarians have done a tremendous job embracing and adopting the use of electronic technologies for CVIs. We recognize the learning curve associated with new technologies. Thank you for all your and your staff's hard work.

For veterinarians that fail to comply with this policy, the following sequential compliance steps will be taken:

1. Written notification of violation of Department policy. For interested veterinarians, the Department will provide additional training on the use of available platforms.
2. Request for a written plan outlining how the ongoing violation of department policy will be addressed. Assistance from Department staff will continue to be available.
3. Suspension or termination of deputy state veterinarian status per administrative rule 32.3.141. This status is required for the issuance of CVIs by Montana veterinarians.