

OPI: S&T/SISPD

DISPOSITION OF SHEEP AND THEIR CARCASSES
IMPLANTED WITH ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION DEVICES

I. PURPOSE

This directive provides guidance to ensure that electronic identification devices implanted in sheep under the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program do not enter human or animal food channels.

II. [RESERVED]

III. [RESERVED]

IV. REFERENCES

MPI Regulations, Parts 301, 309, 311, 314, and 318
FDA Regulations, 21 CFR Part 170.3
APHIS Regulations, 9 CFR Parts 54 and 74

V. ABBREVIATIONS

The following are used in their shortened form in this directive:

APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
EID	Electronic Identification Device
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
INAD	Investigational New Animal Drug
IO	Inspection Operations
VS	Veterinary Services, APHIS
VSFCP	Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program

VI. DEFINITIONS

A. Scrapie. A nonfebrile, transmissible, insidious, and degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats.

B. Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Program. A voluntary State/Federal/Industry Cooperative Program established and maintained to reduce the occurrence and spread of scrapie, and to identify flocks which have demonstrated freedom from signs of scrapie and freedom from exposure to scrapie over specified periods of time.

C. Electronic Identification Device. An electronic ear implant, required by VS, APHIS, which provides an individual identification for certain sheep in the VSFCP. This device is also known as a

transponder.

D. Sheep Implantation Site. The subcutaneous implant on top of the auricular cartilage at the base of the sheep's ear.

VI. BACKGROUND

A. VS, APHIS, implements the VSFCP in accordance with APHIS Regulations, 9 CFR parts 54 and 74, and the Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Uniform Methods and Rules, referenced further in this document.

B. FDA, which has jurisdiction regarding food additives, considers EIDs to be unapproved food additives for human food or animal feed. Accordingly, the EIDs must be removed from the sheep at the time of slaughter.

C. The Federal Meat Inspection Act sets forth mandatory inspection requirements to ensure the safety, wholesomeness, and proper labeling of meat products. FSIS inspectors condemn and monitor the disposal of carcasses, edible organs and other parts thereof in accordance with MPI Regulations. Meat products cannot contain unapproved additives.

VII. POLICY

A. The Voluntary Scrapie Flock Certification Uniform Methods and Rules require EIDs as the official means of identification. The EIDs should be implanted subcutaneously in the animal's ear. From participating flocks, all sheep 1 year or older are required to be implanted with EIDs. All sheep in the VSFCP flocks less than 1 year of age must be implanted with EIDs whenever a change of ownership occurs, except those sheep moving within slaughter channels.

B. When sheep implanted with EIDs are presented for slaughter, the sheep must be accompanied by an INAD permit number and authorization from the Residue Operations Staff, IO, as set forth in MPI Regulations 309.17 and FDA Regulations, 21 CFR Part 511.1(a)(5), except under the conditions described in Paragraph VII. C. below.

C. Sheep that are implanted with EIDs and that are not accompanied by an INAD number and authorization may be presented for slaughter provided:

1. The sheep are from a flock that is participating in the VSFCP.

2. The sheep are marked, tagged, or otherwise identified by the owner, shipper, or establishment so that the sheep are easily recognized by the FSIS inspector from ante-mortem inspection through disposition of carcasses.

3. The sheep's ears implanted with EIDs do not enter human or animal food chains and are disposed of in accordance with requirements of the particular State or municipal authorities.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Establishment should:

1. Ensure that sheep are identified when notified that VSFCEP sheep are presented for slaughter.

2. Ensure that the identity of the sheep implanted with EIDs is maintained from ante-mortem inspection through disposition of carcasses.

3. Ensure that the ears containing the EIDs do not enter human or animal food channels.

B. FSIS inspector will:

1. Monitor the establishment's identification of VSFCEP sheep presented for slaughter.

2. Monitor the establishment's ability to maintain the identity of sheep implanted with EIDs from ante-mortem inspection through disposition of carcasses.

3. Monitor the establishment's ability to prevent ears containing the EIDs from entering human or animal food channels.

IX. FURTHER GUIDANCE

Any questions regarding this directive should be referred to the next level of supervision.

Craig A. Reed
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