

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 6 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SUBJECT MATTER: Transition to Electronic Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials to lead national initiatives to transition all Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVIs) to an electronic format, with the goal of incorporating this requirement into 9 Code of Federal Regulations § 86.1.

USAHA requests that the 122nd Congress appropriate funds or authorize the use of user fee funds to develop the Veterinary Services Process Streamlining ICVI system—or an equivalent platform—to include all animal species requiring ICVIs for interstate movement. USAHA further recommends consideration of additional features such as offline form completion, alignment with current USAHA electronic ICVI (eICVI) data standards, and integration with the Animal Identification Management System, in order to provide an accessible, no-cost eICVI option for all accredited veterinarians.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There has been increasing national emphasis on improving the speed and accuracy of animal disease traceability. This is evident through actions such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) rule finalized in 2024 on the "Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison." Electronic animal identification and digital records—such as vaccination and testing forms—are gaining favor by reducing transcription errors and increasing processing speed. In the event of a trace, accurate information can be located more efficiently. This also applies to Interstate Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (ICVIs), which serve as the primary movement documents between states and play a critical role in traceability.

With multiple foreign animal diseases posing threats to animal health in the United States (US), the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports a transition to electronic health and movement forms that align with USDA traceability efforts and goals.

USAHA recognizes the need for a unified, national strategy to mandate the use of electronic ICVIs (eCVIs). USAHA believes that coordinated messaging and development efforts among private enterprises, state governments, and federal agencies will be most effective in advancing USDA-APHIS traceability goals.

USDA-APHIS actions to support this transition could include further development of the Veterinary Services Process Streamlining (VSPS) eCVI system to encompass all animal species, as it currently only covers livestock. Adding more species and features—such as offline form completion—would improve accessibility to eCVIs for both Category I and II accredited veterinarians. These enhancements would help meet USDA-APHIS’s “Overarching Goals to Increase Traceability” by “elevat[ing] the discussion with States and industry to work toward a system where animal health certificates are electronically transmitted from private veterinarians to State animal health officials” (USDA-APHIS Traceability).

Expanding VSPS eCVIs also presents the opportunity for direct integration with the Animal Identification Management System, enabling immediate access to individual animal movement data. This capability would be invaluable during infectious disease outbreaks such as Foot and Mouth Disease or New World Screwworm. Given the looming risks of foreign animal diseases, disease traceability should remain a priority at both the state and national levels. ICVIs are an ideal target for improvement in tracing animal diseases, and transitioning to an all-electronic format is the most direct path to enhancing their effectiveness during trace events.