



# Identification of Animals Imported from the USA

## IDENTIFICATION OF DAIRY CATTLE WITHIN A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Under Canada's *Health of Animals Regulations*, imported dairy animals must be identified with an approved Canadian tag or an official tag deemed equivalent to Canadian-approved tags, regardless of the duration of their stay in Canada.

## EQUIVALENCY RECOGNIZED

Dairy cattle imported from the United States identified with the American "840" electronic ear tag are considered equivalent to the Canadian approved tag. Farmers and others involved in the Canadian dairy industry no longer have to apply Canadian ear tags to animals imported from the United States that are bearing "840" equivalent tag.

Recognizing American electronic ear tags as being equivalent improves the quality of traceability data and enhances the ability to manage questions regarding health by ensuring the maintenance of the individual identification number of origin for dairy cattle that cross the border.

## DOUBLE IDENTIFICATION: A STANDARD TO BE FOLLOWED

Dairy Farmers of Canada (proAction), Breed Associations and Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ) require dual tagging for dairy cattle traceability and registration.

### Benefits of having Dual Tagging for dairy: RFID button and visual tag with matching unique number

- Enhances visual recognition of animal for herd management
- Harmonizes herd management ID systems for dairy in Canada
- Ensures a back-up in case of tag loss and one number for the life of the animal



# 124 840

Official Canadian tags start with the numbers "124" which is the international numeric country code for Canada. Official US tags have a US shield logo and start with the numbers "840" which cannot be reproduced on tags printed in Canada.



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## WHAT TO DO IF...

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
The animal is identified with two official US tags starting with "840" (RFID button and visual panel tags)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The owner does not need to re-identify the animal; no official Canadian tag needs to be purchased</li> </ul>
The animal is only identified with an official US electronic button tag starting with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Quebec, the owner must complete the identification of the animal by affixing a blank tag with the same number written on it</li> <li>For all other provinces, contact DairyTrace (NLID) to order your secondary tag</li> </ul>
The animal is not identified with official US RFID tags starting with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Quebec, the owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from ATQ, or use a set from their tag inventory and report import event info to ATQ</li> <li>For all other provinces, the owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from DairyTrace (NLID), or use a set from their inventory and report the import event to DairyTrace</li> </ul>
<p><i>If a registered animal is imported to Canada from the US for dairy purposes, the Associations exchange the herdbook data to support registration of future progeny. As part of this process, Holstein Canada will continue to report import events to DairyTrace.</i></p>	
<p><b>U.S RFID TAG LOSS</b> The international recognized code for the US is "840" plus the US shield and cannot be reproduced on tags printed in Canada</p>	
A dairy animal loses its official US electronic button tag starting with "840", or both US tags (electronic and visual) beginning with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from DairyTrace (NLID) or ATQ (for farmers in Quebec) or use a set of official tags from their inventory</li> <li>If the lost tag identification number is known, record and report the new tag number to DairyTrace or ATQ (for farmers in Quebec) as a <b>Cross Reference Event</b></li> <li>If the lost tag identification number is not known, record and report the new tag number to DairyTrace or ATQ (for farmers in Quebec) as a <b>Replacement Event</b></li> </ul>
A dairy animal loses its visual US panel tag starting with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Quebec, the owner must complete the identification of their animal by affixing a blank tag and write the same number on it</li> <li>For all other provinces contact DairyTrace (NLID) to order a secondary panel</li> </ul>
<p><i>Replacing lost "840" tags with "124" official tags requires the animal's owner to report both numbers to the administrator database so the numbers can be cross referenced.</i></p>	

**PAY ATTENTION TO THE REQUIRED DEADLINES:** 7 days following the arrival of the animal or before it leaves the farm, whichever comes first

## WHAT TO REPORT

REPORT animal move-in from outside of Canada (Import Event):

- Animal identification number – 15 digits
- Date of animal's arrival
- Premises identification of the farm of arrival
- Location of the site the animal was kept at before it was imported (departure)
- Vehicle (single unit) or trailer (tandem unit) licence plate number

## WHERE TO REPORT

*I live in Quebec*

- On-Line SimpliTRACE Portal: [simplitrace.atq.qc.ca](https://simplitrace.atq.qc.ca)
- SimpliTRACE Mobile App on Google Play or App Store
- Phone ATQ 1-866-270-4319
- Download and Print paper Forms: [atq.qc.ca/en/forms](https://atq.qc.ca/en/forms)

*I live in a province outside of Quebec*

- On-Line DairyTrace Portal: [portal.dairytrace.ca](https://portal.dairytrace.ca)
- DairyTrace Mobile App on Google Play or App Store
- Phone DairyTrace 1-866-558-7223
- Download and Print paper Forms: [dairytrace.ca/resources/library](https://dairytrace.ca/resources/library)



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