

USDA Revises Program Standards and Technical Reference Document for the National Animal Identification System to Clarify Printing Standards for Identification Eartags

USDA is clarifying the printing standards for individual animal identification eartags and premises identification eartags.

For individual animal identification eartags with animal identification numbers (AINs), USDA has added minimum print size requirement for both the U.S. Shield and the text, "UNLAWFUL TO REMOVE."

Also, USDA has provided recommendations for the placement of the shield and text on premises identification eartags for slaughter swine to help ensure the visibility of these items for producers, market operators and animal health officials. In addition, USDA has provided a preferred standard for the barcode that appears on the reverse side of these eartags in order to provide direction as part of an industry-recognized standard.

Background:

In May 2005, USDA asked for public feedback on draft program standards for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

In January 2007, USDA published a Program Standards and Technical Reference document to update the data element standards published in the 2005 document and to supplement the NAIS User Guide. USDA established certain data standards to facilitate standardization of information in the NAIS to enable states, tribes and industry organizations as well as manufacturers use established data standards.

Updates to the Program Standards and Technical Reference document were made in October 2007 and added printing standards for slaughter swine premises identification eartags.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information about this topic contact Wayne Maloney at (301) 734-7255 or by email at wayne.maloney@aphis.usda.gov.

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