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Why new traceability regulations and how to prepare

What we mean when we say *Traceability*

Simply put, Traceability is the ability to follow an item or a group of items – be it animal, plant, food products or ingredient – from one point in the supply chain to another, either backwards or forwards. Traceability systems are used for many things, including the protection of animal health, and food safety. They can help reduce response time, thereby limiting economic, environmental and social impacts of emergency situations such as disease outbreaks and environmental disasters such as floods, fires and pipeline bursts.

Now that we understand why Traceability is important...let's talk regulations:

The main reasons for federal regulatory changes are to increase Canada's ability in responding to health threats and other emergencies and improve traceability nationally. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing amendments to the *Part XV of the Federal Health of Animals Regulations* that are expected in 2022.

Current regulations focus on Animal Identification; all cattle/sheep/bison must be tagged with an approved tag/indicator prior to moving from their current location or leaving their farm of origin. Abattoirs dealing with cattle and bison are required to report the identification number within 30 days of the animal's death or slaughter.

Proposed regulations will likely affect ALL producers.

Under the proposed regulations, when ruminants are moved from a departure site to a destination site, the operator of the destination site would be required to report the individual animal ID's, the premises identification number (PID) of the departure site and the date and time at which the animals were loaded and the vehicle's information at the departure site. The main objective for information accompanying animals is to support the operator of the destination site being compliant with this requirement.

What does the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency do?

Also known as CCIA, we manage a database called the Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS), a custom livestock tracking database. CLTS account holders are able to report important information to the database such as animal identification, premises identification and movement of the animal. Accessing your CLTS account directly is one of the simplest and most convenient ways for you to prepare for the regulatory changes and get prepared ahead of time. We also have a mobile version that can be downloaded to your smartphone as an APP, giving you access to the entire database in the palm of your hands. CCIA is not government, we are non-profit, industry-driven and here to help you navigate reporting and recording requirements with the proposed amendments.



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So how do you start preparing today?

We've identified three easy steps to get started:

1. Get a PID number

We recommend obtaining a Premises Identification number (PID). This will need to be processed through your provincial government, and you can consult our website for provincial listings and relevant contact information. Once you obtain your PID, we ask that you contact CCIA directly and report your PID number, as your province may not be informing CCIA of this information.

It is proposed that a PID will be required under future regulations and may be necessary to purchase animal indicators/tags.

2. Visit your CCIA/CLTS account at clts.canadaid.ca

Begin by visiting your CCIA/CLTS account – include your PID number. From there, you can practice submitting events such as retirements and animal movements or update your tag inventory. If you have ever purchased tags in the past, then you have a CLTS account, contact us to set up your login.

Download the CLTS MOBO APP to have the CLTS database available on your mobile device, for fast and convenient uploads.

3. Get the news straight from the source

Proposed amendments will be published through the Canada Gazette, which is the official newspaper of the Government of Canada. Once published, there will be a 90-day comment period in which you are encouraged to offer your opinion and feedback on the regulatory amendments. The draft regulations are targeted for Spring 2022 publication in Canada Gazette I.

For more information on the proposed regulatory amendments, take a look at Canadian Food Inspection Agency's TRACE newsletters, which can be found on CCIA's website at

<https://www.canadaid.ca/traceability/newsletters/>

CCIA also has a Resource Centre with comprehensive Quick Guides and Manuals to help you navigate the CLTS database and MOBO APP. It can be found at <http://support.canadaid.ca/>