

## Use of Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) as the Official Identification Tag for Brucellosis Vaccination

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) allows the use of USDA's Animal Identification Number (840) RFID tags under the following conditions. No color is specified for these RFID eartags, but approved 840 tag manufacturers have been requested to reserve the color orange for button RFID eartags to indicate brucellosis vaccination.



**Orange Color:** Accredited Veterinarians interested in using orange RFID tags for brucellosis vaccination must obtain prior approval from CDFA. The tags must be ordered by the approved accredited veterinarian directly from the manufacturer.



**Other Colors:** These tags can be purchased directly from retailers by the producer or the veterinarian. They can be used as the official identification at the time of vaccination and tattooing in lieu of applying the orange metal tag.

The brucellosis vaccination reporting form and official identification tag numbers must be reported to the CDFA Animal Health Branch (AHB) within 14 calendar days. Practitioners have **two options** for submitting vaccination reporting forms with RFID tag numbers.

**Option 1:** Practitioners submit pink vaccination reporting forms to the local CDFA district office, along with an attached paper copy list of the 840 RFID tag numbers. An electronic version of the 840 RFID tag list must also be emailed to CDFA at [evet@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:evet@cdfa.ca.gov) in Excel or CSV format. The corresponding vaccination form number should be included in the email's subject line.

**Option 2:** Practitioners use USDA's Mobile Information Management (MIM) software to generate the brucellosis vaccination reporting form which is submitted to the local CDFA district office as a signed paper copy, as well as sent electronically to the e-mail listed above attaching the "MIM Master XML" file.

If you are interested in using orange RFID tags for brucellosis vaccination and/or MIM software for generating brucellosis vaccination forms, please contact Dr. Rebecca Campagna at [Rebecca.Campagna@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Campagna@cdfa.ca.gov).

For more information, please contact CDFA AHB headquarters or your local AHB district office.

Headquarters: (916) 900-5052	
Redding: (530) 225-2140	Tulare: (559) 685-3500
Modesto: (209) 491-9350	Ontario: (909) 947-4462

For more information regarding official identification for brucellosis vaccination of cattle, please refer to the California Code of Regulations (Title 3, Division 2, Chapter 2).

**Official vaccinate:** Female bovine animal, when vaccinated, identified, and reported, by a federal or state veterinarian or an accredited, contract veterinarian with an approved Brucella vaccine, is classified as an:

- (A) **Official brucellosis calfhood vaccinate** when vaccinated against brucellosis at the prescribed age for calfhood vaccination, or
- (B) **Official brucellosis adult vaccinate** when vaccinated against brucellosis, at an age older than the age prescribed for calfhood vaccination as part of an individual whole-herd adult vaccination plan.

**Official tattoo of calfhood vaccination:** The official tattoo indicating bovine brucellosis calfhood vaccination shall be placed in the **right ear** of each calf vaccinated. All elements of the tattoo will be made by a series of pins and followed with the application of a tattoo ink furnished or approved by the Department as being suitable to produce a permanent tattoo in the ear. It shall consist of three (3) elements in order from left to right as follows:

- (1) **First Element.**
  - (A) If vaccinated with RB-51 vaccine the first element will be the capital letter “R”.
  - (B) If a vaccine other than RB-51 is used, a different first element may be designated by the Department and used in the tattoo.
- (2) **Second Element.** The second element will be the official USDA shield tattoo insert as registered with the United States Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C.
- (3) **Third Element.** The third element will be the number designating the last digit of the year in which the animal was vaccinated.

**Official eartag of calfhood vaccination:** Each calf vaccinated against brucellosis shall have an official brucellosis tattoo and must be officially identified with:

- (1) An **official brucellosis calfhood vaccination eartag placed in the right ear** by the veterinarian performing the service. The official brucellosis eartag shall be orange in color and bear the legend “CA Vac.” or “CA (in official eartag shield) Vac.” and a nine-character alphanumeric code that conforms to the nine-character alpha-numeric National Uniform Eartagging System; or
- (2) An **Electronic Identification Device eartag placed in the left ear** bearing the legend of “CA-OCV” and an animal identification number.
- (3) Calves maintaining existing individual official identification are exempt from (1) and (2).
- (4) Veterinarians must record the official identification numbers of **both** the existing official eartag and the vaccination eartag and report them to CDFA AHB within 14 calendar days.