

STATE OF MONTANA


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MEMORANDUM

From: Dr. Marty Zaluski, Administrator & State Veterinarian 
Subject: Traceability Requirements for Cattle Imported into Montana
Effective Date: April 15, 2023

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

- **Official individual identification (ID),**
- **A certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI) with all required ID listed*, and**
- **An import permit.**

Additionally, Canadian origin cattle must have a CAN ear tattoo or CAN Hot Iron Brand.

Identification exemptions:

- Animals moving directly to an official MT tagging site – animals are to be tagged upon arrival. Required statement on CVI: “Animals in shipment are moving to an approved tagging site.”
- Beef calves less than 6 months of age with dams – dams must have official individual ID.
- Beef steers and spayed heifers

Documentation exemptions:

- Cattle from farm of origin to a federally approved livestock market for qualification upon arrival do not require a CVI.
- Cattle from farm of origin to a 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 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.*