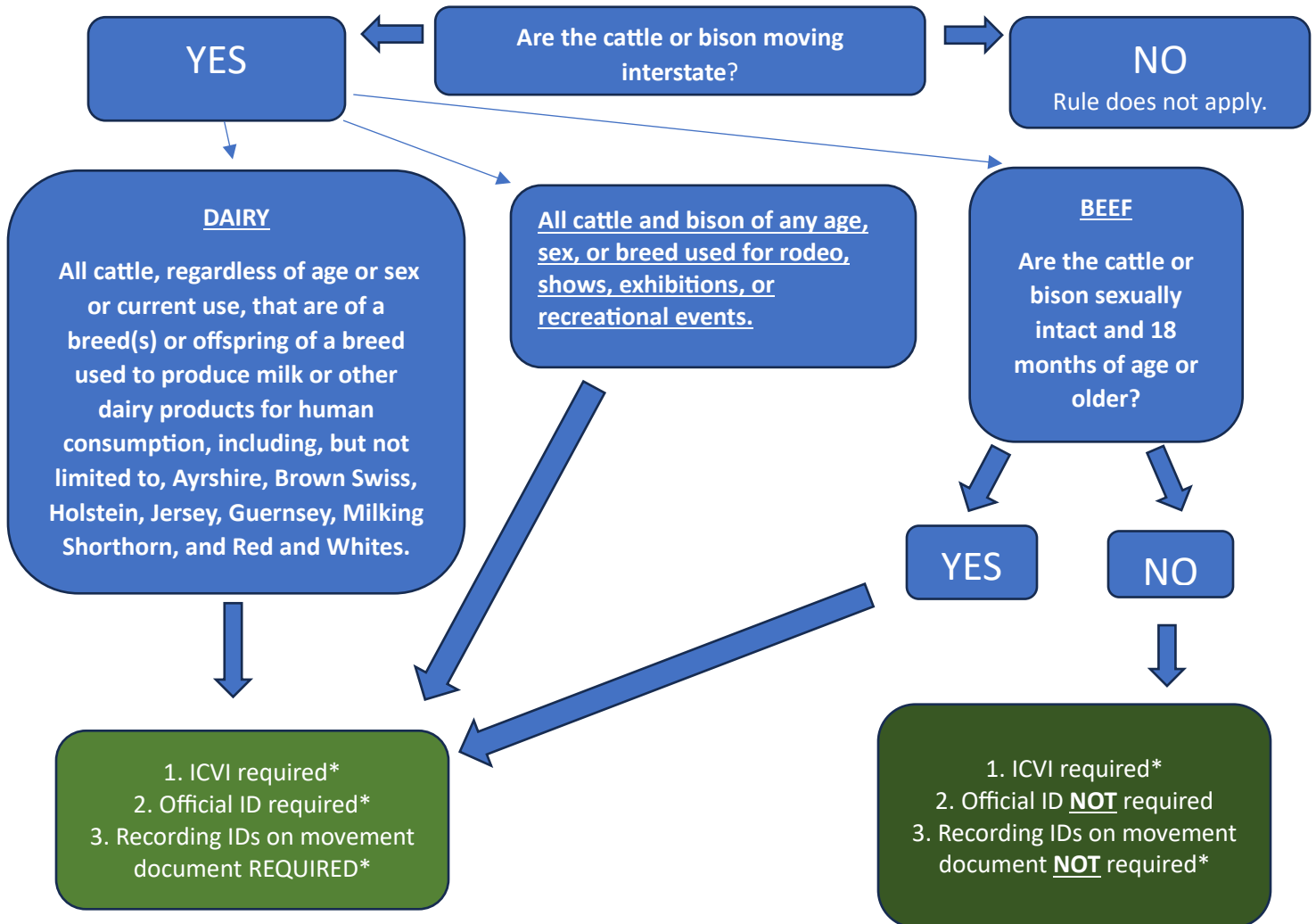


## ADT Rule: Interstate Movement Requirements for Cattle and Bison

Last Updated February 2025

### Flow Chart for Cattle and Bison Interstate Movements



\* See exemptions for official ID, ICVIs, and recording IDs on movement documents on the following page. If the animals are not required by the regulations to be officially identified, the ICVI must state the exemption that applies (e.g., the cattle and bison do not belong to one of the classes of cattle and bison to which the official identification requirements of this part apply).

### Identification Methods

#### OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION FOR CATTLE AND BISON

1. Official 840 electronic ID tags
2. NUES/Brite/Visual-only tags ONLY official ID for tags applied before November 5, 2024
3. Tattoos, brands, and group/lot identification numbers may be used in some cases\*\*

Questions about official ID methods and devices for cattle? Email [Traceability@usda.gov](mailto:Traceability@usda.gov).

#### USDA APPROVED BACKTAGS

- USDA approved backtags are not considered official ID but may be used in lieu of official ID for "direct to slaughter" cattle and bison.
- Cattle and bison moved interstate to slaughter on a backtag must be harvested within 3 days of arrival at the plant (otherwise, official ID must be applied)

## Exemptions for Official ID, ICVIs, and Recording IDs on Movement Documents

### EXEMPTIONS TO ICVI REQUIREMENTS

ICVIs are not required for movements:

1. Directly to slaughter or to slaughter through one market.
2. Directly to an approved livestock facility with an owner-shipper statement.
3. To a veterinary clinic for medical examination or treatment.
4. As a commuter herd with a commuter herd agreement.
5. When a movement document other than an ICVI is agreed upon by shipping and receiving State or Tribal officials.

### EXEMPTIONS TO OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION

Cattle and bison are exempt from official identification when moved:

1. Directly from a location in one State, through another State, to a second location in the original State.
2. Directly to an approved tagging site and are officially identified in accordance with established protocols.
3. Between shipping and receiving States or Tribes with another form of identification, as agreed upon by animal health officials in the shipping and receiving States or Tribes.
4. Directly to a recognized slaughter establishment or directly to no more than one approved livestock facility and then to a recognized slaughter establishment

### EXEMPTIONS TO RECORDING OFFICIAL ID NUMBERS ON MOVEMENT DOCUMENTS

Official ID numbers do not need to be recorded on movement documents for:

1. Cattle and bison moving from an approved livestock facility directly to slaughter.
2. Steers or spayed heifers.
3. Sexually intact beef cattle and bison under 18 months.

**\*\* Cattle and bison may also be officially identified by means of:** brands registered with a recognized brand inspection authority and accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate, when agreed to by the shipping and receiving State or Tribal animal health authorities; tattoos and other identification methods acceptable to a breed association for registration purposes, accompanied by a breed registration certificate, when agreed to by the shipping and receiving State or Tribal animal health authorities; or group/lot ID when a group or unit of animals is managed together as one group throughout the pre-harvest production chain.

See ADT regulations ([9 CFR part 86](#)) for specific requirements. Questions about Traceability? Please email [Traceability@usda.gov](mailto:Traceability@usda.gov)

## Page 1 Flow Chart Description

The flow chart on Page 1 shows a series of questions and answers to determine what requirements cattle must meet for interstate movement. The first question is, “Are the cattle moving interstate?” If the answer is, “No,” the rule does not apply. If the answer is, “Yes,” one then must determine what type of cattle are moving.

If the cattle moving interstate are dairy cattle, which are defined as, “All cattle, regardless of age or sex or current use, that are of a breed(s) or offspring of a breed used to produce milk or other dairy products for human consumption, including, but not limited to, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Milking Shorthorn, and Red and Whites,” three requirements must be met:

1. An ICVI is required.
2. Cattle moving interstate require official identification.
3. Recording IDs on movement documentation is REQUIRED.

If the cattle or bison moving interstate are used for rodeo, shows, exhibitions, or recreational events, no matter their age, sex, or breed, they must meet those same requirements as dairy cattle. Those requirements are:

1. An ICVI is required.
2. Cattle and bison moving interstate require official identification.
3. Recording IDs on movement documentation is REQUIRED.

If the animals moving interstate are beef animals, one must determine what kind of beef cattle or bison are moving. If the beef cattle or bison are sexually intact and 18 months of age or older, they must meet the same requirements as dairy cattle for interstate movement. Those requirements are:

1. An ICVI is required.
2. Cattle and bison moving interstate require official identification.
3. Recording IDs on movement documentation is REQUIRED.

If the beef cattle or bison moving interstate are not sexually intact or are under 18 months of age, official ID is not required. However, an ICVI is required. The ICVI need not list official ID numbers, but when animals are not required by the regulations to be officially identified, the ICVI must state the exemption that applies (e.g., the cattle and bison do not belong to one of the classes of cattle and bison to which the official identification requirements of this part apply).