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INTRODUCTION

LIVESTOCK TRACEABILITY

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA): “Traceability is the ability to follow an item or a group of items — be it animal, plant, food product or ingredient from one point in the supply chain to another, either backwards or forwards.”

Livestock traceability systems are based on three basic elements, called the “pillars” of traceability:

- Animal identification
- Premises identification
- Animal movement reporting

Why?

Traceability systems are important, effective tools that can be used for many things, including the protection of animal health, public health and food safety. They can help reduce response time, thereby limiting economic, environmental and social impacts of emergency situations such as disease outbreaks. Traceability systems also support the Canadian economy and livestock sector by helping to meet international export standards.

For our industry, traceability:

- Plays a critical role in maintaining the trust of our consumers and trading partners;
- Is increasingly important for many countries we export animals and genetics to; and is also important if we want to access new markets;
- Is one of the six modules of the proAction Initiative – and a key stone in providing assurance to our customers that we are responsible food producers;
- Is – and must be – regulated. Government, farmers and other industry stakeholders (processors, transporters, etc.) all have a role in ensuring that we can rapidly trace back any issue that may need to be addressed. It is essential in ensuring food safety or controlling outbreaks before they take an economic toll on the industry;
- Helps the industry identify and eliminate logistical inefficiencies in the production, transportation and marketing system, as well as facilitates the supply chain management.

Full traceability is about helping consumers find the answer to their question “where does my food come from?”

The information contained within traceability systems can be used for other proAction modules; therefore, traceability can help proAction integrate all of its modules. For example, animal identification is a key traceability pillar that can also be used for herd management such as treatment records, herd book registration, exportation certification, etc. By implementing traceability systems, there is potential to reduce on-farm labour and handling costs as well as improve herd and operational management practices.
REFERENCE MANUAL
This Reference Manual explains the livestock traceability issues associated with each requirement, and explains what producers need to do to meet these requirements. The Reference Manual also contains on farm scenarios to help you understand what should be done or improved. The manual is designed to be a useful tool to develop your farm plans and train your staff.

WORKBOOK
The Workbook is a quick summary of the requirements. Please see the Workbook for tools to assess your current practices and review the mandatory records.

Shaded areas within both the Workbook and the Reference Manual are mandatory for the Livestock Traceability module.

Unshaded areas within both the Workbook and the Reference Manual are recommended. Please review the recommendations and select those that are applicable to your operation.
PREMISES IDENTIFICATION

Premises identification is one of the three basic elements of livestock traceability. It is needed to report animal movements to the national traceability database. The premises identification number may be required in other areas of your business, for example: tag purchases, for lab samples or for funding.

**LT Question 1: Do you have a premises identification number?**

**Reference:** Amended Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations & some provincial regulations (Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta)

**ISSUE**

Premises identification allows gathering, in a single place and for each province, information regarding the location of animals to be used in the planning and management of emergencies. Knowing where livestock is located provides valuable information when responding to animal disease outbreaks and food safety issues. In case of a sanitary emergency, it allows rapid notification of livestock and poultry stakeholders. It also helps prepare for, manage and reduce the impact of an animal health or food safety issue (examples include an animal disease or a flood), track and trace animals in the event of an emergency, and ensure a better management of emergencies to help maintaining market access and limiting losses after animal disease outbreak.

**EXPLANATION**

Premises are any parcel of land on which animals, plants or food are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of. Premises are defined by a legal land description of the lot, or in its absence, by its geo-coordinates.

*Figure 1- Example of premises from aerial view | Premises identification link livestock to land locations.*
Premises identification applies to all owners of poultry or livestock even if they own one animal. Premises would include the following:

- Pastures and community pastures
- Feedlots
- Assembly yards
- Abattoirs
- Auction and livestock sale facilities
- Racetracks and competition facilities
- Hatcheries
- Rendering plants
- Exhibitions and fairgrounds
- Veterinary facilities
- Livestock and poultry research facilities
- Insemination centres
- Zoos and petting zoos

Premises identification number (PID number) is a permanent unique identifier, based on national standards, that is assigned by provincial governments to “premises” within a province or territory. The premises identification number links livestock and poultry to land locations.

The premises identification number must meet the national standard format, which is as follow:

- 2 letters for the province
- 6 alpha-numeric characters
- 1 check digit

Examples of premises identification number:

- ON 123456 1
- PE 993505 9

The premises identification number could be found in a provincial producer account, a letter, a wallet card, a barn certificate, or a barn laminated sign.

a) Wallet card
b) Provincial producer account
c) Barn laminated sign
d) Barn certificate

Figure 2- Examples of where the premises identification number could be found
The premises identification number is the only location identifier for animal movement reporting. The identification of premises is the responsibility of the provincial government. Producers must contact their provincial association or their provincial Department of Agriculture directly to obtain their premises identification number.
ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

Permanent identification is essential to maintain records of animal treatments and is the base of livestock traceability systems since it will follow the animal all through its life, from the farm of origin to the abattoir. Assigning a unique permanent identification number to an animal (15-digit animal identification number) allows stakeholders to quickly identify an animal in their herd, and to easily report its movement to the national traceability database.

**LT Question 4: Are your dairy cattle double-tagged with approved dairy tags (NLID/ATQ)?**

* Calves must be tagged within 7 days of birth or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.

* Any calves born on farm and destined for the beef industry may be identified with a single RFID ear tag (approved beef tag) - Except for provinces that requires dual tagging.

**Reference:** *DFC Principles & Holstein Canada By-law 11.4.3*

**ISSUE**

Since January 1, 2001, all cattle in Canada must be identified according to Part XV of the federal Health of the Animal Regulations (CFIA). The regulation specifies the following requirements for livestock identification:

- On the farm of origin, apply an approved tag before moving the animal/carcass
- When the animal leaves the farm of origin, the animal/carcass must bear an approved tag at all times

Although tagging of young calves at birth is not included in the regulation, it provides an efficient way to permanently identify the animal with a unique number. This unique identification may serve for national health purposes, animal tracking, on-farm management, milk quality programs, genetic improvement programs, animal health and biosecurity programs, all industry related services, evaluation and registration. In fact, several programs require that animals be identified with a unique identification number, as for registration at Holstein Canada whose By-law 11.4.3 requires that “animals to be registered in the herd book must be individually identified at birth by two ear tags/devices properly attached and uniquely numbered which are of a type and kind determined by the Board of Directors to be suitable and appropriate for identification”, in other words, NLID or ATQ’s tags. The number on the approved tag set also becomes the animal’s herd book registration number. Dual tagging even becomes an alternative to sketches and photos for breed registration.

**Example of matching the registration number and the unique animal identification number for a Holstein cow:**

- Registration number: HOCANF8963261
- Animal’s unique identification number: 124 000 008 963 261

There are several benefits from dual tagging (RFID button and visual tag) with matching unique number:

- Enhance visual recognition of animal for herd management;
- Harmonize herd management ID systems for dairy in Canada;
- Ensure a back-up in case of tag loss and provide a unique number for the animal’s life.
EXPLANATION

Please refer to the factsheets: For Better Retention – Ultraflex & Identification of Animals Imported from the USA.

Animal identification consists of assigning a unique number to an animal. This number (15 digits) is printed on sets of tags (electronic button tags (RFID) and visual panel tags). The set of tags is applied to the animal ear and will follow the animal all through its life. The unique number will follow the ISO Code structure and will be read as follows:

- 3 first digits for the country (124 for Canada)
- 9 last digits for the unique ID number

- 124 000 XXXXXXXXX (Canada)
- 840 000 XXXXXXXXX (USA)

**Figure 3- Example of approved Canadian and US RFID ear tags (electronic button tags)**

Please note: Since July 1, 2014, the Official US RFID ear tag (electronic button tag) with identification number beginning with “840” are considered equivalent to Canadian approved tags. Official US tags have a US shield logo and start with the number “840” which cannot be reproduced on tag printed in Canada (see figure 3).

The following range of numbers is assigned to Canadian cattle (dairy and beef) 124,000,000,000,001 to 124,000,999,999,999, which means that all unique identification number assigned to a cattle should be included in this range.

National Livestock Identification for Dairy (NLID) distribute approved dairy cattle tag sets in Canada and all male and female dairy cattle, whether they are registered or non-registered, can be tagged with these tag sets. Dairy cattle must be tagged with approved dairy tag sets (NLID) at birth if they are to be registered in the herd book. The approved official tag set consists of a visual panel tag and an electronic button (RFID button or radio frequency identification) or button/panel tag (see figure 4).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approved dairy tags</th>
<th>Approved beef tags</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Combo Tags Set</td>
<td>C. RFID Beef Tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(RFID Button panel tag + visual panel tag)</td>
<td>(Yellow button)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both the RFID tag and the visual panel tag bear the same unique identification number (this combination is called a tag set).

**Figure 4- NLID/ATQ approved official tag sets (A&B), Single approved CCIA RFID beef tag(C)**
One pair of tags must appear in each ear at all times (visual panel tag & electronic (RFID) button tag); a tag in only one ear does not satisfy dairy standards and Holstein Canada bylaws.

There should never be two RFID button tag on the same animal, either in the same ear or not, even if both tag bear the same identification number.

Figure 5- Tagging options for producers, by region and herd registration status

Canadian dairy producers can order approved dairy tags by calling NLID 1.877.771.6543, e-mail: nlidorder@holstein.ca, mail/fax your completed NLID Order form to National Livestock Identification for Dairy at NLID, Box 2065, Brantford, Ontario, N3T 5W5 or fax: 519.756.3502. Tags will be sent directly to the producer within 10 business days.

Please note: In Quebec, the cattle identification system is called Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ), and this system is equivalent to the NLID program. Agri-Traçabilité Québec requires animals born in Quebec to be tagged within seven (7) days of birth or before being transferred from the farm of origin, whichever comes first. Animals brought into Quebec must be tagged as soon as they arrive on the farm. Producers may order their tags through Agri-Traçabilité Québec by calling customer services at 1.866.270.4319 or visit their website: www.atq.qc.ca

Approved beef tags can be purchased at local tag dealers or directly through Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) by phone 1.877.909.2333 or through web access.
Tag Application

Tag positioning is the key for tag retention. Figure 6 illustrates the proper positioning of tags. Taking time and care with the initial placement of tags is critical to long-term tag retention, appearance and program integrity. There are simple recommended instructions for optimal tag application in the cattle ears. The identifier should be properly positioned; the part with the black buttons (female part) must be in front of the ear, where they are protected by the curvature. The identifier should be placed between the two principal veins, in the first third of the ear, next to the head. The RFID button tag should be in the right ear, and the visual panel tag should be placed in the left ear. When re-identifying an animal, for maximum retention, it is better to make a new hole. The appropriate applicator recommended by the manufacturer should be used to apply the tags. Make sure it’s the appropriate pin that is used in the applicator and that they are both in good condition. Remember that the GREEN pin must be used for Ultraflex identifiers.

Figure 6- Illustrates the proper positioning of tags (Front and back of tags)

Tag losses / Tag traps

To prevent tag losses, a particular attention should be paid to cattle/calves housing, especially to tag traps. Ensuring a snag-free facility allows tags to remain in the animal ear. For tags, a snag might be something as seemingly trivial as a string/twine, a protruding nail, a chain, a cut, a hole, overlays in metal sheeting, a catch or a rub points (abrasive surface). Reducing or eliminating these traps will significantly upgrades tag retention in your facilities. (See figure 7 & 8 for tag trap examples).
Figure 7- Examples of hazards for tag retention in pastures and paddocks
Figure 8- Other examples of hazards for tag retention

- Head rails
- Sharp edges
- Chains pipe opening
- Quick release
- Twine
- Areas needing repair
- Non – operating equipment
- Entertainment – nuisance factor
- Chewing / biting
Tag Replacement

If an animal loses or damage one or both identifiers, the electronic (RFID) button is unreadable or the visual panel tag is broken, **the tag or tag set should be replaced as soon as possible with the same unique number to ensure uninterrupted individual animal identification.** The producer then contacts either NLID or ATQ to place their order for tag replacement (tag reissued). The animals keep the same identification number, and animal’s life history are maintained (See table 1).

**NLID provides replacement tags with the same unique lifetime number free of charge when they are lost through normal wear and tear.** Current owners are responsible for promptly obtaining replacement tags; he/she must provide the animal’s unique identification number and within-herd ID for identity verification, and the cause of loss, if known. All requests for tag replacement are monitored case by case according to the date, the animal and the client. The animal identity should always be preserved, parentage testing might be required and owner could be subject to national audit to validate herd book integrity. The free of charge replacement tag may be applied more than once for the same unique identification number. In fact, some animals by their behavior are more likely to lose their tags than others.

It is recommended to order a replacement tag only for the tag that has been lost and not the entire set. For example, the animal lost its RFID button tag, then a replacement tag order should be placed only for the RFID button tag bearing the same number as the remaining tag in the animal ear (visual panel tag) and not both. This would be to avoid having a tag pair that remains in the inventory. This remaining tag could be applied by mistake to another animal, and there would be two different animals bearing the same unique identification number, this could compromise the integrity of the system, and would falsify the animal history.

Cross-reference is done when an animal identification number is replaced by a new identification number. This happens when an animal is re-identified (see table1). To cross-reference an animal identification number, both number and re-identifying date must be reported to the national traceability database, and breed association for registered animals. **This allows the animal history to remain active even if its unique identification number has changed.**

For example, if a producer needs to replace a lost or damaged “840” tag, he will have to re-identify the animal since the “840” number can’t be reprinted in a country other than USA. Then the producer will have to re-identify the animal with a “124” number, and cross-reference both numbers. **Any replacement of lost or unreadable (broken) tag with another set of tags bearing a different number should always be cross-referenced. This should be done within seven (7) days of re-identifying (See table 1).**

If an animal loses both tags and the producer can’t figure out what the animal identification number was, then he/she should retag the animal with a new set of numbers. **In this case, animal history is lost and restarted.** Tag activation should be reported to the national traceability database within seven (7) days.

Please note: It is prohibited by federal regulations to remove, or cause the removal of approved NLID, ATQ or beef tags from a cattle ear or to use an official tag designed for another species such as sheep or swine for cattle identification.
Table 1 - Three possible scenarios for lost or damaged animal tags and their impact on animal’s life history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tag replacement situation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>What to do</th>
<th>Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag reissued</td>
<td>- The animal has lost or damaged one of the two tags or was improperly tagged&lt;br&gt;- One or both tags are broken, defective, pulled out, torn or cut out&lt;br&gt;- The producer knows the animal’s unique identification number (because dual tagging and/or registration photo)</td>
<td>Contact NLID or ATQ for tag replacement&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;- The animal’s life history is maintained&lt;br&gt;- The animal keeps the same identification number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-identify</td>
<td>- The producer knows the animal identification number, but is sending the dairy animal to beef production chain&lt;br&gt;- The producer knows the animal identification number but does not have the time to wait to re-identify the dairy animal&lt;br&gt;- The dairy animal has lost its US tag and can’t be replaced by the same identification number</td>
<td>1. Use a set from your inventory Or Contact NLID, ATQ or CCIA to place a tag order&lt;br&gt;2. Report both numbers to the national traceability database (cross-reference) &lt;br&gt;And Contact dairy breed herd book for registered dairy animal</td>
<td>- The animal’s life history is maintained&lt;br&gt;- The animal doesn’t have the same identification number&lt;br&gt;- The tag replacement identification number won’t appear on the Holstein website but will be recorded in the herdbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retagging</td>
<td>- The animal has lost or damaged both tags, both tags are broken, pulled out, torn or cut out so the unique number can’t be read&lt;br&gt;- The producer doesn’t know the animal identification number</td>
<td>1. Contact NLID, ATQ, or CCIA to place a tag order&lt;br&gt;or Use a set from your inventory&lt;br&gt;2. Report tag activation to the national traceability database</td>
<td>- The animal’s life history is lost&lt;br&gt;- The animal doesn’t have the same identification number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TAG ACTIVATION

When the tag set (NLID/ATQ or CCIA approved tags) are installed in the animal’s ears, they need to be recorded on-farm and reported to the national traceability database to be activated. The activation or age verification involves matching a unique identification number to one particular animal, which will become the 15-digit animal identification number and relate its personal information such as birth date. Once the tag is activated, the animal has an age associated to it, exists in the system and can be tracked for traceability, genetic, health, biosecurity purposes, and more.

LT Question 2: Do you maintain current birth records on-farm (birth date, animal identification number)?

*In the 7 days following the animal’s birth or at the time the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.

Reference: DFC Principles, and Alberta’s & Quebec’s provincial regulations

ISSUE QUESTION 2

Once the tag set is installed in the animal ear, it needs to be associated with the animal’s information, more precisely its birth date. An on-farm record allows gathering all information related to the animal and its designated unique identification number. The record can be used for further consultation or herd management purposes.

EXPLANATION QUESTION 2

Animal births should be recorded within seven (7) days of birth to ensure the accuracy of the information registry. The following information is the minimum requirement for on-farm records of tag activation.

- Animal identification number – 15 digits
- Date of animal’s birth
- Identification number of premises where the animal was born

The information might be recorded in an on-farm paper manifest, herd management software, Excel document, provided template (Animal birth record from Producer’s Workbook), third party or other type of document. It should be kept on farm for a minimum of 5 years for further reference.

LT Question 3: Are you reporting animal birth information to the national traceability database within 45 days or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first?

Reference: DFC Principles, and Alberta & Quebec provincial regulations

ISSUE QUESTION 3

When tags are installed to the animal ear, they need to be reported into the national traceability database to be activated. Once the tag is activated, the animal exists in the system, the real birth date is recorded and reported with the farm of origin premises identification number; and then the animal can start to be tracked for traceability purposes.

In Alberta, cattle (dairy and beef) need to be age-verified in the CCIA database called the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) before 10 months of age or before leaving the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.
For Quebec dairy producers, tag activation must be reported to ATQ within 7 days after the animal is identified at birth.

**EXPLANATION QUESTION 3**

The animal information should be reported to the national traceability database within 45 days of birth or before it leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first. The following information is the minimum requirement for tag activation into the national traceability database.

- Animal identification number - 15 digits
- Date of animal’s birth
- Premises identification number where the animal was born

The tag activation information must be reported to the national traceability database, which would be the Canadian Livestock Traceability System (CLTS) through CCIA, or ATQ for Quebec producers within 45 days of animal’s birth (7 days for Quebec producers). Reports might be done directly to the database by the producer, an employee, a manager or by a third party that has the authority to send data into the producer account. A third party could be a milk recording service (such as DHI or Valacta), a herd management software designed to send specific traceability data to the national traceability database, a national breed association (for registered cattle) or a stakeholder that has been mandated to do so.

For direct reporting into the CLTS database, producers may send their information through web service or directly online through the web access at [www.clia.livestockid.ca](http://www.clia.livestockid.ca). Producers who wish to use the web service need to fill in the CLTS template (birthdate) and send it to the database. For the direct online access, producers fill in their age verification information in the web application. Prior to direct online access or web services, producers must contact CCIA to obtain their user name and password. For further information, consult the tutorials on the website; they will walk you through the process for either direct web access or web service.

Quebec producers must report their tag activation information through ATQ’s customer service or online access. They can either call the customer service at 1.866.270.4319 or fill in the tag activation declaration document, and then fax it to 1.866.473.4033 or mail it to Agri-Traçabilité Québec, 555 Roland Therrien, suite 050, Longueuil, QC, Canada, J4H 4E8. The producer may also use the direct online access, by using the free application FormClic or direct web access (ATQ Direct). Prior to using these web services for the first time, the producer must contact ATQ customer service to obtain their password.
ANIMAL MOVEMENT

Animal movement is the last of the three pillars of livestock traceability. In case of a contagious disease outbreak, it is possible with this information in hand to identify exactly where the animal has been, with which other animals it has been in contact and where it is now. It is critical information for the planning and management of emergencies.

LT Question 5: For animal move-in (reception of an animal at the farm, including import):

a. Do you maintain current animal move-in records on-farm (animal ID number, date of movement, premises identification number of farm of arrival and departure, licence plate number)?

b. Are you reporting the information to the national traceability database?

*Information must be recorded and reported within 7 days of the event or before the animal leaves the farm, whichever occurs first?

Reference: Proposed amended Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations, DFC Principles, and Alberta & Quebec provincial regulations

ISSUE

According to Part XV of the federal Health of the Animal Regulation (CFIA), it is not currently required to report and record animal move-in. Although, the amended regulations will require all livestock move-in to be reported into the national traceability database.

Knowing where livestock is located provides valuable information in responding to animal disease outbreaks and food safety issues. It allows governments to quickly identify where the animal has been and where it is now (animal traceback). In fact, traceback information helps to prevent or reduce disease spread and diminishes the “quarantine zone” since knowledge of animal location is more accurate.

Imports and exports must be reported to have a complete picture of the situation. Animal imports refer to any animal entering into a facility from outside of Canada. Their previous histories (birth date and movements outside of Canada) aren’t known, but all other movements from their entry into the facility to rendering will be collected in the national traceability database. Animal exports refer to any animal exiting Canada. Animal export information is important to collect, since once an animal moves outside of Canada, no more data entries for this animal will be expected to be reported to the national traceability database.

Livestock traceability systems and efficient traceback systems depend mostly on the quality and accuracy of registered/reported data reported in a timely way.

EXPLANATION

Animal move-in refers to any activity when an animal is taken from where it is kept (location of departure) and brought to another location (location of arrival). Any animal moving into your facilities is considered to be an animal move-in, even for a short journey. Importing animals from outside of Canada is also considered as animal move-in.
Animal reception should be recorded and reported within seven (7) days to ensure the accuracy of the information registry. The following information is the minimum requirement for animal move-in records & reports.

- Animal identification number – 15 digits
- Date of animal’s arrival
- Premises identification number of the farm of arrival
- Premises identification number of the farm of departure
- Vehicle (single unit) or trailer (tandem unit) licence plate number

For animal imports, the premises identification number of the farm of departure might not be known by the producer who is receiving the animal. In those cases, the producer may report the location of the site where the animal was kept before it was imported (e.g. address of the facility).

Animal move-in information might be recorded in an on-farm paper manifest, herd management software, Excel document, provided templates (Animal move-in record from the Producer Workbook), third party or other type of document. It should be kept on farm for a minimum of five (5) years for further reference.

Information about move-in must be reported to the national traceability database which would be the Canadian Livestock Traceability System (CLTS) through CCIA, or ATQ for Quebec producers only. Reports might be done directly to the database by the producer, an employee, a manager, or by a third party that has the authority to send data into the producer’s account. A third party could be a milk recording service, herd management software designed to send specific traceability data to the national traceability database, or a stakeholder that has been mandated to do so.

For direct reporting into the CLTS database, producers may send their information through web service or directly online through the web access at www.clia.livestockid.ca. Producers who wish to use the web service need to fill in the CLTS template (move-in or imported) and send it to the database. For the direct online access, the producers fill in their move-in or imported information in the web application. Prior to direct online access or web services, producers must contact CCIA to obtain their user name and password. For further information, consult the tutorials on the website; they will walk you through the process for either direct web access or web service.

Quebec producers must report their animal move-in through ATQ’s customer service or online access. They can either call the customer service at 1.866.270.4319 or fill in the movement declaration document, then fax it to 1.866.473.4033 or mail it to Agri-Traçabilité Québec, 555 Roland Therrien, suite 050, Longueuil, QC, Canada, J4H 4E8. The producer may also use the direct online access, by using the free application FormClic or direct web access (ATQ Direct). Prior to use these web services for the first time, the producer must contact ATQ customer service to obtain their password.
TAG RETIREMENT

Tag retirement is the way to confirm that the animal bearing the unique identification number is dead or exported, in other words no longer active in the national traceability database. Retiring tags helps track animals quicker during an animal health emergency. Knowing that an identification number is retired saves valuable time that would have been wasted searching for that animal in an emergency response.

LT Question 6: For tag retirement (on-farm animal disposal and animal export):

   a. Do you maintain current tag retirement records on-farm?
   b. Are you reporting the event information to the national traceability database?

*Information must be recorded and reported within 7 days of the event

Reference: Part XV of the Health of Animals Regulations & DFC Principles

ISSUE

According to Part XV of the Health of Animal Regulations, the animal’s death (on-site disposal or a specific disposal site) should be reported within 30 days after the animal disposal. The amended regulations will modify the 30 days delay of reporting to seven (7) days, which meet the module requirement.

According to Part XV of the Health of Animal Regulations, the animal export information should be reported (animal identification number) within 30 days after the exportation. This requirement will be amended to 7 days after export and the producer will need to report the following information; animal identification number - 15 digits, premises identification number of departure site, location of destination, date of loading and vehicle licence plate number. This amended regulation will meet the module requirement.

EXPLANATION

On-farm disposal and animal export should be recorded and reported within seven (7) days of animal’s death or export to ensure the accuracy of the information registry. The following information is the minimum requirement for;

Animal on-farm disposal records & reports:

- Animal identification number – 15 digits
- Date of animal’s death
- Premises identification number of the farm where the animal died

Animal export records & reports:

- Animal identification number – 15 digits
- Date of animal’s departure
- Premises identification number of the farm of departure
- Location to which the animals were exported (examples: address, state, country)
- Vehicle (single unit) or trailer (tandem unit) licence plate number

Tag retirement information (on-farm disposal and animal export) might be recorded in an on-farm paper manifest, herd management software, Excel document, provided templates (On-Farm Animal Disposal
record and Animal Export record form the Producer Workbook), third party or other type of document. It should be kept on farm for a minimum of five (5) years for further reference.

Tag retirement information must be reported to the national traceability database, which would be the Canadian Livestock Traceability System (CLTS) through CCIA, or ATQ for Quebec producers only. Reports might be done directly to the database by the producer, an employee, a manager, or by a third party that has the authority to send data into the producer account. A third party could be a milk recording service, herd management software designed to send specific traceability data to the national traceability database, or a stakeholder that has been mandated to do so. For direct report into the CLTS database, producers may send their information through web service or directly online through the web access at www.clia.livestockid.ca. Producers who wish to use the web service need to fill in the CLTS template (retired or export) and send it to the database. For the direct online access, the producers fill in their animal death information in the web application. Prior to direct online access or web services, producer must contact CCIA to obtain their user name and password. For further information, consult the tutorials on the website; they will walk you through the process for either direct web access or web service.

Quebec producers must report their tag retirement (export or on-farm disposal) information through ATQ’s customer service or online access. They can either call the customer service at 1.866.270.4319 or fill in the death or export declaration document, then fax it to 1.866.473.4033 or mail it to Agri-Traçabilité Québec, 555 Roland Therrien, suite 050, Longueuil, QC, Canada, J4H 4E8. The producer may also use the direct online access, by using the free application FormClic or direct web access (ATQ Direct). Prior to use these web services for the first time, the producer must contact ATQ customer service to obtain their password.

Please note: According to Part XV of the Health of Animal Regulations, if dead stock is moved from a site to a disposal site or rendering facility, it becomes the responsibility of the destination site to record and report the information to the national traceability database (i.e. move-in). In those cases, the producer is not obligated to report or record animal’s death or disposal.
## Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAFC</td>
<td>Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAF</td>
<td>Alberta Agriculture &amp; Forestry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approved Dairy Tags</td>
<td>See figure 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATQ</td>
<td>Agri-Traçabilité Québec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calf</td>
<td>A young bovine animal</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATS / Trace Canada</td>
<td>Canadian Agri-Traceability Services</td>
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<td>CCIA</td>
<td>Canadian Cattle Identification Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFIA</td>
<td>Canadian Food Inspection Agency</td>
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<td>CIP</td>
<td>Cattle Implementation Program</td>
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<td>CLTS</td>
<td>Canadian Livestock Tracking System Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dairy cow</td>
<td>A female dairy bovine animal that has had more than one calf and/or is three or more years of age</td>
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<td>DFC</td>
<td>Dairy Farmers of Canada</td>
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<td>Double identification</td>
<td>A set of tags or two pairs of tags (RFID button/panel tag and a visual panel tag) bearing the same unique identification number - see figure 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heifer</td>
<td>A female bovine up to the age of three and/or having a first calf</td>
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<td>National administrator</td>
<td>A person with whom the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has entered into an agreement, under section 34 of the Health of Animals Regulations, under which the person is to administer a national identification program for animals – Part XV data. (ATQ for Quebec producers and CCIA for the rest of Canada)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Traceability Database</td>
<td>Centralized database that collects Part XV data. For bovine (dairy and beef), it is administered and accessible by CCIA (<a href="http://www.clia.livestockid.ca">www.clia.livestockid.ca</a>) for all Canada, except for Quebec producers that use ATQ (ATQ Direct)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NLID</td>
<td>National Livestock Identification for Dairy</td>
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<td><strong>Non-registered animal</strong></td>
<td>An animal for which no registration has been requested for or that is unqualified for registration</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Part XV data</strong></td>
<td>All mandatory information required by Part XV (Animal Identification) of the federal Health of the Animal Regulation for animal identification and traceability</td>
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<td><strong>PID number</strong></td>
<td>Premises identification number</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Record</strong></td>
<td>Action of recording traceability data in a template, registry, herd management software, etc. According to federal regulation, the traceability data must be kept on farm five (5) years</td>
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<td><strong>Registered animal</strong></td>
<td>An animal for which a registration application has been made for and recognized by the breed herd book and for which the animal and lineage data has been verified and entered into the herd book</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reference Manual</strong></td>
<td>A document that explains the livestock traceability issues associated with each requirement, and provides an explanation on what producers need to do to meet the module’s requirements. It is designed to be a useful tool for you as you develop your farm plans and train your staff</td>
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<td><strong>Report</strong></td>
<td>Action of reporting traceability data to the national administrator through the national traceability database (CCIA/ATQ)</td>
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<td><strong>Tag pair</strong></td>
<td>It is the male and female part of either the visual panel or electronic RFID button tag. The two parts of the pair is needed to be able to apply the tag pair to the animal’s ear - see figure 4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tag set</strong></td>
<td>It is the two tag pairs in combination, the visual panel tag pair and the electronic RFID button tag pair. One tag pair is applied to each ear of the animal - see figure 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workbook</strong></td>
<td>Document designed to assist dairy producers in creating their own unique farm plan which outlines the minimum mandatory tasks that dairy producers must do to satisfy the Livestock Traceability module’s requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Zone Canada</strong></td>
<td>Zone Canada - A program which intends to set up a ‘physical’ checkpoint between West and East of Canada through a unique and mandatory ‘reporting site’ located in West Hawk Lake. The program is funded jointly through the Canadian Industry Traceability Infrastructure Component of the Canadian Integrated Food Security Program and the Canadian livestock industry</td>
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