eCVI Data Exchange Standard Project Scope Statement

1. Project Name and ID:

eCVI Data Exchange	

2. Requesting Group(s)

National Assembly of State Animal Health Authorities.

3. Background

The information contained in interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (iCVIs) has become increasingly important for animal disease traceability, animal disease control programs, etc. Increasingly, iCVIs are being issued in electronic form (eCVIs). If the data from these electronic documents can be incorporated into animal health and traceability data systems, it can add 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 exchange format rather than have to customize for each potential data exchange partner.

This project is intended to establish a new standard to increase the utility of various eCVI systems and animal health databases by allowing efficient secondary use of the data created and/or captured by those systems.

The new standard will reduce the need for duplicate data entry and the need for customized extract/transform/load programs for different systems.

4. Project Scope:

This standard establishes a common data format for the exchange of data contained in electronic interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (eCVIs) between dissimilar information systems. It also establishes a standard for exchange of minimal “indexing information” that may accompany digitized images of paper interstate certificates of veterinary inspection (iCVIs).

It establishes a common exchange “file” format including:

1. Machine and OS independent transfer language akin to XML, JSON, or other common and open format. Actual format to be determined by the sub-committee. Annotations and definitions of each element included should be clearly noted within the standard as part of the standard.
2. Data types
3. Cardinality
4. Mandatory tags/labels, including whether an empty mandatory tag is allowed.
5. Optional tags/labels. These may be accepted, ignored or rejected by a receiving system.
6. Character encoding
7. Formatting
8. Code comments, tagged comments.
9. Other formatting as required and agreed upon.

It establishes or cites existing value sets for all coded elements including a possible 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 eCVIs is *not* the legally authenticated document that constitutes a certificate of veterinary inspection with regards to state or federal regulations.

If cryptographic means are used to protect 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. Effort will be made with this standard to *not* prevent the end user from any type of encryption or any type of data transfer method.

5. Project Dependencies:

Must be consistent with data elements contained in federal and state definitions of a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. iCVI form data needs to be defined and standardized before finalization of this standard by NASAHO and USDA-APHIS.	

6. Project Objectives:

● Publish a standard for the exchange of data from eCVIs	
● Publish a standard for the exchange of data used to index scanned paper iCVIs	

7. Project Status and Dates:

Initial approval of scope statement	March 27, 2013 by unanimous consent (email vote)