



AIM,™ USA
**Companion Animal
Electronic ID User Requirements**

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1 Introduction

The task of identifying companion animals (pets) and reuniting them with their owners is the charter of the approximately 3,000 animal shelters across the United States. The overwhelming majority of these stray pets have no visible form of identification. Electronic identification using RFID transponders provides permanent, unalterable, and unique identification of companion animals, thereby creating a better chance to return them to their owners, rather than being placed with new owners or unnecessarily euthanized.

The efficacy of an electronic identification system used to identify companion animals is determined by how well the system satisfies the following three basic requirements:

- A) **Be Safe and Humane** - The injection or attachment of the transponder must be as painless as possible, cause minimal trauma to tissue, be non-toxic/non-carcinogenic, and have a low propensity to move (i.e., migrate).
- B) **Be Reliably Read** - The transponder should be unaffected by body tissue and fluids, be expected to operate properly over the life of the animal, and be reliably read by the scanner under expected animal shelter conditions of electrical noise, temperature, and other environmental conditions. The scanner must operate properly under field use conditions.
- C) **Have Minimal Impact on operations** - The animal scanner should require minimal time for personnel to operate and reliably acquire the transponder's identification number from each animal. The reading operation should minimize risk of personnel injuries due to handling of the animal (i.e., bitten/scratched). The animal scanner should meet compatibility requirements to eliminate the need to scan the animal more than once.

To assure these basic requirements are adequately satisfied, this document defines minimum performance requirements for companion animal electronic identification systems and their component parts: transponder, scanner, and delivery system.

This document shall be complemented by veterinary practices and procedures guidelines. Changes and amendments to this document shall follow current AIM_{USA} practices for technical documents. As a minimum this document shall be reviewed and revised, reaffirmed, or withdrawn every 5 years.

2 Scope

This document shall apply to the electronic identification of companion animals.

3 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish minimum performance requirements for electronic identification of companion animals.

4 References

- 4.1** *Companion Animal Electronic Identification Veterinary Practices and Procedures Guidelines* - available from the American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931 Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360

5 Definitions

- 5.1** AIM_{USA}: The trade association of the Automatic Data Collection (ADC) industry.
- 5.2** Companion Animal: An animal kept predominately for pleasure.
- 5.3** RFID: Radio frequency identification.
- 5.4** Scanner: An electronic device (sometimes called a reader) which creates a magnetic field to power a transponder and receives, decodes, and displays the unique identification number from the transponder. The scanner may provide various other functions and features to the user.
- 5.5** Transponder: An electronic device which receives power via a magnetic field from a scanner and transmits its unique identification number via a magnetic field back to the scanner.
- 5.6** Injectable Transponder: A hermetically sealed biocompatible transponder suitable for injecting into animals.
- 5.7** Passive: Externally powered.

6 Requirements

The purpose of this section is to define performance criteria that will assist in developing a comprehensive standard for companion animal RFID.

6.1 Transponder

6.1.1 Size

The transponder electronics employed shall be capable of meeting the size requirements of injectable transponders as defined in Section 7.1.

6.1.2 Materials

The transponder materials shall be non-harmful to the companion animal.

6.1.3 Operating Life

The transponder shall be passive. The transponder shall operate properly when interrogated with a compatible reader over the expected life of the animal.

6.1.4 Reliability

The transponder shall have a read reliability >99.9% immediately after injection and greater than 98% after 5 years.

6.1.5 Identification Number

The transponder design shall provide a minimum of 238 unique identification numbers and the transponder identification number encoding process shall prevent duplicate numbers from being produced. There will be a manufacturers code. The transponder design shall be such that the identification number cannot be modified once the transponder fabrication is complete.

6.1.6 Operating and Storage Temperature

The transponder shall operate to required performance standards over the temperature range of -20°C to +50°C (-4°F to +122°F). The transponder shall be capable of surviving a storage temperature of -40°C to +90°C (-40°F to +194°F).

6.1.7 Read Compatibility

The transponder shall be excited and correctly read by the scanner identified in Section 6.2.

6.2 Scanner

The scanner shall provide the functions and performance levels required for use in a veterinary hospital, in an animal shelter, and by animal control personnel in outdoor field conditions. The embodiment of the scanner shall be capable of reading any transponder meeting the requirements of the TBD AIM_{USA} Technical Specifications.

6.2.1 Hand-Held Scanner

The hand-held scanner shall be capable of exciting the transponder at distances, areas, and transponder orientations specified below. Once the transponder is excited, the scanner shall receive, process, and display the transponder identification number within 1 second.

6.2.1.1 Read Performance

The scanner shall be capable of powering and reading the transponder at a minimum distance of 4 inches over an area of one foot square within 10 seconds at a velocity of one foot per second. The transponder may be at any arbitrary orientation with respect to the scanner antenna.

6.2.1.2 Read Accuracy

The scanner shall employ error checking techniques to prevent false identification number readings. The probability that the identification number read and displayed is inaccurate shall be less than 10^{-6} .

6.2.1.3 Displays, Controls, and Indicators

The transponder identification number shall be displayed by an alpha and/or numeric display with a character size suitable for easy reading by the operator. The scanner operation shall require the use of only one hand. In addition to the display of the transponder identification number, the scanner shall provide an indication that a transponder has been read.

6.2.1.4 Operating Temperature

The scanner shall provide performance in accordance with the minimum standards while operating in an ambient temperature between 0°C and +65 C (+32°F and +149°F)

6.2.1.5 Storage Temperature

The scanner shall provide performance in accordance with the minimum standards after indefinite storage at any temperature between -20°C and +70°C (-4°F and +158°F) after being returned to the operating temperature range.

6.2.1.6 Humidity

The reader shall be capable of storage and operation at relative humidity levels to 95% (non-condensing).

6.2.2 Hands Free Scanner

The hands free scanner shall be capable of exciting the transponder at distances, areas, and transponder orientations specified below.

6.2.2.1 Read Performance

The scanner shall be capable of reading the transponder without the use of the operator's hands at any arbitrary orientation of the transponder with reference to the scanner antenna as a companion animal is walked or carried by the face of the antenna.

6.2.2.2 Read Accuracy

Same as Section 6.2.1.2.

6.2.2.3 Displays, Controls, and Indicators

The transponder identification number shall be displayed by an alpha and/or numeric display with a character size suitable for easy reading by the operator. In addition to the display of the transponder identification number, the scanner shall provide an indication that a transponder has been read.

6.2.2.4 Operating Temperature

Same as Section 6.2.1.4

6.2.2.5 Storage Temperature

Same as Section 6.2.1.5

6.2.2.6 Humidity

Same as Section 6.2.1.6

6.2.3 Backward Compatibility

Backward compatible scanners may be either hand-held or hands free. The backward compatible scanner shall have the capability to reliably read the three transponder types being injected into companion animals in the United States as of October 1, 1993: the Trovan ID-100, the Destron TX1400L, and the AVID ITI-125S, as well as any new transponder meeting the requirements of the TBD AIM_{USA} technical standard.

6.3 Veterinary Practices and Procedures Guidelines

Guidelines for the implantation of a transponder are contained in Companion Animal Electronic Identification Veterinary Practices and Guidelines (Reference 4.1).

7 Requirements Specific to Injectable Transponders

7.1 Size

The transponder shall have a maximum length of 12 millimeters and be easily implanted using a 12 gauge or smaller diameter needle.

7.2 Encapsulation

The transponder circuit components shall be hermetically sealed in biocompatible glass or materials having the hermetic properties of glass.

7.3 Materials

The transponder materials shall cause no harm to the companion animal in the event of failure of the transponder capsules hermetic seal.



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