**AAVLD/USAHA Committee on Surveillance and Information Systems  
Subcommittee on Interoperability Data Standards**

**eCVI Data Exchange Standard Version 2  
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.

1. **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. The standard will support but not require all data elements found in eCVIs that have value in data exchange between dissimilar systems. It will not be expected to explicitly support proprietary extension features. The minimum required elements will constitute the smallest quanta of information that would be meaningfully derived from an ICVI and exchanged between information systems.

The work will explicitly support only livestock and poultry (to roughly correspond with those species requiring Level II NVAP accreditation) eCVIs however it may be used for companion animal eCVIs as long as only value sets such as species require adaptation. Any further customization for companion animal eCVIs may be moved to a new project as a derived standard. Other derived standards may include animal sightings, brand inspections, etc. that consist largely of subsets or supersets of eCVI data. This main eCVI data exchange standard will be able to function as a model for such subsets and supersets but not to explicitly define those derived standards.

It establishes a common exchange “file” format including:

1. For consistency with version 1, the exchange format will be XML and XML schema language 1.0 will be the standard format.)
   1. Annotations and definitions of each element included should be clearly noted within the standard as part of the standard.
   2. Human readable description of the data file structure and content will be developed as non-normative supplemental material.
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

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 eCVI 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.

1. **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 USDA­APHIS.

1. **Project Objectives:**

Publish a standard for the exchange of data from eCVIs

1. **Project Status and Dates:**

Approval of version 2 scope statement [mmm dd, yyyy] by unanimous consent