

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

RESOLUTION: 36 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON TUBERCULOSIS

SUBJECT MATTER: MODIFICATION OF THE INTERSTATE MOVEMENT REQUIREMENTS IN 9 CFR, CHAPTER 1, PART 77 AND IN THE JANUARY 2005 BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION UNIFORM METHODS AND RULES TO REQUIRE A NEGATIVE TEST ON INTACT DAIRY CATTLE OVER 6 MONTHS OF AGE

DATES: Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Interstate movement requirements are established through federal regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and augmented by policies in the Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR). Traditionally, the federal tuberculosis requirements for interstate movement of livestock are based primarily upon state status. In recent years, continued detection of tuberculosis in dairy herds and dairy heifer raising facilities around the United States, particularly in Western States, has raised concerns that a very low prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) may still exist within the dairy industry. As a result of this, 34 states have imposed entry requirements for dairy cattle that are more stringent than those in the federal regulations. These state-imposed regulations are not uniform, making it difficult for owners to comply when selling and shipping cattle interstate. A uniform rule for the interstate movement of dairy cattle should be established to provide for their safe and uniform movement while allowing for the detection of low-level TB infection and preventing its spread.

Such a rule will accomplish the following:

- It will create a uniform rule and eliminate confusion for market-owners, producers, and other involved parts of the dairy industry when participating in interstate trade
- It will allow testing focused on dairy cattle to ascertain whether low-level infection is really present or not, possibly localize this infection, and determine what that level is and eliminate it.
- By continuing to require that tested animals be officially identified to their premises of birth, it will allow us to better characterize the typical movements of dairy cattle and identify likely sources of exposure if infection is present.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) recommends that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) modify the current interstate movement requirements for cattle and bison to create a separate movement requirement for dairy cattle. This change would establish a uniform testing and identification requirement for interstate movement of dairy cattle that is acceptable to industry, states and other stakeholders.

USAHA encourages the USDA-APHIS-VS to modify the interstate movement requirements in 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter 1, Part 77 and the 2005 Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Uniform Methods and Rules (UMR) to include the following language:

Dairy cattle that originate in a state or zone of any status and are not known to be infected with or exposed to tuberculosis, may be moved interstate only if they are officially identified prior to leaving their premises of birth and comply with one of the following conditions:

- (a) The dairy cattle are moved directly to slaughter at an approved slaughtering establishment or through an approved market and then direct to slaughter.
- (b) Sexually intact dairy cattle are accompanied by a certificate of veterinary inspection that states that the herd of origin is currently accredited.
- (c) The dairy cattle are sexually intact, are 6 months of age or older and are accompanied by a certificate stating that they were negative to an official tuberculosis test conducted within 60 days prior to the date of movement.

USAHA recommends that a definition for dairy cattle be added to both the CFR and the UMR. The definition should read that: dairy cattle are any domesticated bovine dairy animals or crosses of the Bos genus that show at least 50-percent phenotypic characteristics of a dairy breed, including; Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Canadienne, Dutch Belt, Holstein-Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey, Kerry, Milking Devon, Milking Shorthorn, or Norwegian Red.

RESPONSE:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, VETERINARY SERVICES (APHIS-VS)

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is reviewing the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to see if it can accomplish the intent of this regulation. In several areas, the regulations in 9 CFR and the Uniform Methods and Rules are out of synch. However, only the regulations in 9 CFR are legally enforceable. APHIS has under review the proposed changes to 9 CFR, Part 77.