

Am Jersey Cattle 614 861 3636

Interim Recognition of Shortened (Truncated) Format of Animal Identification Number

March 21, 2013

Summary: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Administrator has recognized as official a variation of the Animal Identification Number (AIN). AINs with a "USA" prefix followed by 12 digits have been recognized as official numbers since 2004. The variation will have the USA prefix followed by 8 or 9 digits instead of 12. This number has been referred to as the American Identification Number. Tamper-evident eartags imprinted with "USA" followed by the 8- or 9-digit number applied to animals before March 11, 2015 are now recognized as official for the life of the animal. This transition aligns with the recently published traceability rule's timeline for phasing out USA and manufacturer-coded AIN tags.

Background: APHIS has recognized AINs for use in officially identifying animals since 2004. The format of the AIN is 15 characters; the primary prefix is 840, which is the numeric code for the United States.

Manufacturers of ISO-compliant radio frequency transponders are assigned manufacturer codes by the International Committee on Animal Recording. The number encoded in ISO-compliant transponders is 15 digits prefixed with either the country code or the manufacturer's code. Additionally, the livestock industry initiated the use of a 15-character number starting with "USA" in 1998, referred to in industry programs as the American Identification Number. While APHIS did not refer to the USA version of the AIN in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) as the American ID number, the industry has continued to use that name.

When APHIS recognized the 840 AIN number as official, the USA prefix and manufacturer codes were also recognized as official and included as additional formats under the AIN definition. APHIS intended to recognize these numbers for a short time to avoid retagging animals to meet official identification requirements. However, the transition to 840 as the sole AIN format did not occur until the recent publication of the final rule, "Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate." The final rule recognizes the USA and manufacturer-coded eartags as official for tags applied to animals before March 11, 2015.

The USA version (American ID) of the AIN has been used primarily in the dairy industry and some beef breed registries. The range of USA numbers start with "USA 000 050 000 000." At the direction of the Council of Dairy Cattle Breeding, the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) has coordinated the allocation of USA numbers. NAAB has kept a complete and accurate listing of all allocated numbers (see attachment to this report). USA-numbered eartags have been used particularly by the national, State, and county Dairy Herd Information Associations (DHIA); the Holstein Association; and the American Jersey Association. The organizations that receive allocation of the USA numbers administer the distribution of eartags to producers and maintain information on the producers who obtain the tags.



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The American ID Number

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The American identification (ID) number was adopted in 1998 to facilitate developing national programs that not only enhance genetic progress but also animal disease control and eradication. It provides a single system of ID numbers for dairy cattle.

For genetic evaluation purposes, the ID number is recorded as a 2-character breed code, a 3-character country code (USA), and a 12-digit national number. The number ranges are allocated by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding to ensure uniqueness. The National Association of Animal Breeders administers the allocation of numbers on behalf of the Council.

The American ID number provides a mechanism for a universal identification system. The USA country code with the animal's American ID number provides a unique number for an animal around the entire world. For Holsteins, Jerseys, Ayrshires, and Red and Whites, new foreign bulls with semen that is distributed in the United States are not issued a U.S. number. Rather, the sire's foreign national number and country code are used.

The organization that assigns an American ID number is the first one with which the animal is recorded. Animals that have already been assigned an American ID number should not be re-identified or issued a new number. A key to making the American ID system function efficiently is for producers responsibly to report American ID numbers already assigned to individual animals.

Allocation of American ID Numbers (October 22, 2012)

FORMAT: Country code (USA) plus 12 digits

Changes since August 17, 2009, highlighted in yellow

American ID Numbers		Organization Allocated To:
Beginning	Ending	
USA 000 050 000 000	USA 000 059 999 999	National DHIA
USA 000 050 000 001	USA 000 050 006 000	Kings County DHIA, Hanford, CA
USA 000 050 006 001	USA 000 050 007 000	Lathrop Testing Service, Clovis, CA
USA 000 050 007 001	USA 000 050 027 000	Ag-Source, Verona, WI
USA 000 050 027 001	USA 000 050 057 000	Minnesota DHIA, Buffalo, MN
USA 000 050 057 001	USA 000 050 062 000	Arizona DHIA, Phoenix, AZ
USA 000 050 062 001	USA 000 050 082 000	Merced DHIA, Merced, CA
USA 000 050 082 001	USA 000 050 092 000	Rocky Mountain DHIA, North Logan, UT
USA 000 050 092 001	USA 000 050 093 000	North Valley DHIA, Orland, CA
USA 000 050 093 001	USA 000 050 095 500	Indiana DHIA, West Lafayette, IN
USA 000 050 095 501	USA 000 050 107 500	Arizona DHIA, Phoenix, AZ
USA 000 050 107 501	USA 000 050 113 500	Kings County DHIA, Hanford, CA
USA 000 050 113 501	USA 000 050 133 500	Southern Counties DHIA, Chino, CA
USA 000 050 133 501	USA 000 050 143 500	Rocky Mountain DHIA, North Logan, UT
USA 000 050 200 000	USA 000 050 399 999	Hasco
USA 000 050 400 000	USA 000 050 599 999	Ketchum Manufacturing, Canada
USA 000 050 600 000	USA 000 050 699 999	Destron Fearing
<i>USA 000 050 600 000</i>	<i>USA 000 050 600 049</i>	<i>Minnesota DHIA, Buffalo, MN</i>
<i>USA 000 050 600 050</i>	<i>USA 000 050 600 149</i>	<i>Michigan Vet Supply</i>
USA 000 050 700 000	USA 000 050 999 999	Hasco