

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION ACT, 2002

(ACT NO. 6 OF 2002)

GENERAL INFORMATION

There are some legal obligations when a person has registered an animal identification mark, or when a person has been registered as a Marking Operator. The following information will assist you with the practical implications thereof.

1. APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION (Section 5)

An owner of cattle, sheep and goats must **apply for the registration** of an identification mark and mark his or her animals in the prescribed manner. There is a prescribed fee payable. Owners of other animals may also apply for the registration of an identification mark, but it is only compulsory to mark cattle, sheep and goats.

When a mark becomes **invisible** or indistinct the animal must be **re-marked**. Owners must also notify the Registrar in writing of any **change of address**.

2. DUTIES OF OWNERS WITH THE DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS (Section 7)

Any owner of an animal **with an identification mark** on it, who wants to sell, barter or give away the animal **within 14 days** after he or she became the owner of such animal, must provide the new owner with a **document of identification**.

- This means that **within 14 days** the animal **can** be disposed of without having being branded with the new owner's mark since it already has the previous owners mark and a document of identification has been issued.

An owner of an animal who wants to sell, barter or give away an animal **after 14 days** of becoming the owner of such animal, must **mark** the animal with his or her **own mark** before disposing of it. The owner must also provide to the new owner a **document of identification**. The new owner must **keep** the document of identification for a period of **one year**.

- This means that **after 14 days** the animal **can not** be disposed of without having being branded with the new owner's mark and a document of identification.

3. ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION (Section 8 – Regulation 5)

It is now possible to apply to the Registrar for alternative ways of identifying animals. Stockowners must, however, take note that this will not apply to individual owners. Only requests for the marking of certain groups of animals or species will be considered.

Should such a request be granted, it would be subjected to strict conditions in order to simplify the work of the Stock Inspectors and the SAPS. Provisions that would be implemented in such a case would include the application of a single mark (brand/tattoo) indicating that the animals are micro-chipped. It will also be a requirement that all those using this method have a scanner/reader available at all times.

4. MARKING OPERATORS (Section 11 – Regulation 7)

It is important to note that any person marking animals for other stock owners, for a profit, must be registered as a marking operator. These people must apply to the Registrar on the prescribed form obtainable from the Registrar's office. They must submit the form as well as the prescribed fee of R100 to the Registrar.

The Registrar will inform these marking operators where to attend the prescribed course. After completion of the course, the Institute of Instruction will inform the Registrar in writing, if the applicant has passed the course and who can be registered as Marking Operators. The Registrar will then issue certificates of registration.

5. DUTIES OF MARKING OPERATORS (Section 11 – Regulation 7(4))

A person who has been registered as a marking operator must maintain a **register** of animals marked by him or her. The following information must be recorded:

- (a) name and address of the owner whose animals were marked;
- (b) date on which the such animals were marked;
- (c) the type or specified breed of animals that were marked;
- (d) number of animals that were marked;
- (e) the method of identification;
- (f) the date on which the owner's identification mark was registered; and
- (g) the registered identification mark of the owner.

6. PROCEDURES FOR POUND-MASTERS (Section 14 – Regulation 8)

The procedures to be followed by a pound master if an animal bearing an identification mark is impounded, are to send by certified post to the owner a notice containing –

- (a) the name and address of the pound;
- (b) the name and address of the owner of the identification mark;
- (c) the description of the identification mark;
- (d) the description of the animals in the pound;
- (e) the number of animals of each description;
- (f) the date on which the animals of each description were impounded;
- (g) the date on which the animals of each description will be auctioned; and
- (h) the date of issue of such notice.

7. MARKING OF REGISTERED (STUD) ANIMALS

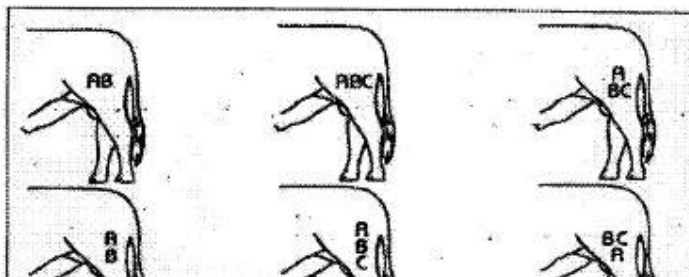
Registered animals are marked with marks allocated by the relevant Breeder's Society. The Breeder's Society will prescribe the method of marking (branding or tattooing). Certificates of registration issued by the Breeder's Society must accompany registered animals sold at public auctions.

8. SIZES OF IDENTIFICATION MARKS (Section 18 – Regulation 9)

- (1) **Large stock:** The size of a character by means of:
- tattooing**, must not be more than **20 mm** at the widest and the highest part.
 - branding**, must be between **40 mm and 100 mm** at the widest and the highest part.
- (2) **Small stock:**
- tattooing**, must not be more than **20 mm** at the widest and the highest part.
- (3) **Ostriches:** The size of a character by means of –
- tattooing**, must not be more than **20 mm** at the widest and the highest part.
 - branding**, must be more than **25 mm** at the widest and the highest part.

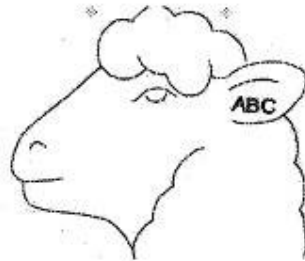
9. SHAPE, PATTERN AND COMPOSITION (Section 18 - Regulation 10)

- (1) **Large stock:**
- An identification mark in the case of large stock must consist of **one to three** characters.
 - In the case of **tattooing**, the characters of an identification mark consisting of more than one character must be **tattooed from left to right, next to each other, and 6 mm apart**.
 - In the case of **branding**, the identification mark must be **branded** –
 - next to** and **20 mm** from each other;
 - below** and **20 mm** from each other;
 - triangular pattern** in which the first character forms the apex and the other two characters, applied next to and **20 mm** from each other and 20 mm below the first character, form the base; or
 - triangular pattern** in which the first character forms the bottom and the other two characters, applied next to and **20 mm** from each other, and 20 mm above the first character, from the top edge.



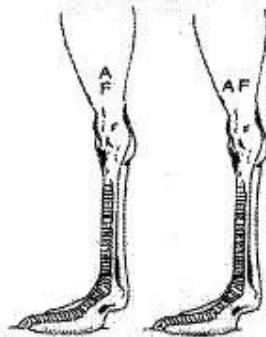
(2) **Small stock:**

An identification mark in the case of small stock must consist of **one to three** characters and the characters must be **tattooed next to each other, from left to right and 6 mm apart.**

(3) **Ostriches:**

An identification mark in the case of ostriches must consist of **one to two** characters and the characters must be –

- (a) **branded next to and 6 mm** from each other;
- (b) **branded below and 6 mm** from each other; or
- (c) **tattooed next to and 6 mm** from each other.

10. **AGE OF LIVESTOCK AT THE TIME OF MARKING (Section 18 – Regulation 11)**(a) **Cattle:**

- (i) **Must** be marked by the age of **six months**
- (ii) **can** be tattooed from the age of **one month**; or
- (iii) **can** be branded at the age of **six months**; and
- (iv) **must** be branded by the age of the **first pair of permanent incisors (two-tooth stage).**

(b) **Small stock:** must be tattooed at the age of **one month.**

(c) **Pigs:** can be **tattooed** at the age of **one month**.

(d) **Ostriches:**

- (i) can be **tattooed** at the age of **one month**; and
- (ii) can be **branded** at the age of **six months**.

(e) **Equine –**

- (i) can be **tattooed** at the age of **six months**; and
- (ii) can be **branded** by the age of **twelve months**.

11. PARTS ON WHICH ANIMALS MUST BE IDENTIFIED (Section 18 – Regulation 12)

(1) **Cattle:**

- (a) **tattoo mark:** the mark must be applied in the **left or right ear**; and
- (b) **brand mark:** the mark must be applied **on any clearly visible part**, with the exception of the neck.

(2) **Small stock:**

the mark must be **tattooed** in the **left or right ear**.

(3) **Pigs:**

the mark must be **tattooed** in the **left or right ear**.

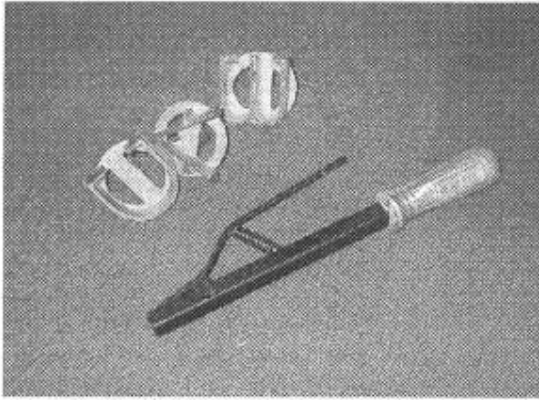
(4) **Ostriches:**

- (a) **ostriches:** **under** the age of **six months**, the tattoo mark must be applied **under the left or right wing**;
- (b) **ostriches:** **over** the age of **six months**, the **brand mark** must be applied on the **left or right outer thigh**.

(5) **Equine:**

- (a) **tattoo mark:** the mark must be applied on the **upper jaw, lower lip, left or right ear**.
- (b) **brand mark:** the mark must be applied on **any clearly visible part**, with the exception of the neck.

BRANDING EQUIPMENT



TATTOOING EQUIPMENT

