



July 1, 2020

To: All Dairy Producers and Calf Transporters in California
Subject: Official Identification Requirements for Dairy Cattle Moving Within California

Pursuant to Section 831.5 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, as of April 1, 2017, dairy cattle moving within California are required by law to have official identification (ID). In particular, dairy cattle born in California after January 1, 2017 must have official ID prior to leaving their birth premises and all dairy cattle, regardless of birth year, must have official ID at the time of change of ownership.

Dairy cattle are exempt from this requirement if they are moving:

- Directly to slaughter or
Directly to an "Approved Tagging Site" where they are identified upon arrival on behalf of their owner.

Approved Tagging Sites (ATS) are typically age-source verified calf ranches and some saleyards. Calf haulers are not ATS's.

It is the birth origin dairy's responsibility to make sure these animals have official ID. The calf transporter is also responsible for this requirement if animals are sold off the dairy. Animals transported to a saleyard are required to be officially identified prior to leaving the dairy, unless the saleyard is an ATS.

Beginning August 1, 2020, Notices of Violation (NOV) will be issued to dairy owners who fail to tag their calves prior to leaving the dairy. In addition, calf haulers or other on-dairy purchasers moving calves that are not identified with tags from the dairy of origin, will be issued an NOV. Subsequently, anyone who continues to not comply with state requirements for official identification of dairy cattle is in violation of state laws and regulations and will be issued a citation. Citations carry a criminal charge equivalent to a misdemeanor and upon conviction are punishable by a fine determined by the court, in accordance with Food and Agricultural Code Section 9165. Please note that misdemeanor convictions will show up on your record.

Please contact your local CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) district office with any questions about official ID requirements. You can obtain free official ID (silver brite and RFID) ear tags from your accredited veterinarian and from local AHB district offices. The AHB website can be found here: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health

Table with contact information for Sacramento Headquarters, Redding, Modesto, and Tulare offices.

If you are currently in compliance with this regulation, we thank you for your continued cooperation and support of animal disease traceability in California.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Annette Jones.

Annette Jones, D.V.M
Director and State Veterinarian

