

STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
PO BOX 202001
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2001



DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK (406) 444-7323
ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY DIVISION (406) 444-2976
BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIVISION (406) 444-2045
CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION (406) 444-4993
FAX (406) 444-1929

MEMORANDUM

From: Dr. Tahnee Szymanski, Administrator & State Veterinarian TS
Subject: Traceability Requirements for Cattle Imported into Montana
Date: December 19, 2024 (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 CAN hot iron brand that is 2-3 inches tall and applied high on the right hip OR a CAN ear tattoo.

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
- Beef heifers less than 18 months of age from North Dakota for feeding only - Required statement on CVI: "Heifers are for feeding only."

Documentation exemptions:

- Cattle from farm of origin to a [USDA Federally Approved Livestock Market](#) for qualification upon arrival do not require a CVI.
- Cattle from farm of origin 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 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.*