RFID Options For Vaccination

Ear tags

Alex Turner, DVM
USAHA Subcommittee on Brucellosis
National Animal Disease Traceability and Veterinary Accreditation Center
Strategy & Policy
Veterinary Services
USDA, APHIS
Review of 9 CFR Part 78 - Brucellosis
• **Official adult vaccinate** ...(b)(2)Identified with an official eartag...

• **Official calfhood vaccinate** ...(b) Permanently identified by a tattoo and by an **official vaccination eartag in the right ear**. However, if already identified with an official eartag prior to vaccination, an additional tag is not required.

• **Official vaccination eartag** An APHIS approved identification eartag conforming to the alpha-numeric National Uniform Eartagging System which provides unique identification for each animal...

• The word orange is not in 9 CFR Part 78 – Brucellosis.
• Official eartag A VS-approved identification eartag (metal, plastic, or other) that conforms to the nine-character alphanumeric National Uniform Eartagging System. It uniquely identifies each individual animal with no duplication of the alphanumeric identification, regardless of the materials or colors used. The term includes the special orange-colored eartag series used to identify calfhood vaccinates. (Part I. Definitions pp 20)

• Official calfhood vaccinates-calfhood-vaccinated animals must be permanently identified as vaccinates by tattoo and by official vaccination eartag. If the animal is already identified with an official eartag before vaccination, an additional official eartag is not required...Official vaccination (orange) eartags must be applied to the right ear... (Part II. Procedures 2.C.1.-Identifying Vaccinates pp 34)
86.4(c)(4) A brucellosis vaccination eartag with a National Uniform Eartagging System number may be applied in accordance with part 78 of this chapter to an animal that is already officially identified with one or more official eartags under this part. The person applying the vaccination eartag must record the date the tag is added and the official identification numbers of both the existing official eartag(s) and the vaccination eartag and must maintain those records for 5 years.
RFID solutions for vaccinates
• Is this tag an “Official Vaccination Eartag”? 
• Is there a place for keeping the definition of “Official Vaccination Eartag” or does that add confusion? 
• Does this tag need to go in the right ear? 
• Does this tag need to be orange? 
• Ultimately, the tattoo is the final designation of whether or not an animal has been vaccinated. 
• RFID tag manufacturers have an informal agreement to reserve the color orange for this purpose, but this is not in rule, memo, or other official capacity.
Thank you

Alex Turner, DVM
Subcommittee on Brucellosis
National Animal Disease Traceability and Veterinary Accreditation Center
Strategy & Policy
Veterinary Services
USDA, APHIS