

March 18, 2013

Use of Electronic Implantable Devices (EIDs) as Official Identification for Sheep and Goats (Addendum to the Goat ID PowerPoint):

EIDs are also known as microchips.

Electronic Implant Devices (EID)

Sheep or goats registered with national associations that allow the use of electronic implants for official registry identification may use EIDs as official identification in the Scrapie Eradication Program. Please note that the following conditions must be met:

- The animals are registered with a national registry association;
- The electronic implant number is recorded by the registry on the registration certificate accompanying the animal, and the animal is accompanied by an implant reader that can read the implant in the animal;
- At exhibitions, an implant reader that can read the implant in the animal is available for use by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service or State authorities;
- The movement is either for exhibition purposes or for sale, with transfer of the registration papers to a new owner who has a reader that can read the implant in the animal (as the animal may not be moved by the new owner unless accompanied by a reader); and
- To ensure uniqueness of the numbers and compatibility with readers used by APHIS, implanted EIDs must be compliant with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 11784 and 11785 regarding radio frequency identification of animals. These standards require RFID implants for animals to be 15 digits including a 3 digit country or manufacturer code and must read at 134.2 kHz. Producers should check the product insert to ensure that the device meets these requirements. Producers have been given an extension until March 11, 2014 to use up any implants that do not meet these requirements. Implants applied to sheep or goats before this date will be acceptable as official identification for the life of the animal as long as the animal is accompanied by the registration certificate listing the implant number and a reader that can read the implant number.
- NOTE: Implants applied after March 11, 2015 will be required to have the 3 digit country code "840" rather than a manufacture's code. A list of approved 840 implant and official eartag manufacturers is maintained at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/footer/topicsofinterest/applyingforpermit?1dmy&urle=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_animal_disease_information%2Fsa_sheep_goat_health%2Fsa_scrapie%2Fct_to_order_ear_tags

Registered animals that are sold without transfer of the registration papers such as animals sold to slaughter facilities or thru livestock markets, must be identified with visible official identification, such as an official eartag or tattoo.

EID Placement

The implant must be placed in a site allowed by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and in accordance with any applicable Federal, State, or local laws or regulations. The recommended placement of EIDs (microchips) in sheep and goats is on the top of the ear between the skin and the cartilage near where the ear meets the head. The tail fold may also be used. FDA considers EIDs to be unapproved food additives. If an animal that has been implanted is sent to slaughter, the Food Safety Inspection Service inspector should be notified of the presence and location of the EID (microchip) device prior to slaughter so that it can be removed from the carcass after slaughter to prevent adulteration of the carcass.