



Radio Frequency Identification Frequently Asked Questions

When will cattle require RFID tags?

As per CCIA policy, as of September 1, 2006 all cattle permanently leaving their Herd of Origin must be tagged with a CCIA approved RFID tag. In order to facilitate the transition to RFID, full enforcement will commence December 31, 2007, at which time the bar-coded tags will be permanently removed from the list of CCIA approved tags.

For example, although it is strongly recommended that all cattle are tagged with a CCIA approved RFID tag as of September 1, 2006, if you do have bar-coded tags left, and you have cattle that will be through the system and to slaughter by the end of 2007, bar-coded tag use would be acceptable. However, the CCIA Board of Directors would like all producers to be aware that as the demand for RFID increases within the industry, it is in everyone's best interest to begin tagging with RFID as soon as possible.

Is there a Dual RFID tag available?

Many producers have indicated that they would like to see a dangle RFID tag available allowing them to indicate their own herd management numbers on the tags. Although one such tag had been previously approved, it has yet to be manufactured. "The CCIA encourages tag manufacturers to submit a variety of tag styles for trial, however each tag submitted must pass both lab and field trials in order to be approved. At this time, no other dangle type RFID tags have passed trial", said Julie Stitt, CCIA Executive Director. All CCIA tags are placed through extensive trials to ensure that they meet all requirements as indicated in the CCIA Standards, Procedures and Testing Document. Stitt adds that, "The CCIA is committed to numerous value-added components that can be associated with RFID tags and will continue to work with tag manufacturers in this regard."

How many CCIA approved RFID tags are there?

Currently there are seven CCIA approved RFID tags. All CCIA approved tags have the following attributes:

- A CCIA identification number unique to the individual animal
- CCIA Trademark (3/4 Maple Leaf and "CA" letters)
- Demonstrate exceptional retention and readability
- Are yellow in color with a yellow backing stud (unless otherwise approved)
- Meet all requirements in the Canadian National Standards for RFID technology

All CCIA approved RFID tags manufactured as of January 1, 2006 will also have the CCIA Trademark (3/4 Maple Leaf and "CA" letters) on the tag backing.

For more information please contact the CCIA at 1-877-909-2333.