

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate distribution

NEW RULES FOR IDENTIFYING DAIRY CATTLE FROM THE UNITED STATES

Longueuil - September 12, 2014 – Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ) is announcing that, starting September 15, 2014, dairy producers and industry stakeholders will no longer have to affix new electronic Canadian tags on animals imported from the United States if these animals are identified with American-approved tags.

In fact, starting on this date, Quebec producers and stakeholders who import American dairy cattle identified as following this regulation, may declare the entry and transfer of these animals by registering the unique 15-digit identification number starting with “840”.

To clarify, as of July 1, 2014, American electronic tags with an official identification number starting with “840”, which is the United States’ numeric country code, along with U.S. shield, are considered as equivalent to the official Canadian tags.

This decision, announced in the update of Part XV of the *Canadian Health of Animals Act*, brings the importation of dairy cattle identified with American-approved electronic tags into conformity with the Canadian requirements for livestock identification and traceability.

The recognition of American electronic tags as being in conformity is aimed at improving the quality of traceability data by ensuring that the individual identification number regarding the origin of dairy cattle is maintained when the dairy cattle cross the Canadian border.

Double identification: the standard still has to be followed

Remember that under the *Règlement sur l’identification et la traçabilité de certains animaux du Québec*, livestock imported into the province must be identified by affixing two approved or official tags, one being an electronic tag and the other a visual tag. It should be noted that this regulation applies to all animals coming from the United States and that dairy cattle with only an American-approved electronic tag must also be identified with an approved visual tag.

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