



# Identification of Animals Imported from the USA

## IDENTIFICATION OF DAIRY CATTLE WITHIN A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Under Canada's *Health of Animals Regulations*, imported dairy animals must be identified with an approved Canadian tag or an official tag deemed equivalent to Canadian-approved tags, regardless of the duration of their stay in Canada.

## EQUIVALENCY RECOGNIZED

Dairy cattle imported from the United States identified with the American "840" electronic ear tag are considered equivalent to the Canadian approved tag. Farmers and others involved in the Canadian dairy industry no longer have to apply Canadian ear tags to animals imported from the United States that are bearing "840" equivalent tag.

Recognizing American electronic ear tags as being equivalent improves the quality of traceability data and enhances the ability to manage questions regarding health by ensuring the maintenance of the individual identification number of origin for dairy cattle that cross the border.

## DOUBLE IDENTIFICATION: A STANDARD TO BE FOLLOWED

National Livestock Identification for Dairy (NLID) and Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ) require dual tagging for dairy cattle traceability and registration.

### Benefits of having Dual Tagging for dairy: RFID button and visual tag with matching unique number

- Enhances visual recognition of animal for herd management
- Harmonizes herd management ID systems for dairy in Canada
- Ensures a back-up in case of tag loss and one number for the life of the animal



# 124 840

Official Canadian tags have half a maple leaf/CA logo and start with the numbers "124" which is the international numeric country code for Canada. Official US tags have a US shield logo and start with the numbers "840" which cannot be reproduced on tags printed in Canada.



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Agriculture and  
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## WHAT TO DO IF...

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
The animal is identified with two official US tags starting with "840" (RFID button and visual panel tags)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The owner does not need to re-identify the animal; no official Canadian tag needs to be purchased</li> </ul>
The animal is only identified with an official US electronic button tag starting with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Quebec, the owner must complete the identification of the animal by affixing a blank tag with the same number written on it</li> <li>For all other provinces, contact NLID to order your secondary tag</li> </ul>
The animal is not identified with official US RFID tags starting with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Quebec, the owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from ATQ, or use a set from their tag inventory and report import event info to ATQ</li> <li>For all other provinces, the owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from NLID, or use a set from their inventory and report the import event to CCIA</li> </ul>

*If a registered animal is imported to Canada from the US for dairy purposes, the Associations exchange the herdbook data to support registration of future progeny. As part of this process, Holstein Canada will continue to report import events to CCIA.*

### U.S RFID TAG LOSS

The international recognized code for the US is "840" plus the US shield and cannot be reproduced on tags printed in Canada

A dairy animal loses its official US electronic button tag starting with "840", or both US tags (electronic and visual) beginning with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The owner must purchase a set of official Canadian tags from NLID (or ATQ if in Quebec) or use a set from their inventory</li> </ul>
A dairy animal loses its visual US panel tag starting with "840"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Quebec, the owner must complete the identification of their animal by affixing a blank tag and write the same number on it</li> <li>For all other provinces contact NLID to order a secondary panel</li> </ul>

*Replacing lost "840" tags with "124" official tags requires the animal's owner to report both numbers to the administrator database so the numbers can be cross referenced.*

**REPORTING INFORMATION: PAY ATTENTION TO THE REQUIRED DEADLINES!** CCIA = 30 DAYS ATQ = 7 DAYS

## WHAT TO REPORT

Event type (e.g., import) and event date; destination and source of origin premises or account number; tag number and animal information (sex, birthdate)

The requirement to report "import" events applies to all dairy cattle bearing an "840" tag or not

## WHERE TO REPORT

*ATQ (Quebec only)*

- Online, using ATQ Direct, or by using FormCLIC software
- Call ATQ directly at 1 866 270-4319

*CCIA*

- Online on CCIA website using Canadian Livestock Tracking System (CLTS) file upload: <http://www.canadaid.ca/index.html>
- Online Tutorial: <http://support.canadaid.ca>
- Call CCIA directly at 1 877 909-2333

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