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**OMB Approved**  
0579-0327  
EXP.: XX/XX/XXXX

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
VETERINARY SERVICES

**MANUFACTURER APPLICATION FOR  
OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION DEVICES**

**National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES)  
Metal<sup>1</sup> - Visual only Eartags**

**I. Contact Information**

**Business Information**

Company Name	Contact Person Name
Address	Contact Person Email
	Phone
City, State, ZIP	FAX
Nonproducer Participant Number (NPN)	Company Website (URL)

**Manufacturing Plant Information *(if different from above)***

Company Name	Contact Person Name
Address	Contact Person Email
	Phone
City, State/Province, ZIP (Country if other than US)	FAX

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<sup>1</sup> Please request an application for plastic eartags if you wish to have plastic eartags approved for use with the NUES numbers

## II. Tag Description, Specifications, and Performance

### Manufacturing

What is the company's role regarding the tag being applied for? <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing and imprinting <input type="checkbox"/> Imprinting only	
Manufacturer Product Name of the Applied for Tag	Manufacturer Product Code Number of the Applied for Tag
What is the bi-weekly production capacity for this tag?	What is the anticipated inventory for this tag?

### Physical Description

(See specification section for description of the measurements)

Width (inch)	Inside dimension height after closure (inch)
Weight (grams)	Inside dimension length after closure (inch)

### Species

<p><b>Species for which tag is recommended</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Bison <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle <input type="checkbox"/> Deer/Elk <input type="checkbox"/> Pigs <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list):
<p>Metal NUES tags used for Sheep and Goats use the 8 character NUES numbers and are imprinted on smaller tags and are approved through the Scrapie eradication program.</p>

## III. Official Identification for Other Countries

Please list the National Identification Programs of other countries in which this tag is *currently* an approved tag.

Country	Date Approved	Country	Date Approved

## IV. Specifications, Performance and Quality Controls

### Specifications and Performance of the NUES Tag

The following specifications are required for the production of NUES tags. Clearly explain how the device being applied for meets or exceeds the following criteria (either enter the response in the text box below or submit on a separate attachment). When appropriate, include other reference documentation (charts, summaries, etc.) with the application and note such explanations. **Provide an independent evaluation or self certification when applicable that the submitted device meets or exceeds the listed specifications.**

Evaluation of the tag specifications must adhere to the following criteria for Lab and Field testing if used:

#### ***Laboratory***

The applicant may include information provided by an independent third party, documenting that the device meets or exceeds the tag specifications, listed below and in Table 1, in laboratory test. A minimum of 25 tags is required for this evaluation. Be sure that the test is fully documented and include the contact person of the third party that conducted the test.

#### ***Field Environment (Tag loss rates)***

The applicant must provide information documenting that the device meets or exceeds the Tag loss rates listed in the specifications below and in Table 1. A minimum of 300 observations using at least 100 metal tags over a three month period is required. Be sure that the test is fully documented and includes the contact information of the person that conducted the test.

For clarification, the following codes will be used to identify the side of the tag being described:

- Side 1 -- flat surface with NUES (serial) number
- Side 2 -- flat surface with dimple for lock bar
- Side 3 -- self-piercing tip

#### **• Tag Size and Shape Specifications:**

The width of the tag shall be 5/16 to 11/32 of an inch. The end of Side 2 shall be rounded, not squared. The edges of the tag shall be parallel to each other.

The inside dimension height of the tag after closure shall be 7/16 to 1/2 of an inch at the locking end, measured at 90 degrees to the lock bar. The inside dimension length of the tag after closure shall be 1/4 to 1/2 inches. Side 1 shall not bend upon closure.

- **Metal and Paint Specifications:**

The ear tag shall be made of SAE 1008 nickel—zinc plated steel with a minimum coating thickness per side of 0.000075 inches with a planished finish. The thickness of the metal shall be a minimum of 0.042 inches.

The metal shall provide 75 hours of protection in a salt spray test against red dust ASTM-B117 Specifications. The steel shall not break or crack upon closure of the ear tag.

The tags shall have a Number 5 slit edge with no burrs. (As defined in ASTM Standard A 109-93, Standard Specification for Steel, Strip, Carbon, Cold-Rolled)

- **Tag closure specifications:** The tags shall be of self-piercing and self-locking design. The tag shall have a sharpened tip (Side 3) that will penetrate the animal's ear during the process of closing. Side 3 shall lock/curl under the bar on Side 2 and shall not protrude more than 1/32 of an inch above the inside surface plane of Side 2 after locking.
- **Tamper evident:** One Time Use – Tamper evident locking mechanism  
Explain how the tag is constructed and designed for one-time use (tamper evident). Be sure to clearly explain how the tag cannot be removed from one animal and reapplied to another animal without evidence that this action has occurred.
- **Unalterable stamping:** The stamping on the tag may not be readily altered.
- **Readability:** The characters stamped on the tag must be easily and reliably readable consistent with the makeup and application of the tag.
- **Tag loss rates:** On average, when applied in a manner approved by the manufacturer, not more than 1 percent of tags applied may be lost in the year following application or in any year thereafter under normal field conditions over the expected life of the tag.
- **Expected tag life:** The minimum time that a tag shall be expected to remain on an animal in a functional state (physically) is for the expected life of the animal.

- **Tag toxicity and animal injury:** Tags may do no harm to an animal or affect its health or well-being. Tags may not cause chemical contamination of meat or edible offal or damage the hide.
- **Tag deterioration:** The steel shall not break or crack upon closure of the ear tag.
- **Tag abrasion resistance:** Tags shall not exhibit damage or change due to wear that would render the tag unreadable.

### **Quality Control**

Explain your control measures and ability to produce a tag consistently according to the specifications. Include procedures that will ensure the uniqueness of the NUES is maintained. If applicable, enclose your company's quality control plan.

## V. Application Packet for Submission

### Application and supporting documents

- Ship one hard copy set of the entire application and supporting materials to the address listed below.
- On the date the hard copy application is submitted, email a Portable Document Format (PDF) version of the entire hard copy set to the email addresses listed below. This email provides an alert to ADT staff that your application packet has been shipped.
- Photograph of tag: Submit a close up view of the tag as a digital photo in JPG format with the email containing the pdf version of the application. If the tag is approved, the photo will be used in the listing of NUES tags (see: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT\\_device\\_nues.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/ADT_device_nues.pdf))

### Sample Tags

Provide at least 100 samples of the applied for tag with imprinting as defined in Table 2 in the Appendix of this application. **The NUES test numbers, 60ABC0001 through 60ABC0100, should be imprinted on the tags.** Please package the sample tags so to maintain 25 tags in numerical sequence, e.g., 60ABC0001 through 60ABC025, 60ABC00026 through 60ABC050, etc.

### Tag applicators

Provide three applicators used to apply the tag being applied for.

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## Submit Original Application (hard copy), Sample Tags and Taggers to:

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services  
c/o Animal Traceability Staff  
4700 River Road, Unit #200  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

## Email PDF Application and Digital Photo to:

(Please send the email on the date the application packet is shipped.)

[traceability@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:traceability@aphis.usda.gov)

## Direct Questions To:

Email: [traceability@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:traceability@aphis.usda.gov)

Phone: Daisy M. Witherspoon

301-851-3496

## Appendix

**Table 1 — NUES Tags – Requirements and Description**

<b>Specification and Performance Requirements</b>	
Tag Size and Shape Specifications	The width of the tag shall be 5/16 to 12/32 of an inch. The end of Side 2 shall be rounded, not squared. The edges of the tag shall be parallel to each other. The inside dimension height of the tag after closure shall be 7/16 to 1/2 of an inch at the locking end, measured at 90 degrees to the lock bar. The inside dimension length of the tag after closure shall be 1/4 to 1/2 inches. Side 1 shall not bend upon closure.
Metal and Paint Specifications:	<p>The ear tag shall be made of SAE 1008 nickel—zinc plated steel with a minimum coating thickness per side of 0.000075 inches with a planished finish. The thickness of the metal shall be a minimum of 0.042 inches.</p> <p>The metal shall provide 75 hours of protection in a salt spray test against red dust ASTM-B117 Specifications. The steel shall not break or crack upon closure of the ear tag.</p> <p>The tags shall have a Number 5 slit edge with no burrs. (As defined in ASTM Standard A 109-93, Standard Specification for Steel, Strip, Carbon, Cold-Rolled)</p>
Tag closure specifications	The tags shall be of self-piercing and self-locking design. The tag shall have a sharpened tip (Side 3) that will penetrate the animal's ear during the process of closing. Side 3 shall lock/curl under the bar on Side 2 and shall not protrude more than 1/32 of an inch above the inside surface plane of Side 2 after locking.
Tamper evident	The tag must be designed for one-time use (tamper evident), making it impossible to remove and reapply the tag without visual evidence of tampering
Unalterable stamping	The stamping on the tag may not be readily altered.
Readability	The characters stamped on the tag must be easily and reliably readable consistent with the makeup and application of the tag.
Tag loss rates	On average, when applied in a manner approved by the manufacturer, not more than 1 percent of tags applied may be lost in the year following application or in any year thereafter under normal field conditions over the expected life of the tag.
Expected tag life	The minimum time that a tag shall be expected to remain on an animal in a functional state (physically) is for the expected life of the animal.
Tag toxicity and animal injury	<p>Tags may do no harm to an animal or affect its health or well-being.</p> <p>Tags may not cause chemical contamination of meat or edible offal or damage the hide.</p>
Tag deterioration	The steel shall not break or crack upon closure of the ear tag
Tag abrasion resistance	Tags shall not exhibit damage or change due to wear that would render the tag unreadable.

**Table 2 — Printing Standards NUES Tags**

<b>Stamping Description</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The tag must have the Official Eartag Shield stamped on the outer surface of side 2 opposite the NUES number.</li><li>• The Official Eartag Shield must have a minimum width of 0.2 inches (5mm).</li><li>• The alpha or numeric state/Tribe code must be stamped on side 2 after the Official Eartag Shield.</li><li>• All characters of the NUES number shall be stamped on the outer surface between the radius of the curvature of the Side 3 and the radius of the curvature between Side 1 and Side 2.</li><li>• The font for all characters stamped on the tag must be Helvetica 10 point, if different, approved by USDA.</li><li>• All characters are embedded (stamped) 0.25 mm +1- 0.01 mm into the metal.</li><li>• All characters shall be 3/16 of an inch high and a minimum of 6.5 characters per linear inch (9 characters per 1 7/16 to 1/2 inches).</li><li>• There shall be a minimum of 0.04 of an inch space between characters.</li><li>• The manufacturer logo (or name) or a stamp of a USDA determined single alpha character unique to each manufacturer must be easily observed on the tag after closure. This letter will be used to easily and quickly identify the tags manufacturer when necessary.</li><li>• Printing of other information may be authorized if it does not compromise the readability of the required information.</li></ul>