

## USAHA/AAVLD Information Technology Standards Subcommittee

- I. **Project Name and ID:** Permit Data Standards
- II. **Requesting Group(s):** National Assembly of State Animal Health Authorities.
- III. **Background:** The information contained in the emergency movement permit is extremely important for animal disease incident response and animal disease traceability. Permits are a vital tool for disease containment and support of business continuity during the response to a high consequence disease. Ideally, data from these permit documents could be incorporated into data systems that are used in daily operations for animal health and traceability, thereby adding value while reducing the rework of duplicate data entry. A common data exchange standard will allow developers of both types of systems to support a single electronic exchange format rather than have to customize it for each potential data exchange partner.
  - A. This project is intended to establish a new standard to increase the utility of various database systems and animal health databases by allowing efficient secondary use of the data created and/or captured by those systems. The goal is to leverage the work and processes that have been used in the development of the eCVI data standards.
  - B. The new standard will reduce the need for duplicate data entry and the need for customized extract/transform/load programs for different systems.
- IV. **Project Scope:** This standard establishes a common data format for the exchange of data contained in an electronic emergency movement permit between dissimilar information systems. It also establishes a standard for the electronic exchange of minimal information associated with animal and commodities movement among and within state lines.

It establishes a common exchange “file” format including

- 1. Machine and OS independent transfer language akin to XML or JSON. The actual format is to be determined by the subcommittee. Annotations and definitions of each element included should be clearly noted within the standard as part of the standard.
- 2. Data types: To be decided. (i.e. the type of the value, integer, string, floating points)
- 3. Cardinality: To be decided. (Cardinality is quantitative aspect in a relation of two objects, for example, one to one-or-many relation in which a form must have one or more producers in the database. It is basically stating if the data should be an array or not, and if it can be null or not.)
- 4. Mandatory tags/labels, including whether an empty mandatory tag is allowed: To be decided. (Data fields required, means that the system should reject the processing of the data if any one of those values are missing.)
- 5. Optional tags/labels. These may be accepted, ignored or rejected by a receiving system: To be decided. (List of fields that can be null/missing.)
- 6. Character encoding: To be decided. (The standard is usually UTF-8 it can also be used ISO8859-1 which is the default on windows.)

It establishes or cites existing value sets for all coded elements including a possibly null value(s) and the rules for applying null values (i.e. null vs. space vs. blank vs. 0, etc).

This standard only deals with the data in external transfer from system to system. It does not make any restrictions upon internal representation in either source or destination data system other than support for the external representation established here.

The external representation of the data from an emergency movement permit is not the legally authenticated document that constitutes an emergency movement permit with regards to state or federal regulations.

If cryptographic means are used to protect the data integrity of the exchanged data, that usage is outside the scope of this standard. If encryption is employed, it should not amend/alter the data content that is being transferred. Nor should encryption impede the flow of data from database to database. The choice of the data format should not impede individual implementations from encrypting the data to meet their own requirements.

Mechanisms of storage (i.e. hardware, database, etc.) and transmission (i.e. Internet, flash drive, CD etc.) of the exchanged data are outside the scope of this standard. The data transmission method should not exclude any of the commonly used data transfer methods that are available.

Efforts will be made with this standard to not prevent the end-user from any type of encryption or any type of data transfer method.

- V. **Project Dependencies:** Must be consistent with data elements contained in federal and state definitions of an Emergency Movement Permit. Emergency Movement Permit form data needs to be defined and standardized before the finalization of this standard by NASAHO and USDA APHIS.
- VI. **Project Objectives:**
  - A. Publish a standard for the exchange of data from Emergency Movement Permit.
- VII. **Project Status and Dates:** Initial approval of scope statement, [04/02/2022] by consent (email vote).