

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NOTICE OF 2003

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION ACT, 2002 (ACT No. 6 OF 2002)

REGULATIONS

The Minister of Agriculture has, in terms of section 18 of the Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No. 6 of 2002), made the regulations set out in the Schedule hereto.

SCHEDULE

[*Note:* The figures and letters specified in square brackets at the headings of regulations denote the numbers of the applicable sections in the Act serving as authority thereto.]

Definitions

1. Unless the context otherwise indicates, words and phrases in these regulations must have the same meaning assigned thereto in the Act, and –

"character" means a symbol or letter with a pattern which substantially conforms with a character indicated in the Annexure, but does not include a numeral;

"large stock" means cattle and equine, and includes any other species of animals which the Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* declare to be large stock for the purposes of the Act;

"numeral mark" as a noun, means a numeral or numerals applied on animals, irrespective of whether or not it leaves a permanent mark or scar;

"small stock" means sheep and goats, and includes any other species of animals which the Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* declare to be small stock for the purposes of this Act;

"tattoo" means any mark made by inserting ink or other pigment or colouring matter into punctures made on any animal;

"the Act" means the Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No. 6 of 2002).

Identification marks for groups [4]

2. Only the characters as set out in Annexure 1 may be used as identification marks.

Application for registration of an identification mark [5(1)]

3. (1) An application for registration of an identification mark must be made on the form obtainable from the registrar and should be submitted to the registrar.

(2) The fee that must accompany the application is set out in item 1 of Annexure 2.

Register of identification marks [6]

4. The register of identification marks kept in terms of section 6 of the Act must contain particulars regarding-

- (a) the identification mark allocated in terms of section 5 of the Act;
- (b) the full name, identity number, permanent and physical address of the owner of such mark;
- (c) the date on which the identification mark was issued;

Application for alternative method of identification [8]

5. An owner or group of owners may apply for an alternative method of identification by completing the relevant form obtainable from the registrar and submitting it to the registrar.

Transfer of identification marks [9; 10]

6. (1) An application for the transfer of an identification mark must be made on the form obtainable from the registrar and should be submitted to the registrar.

(2) The fee that must accompany the application is set out in item 2 of Annexure 2.

Marking operator [11(1) (a),(b),15(1),16(a)(b)]

7. (1) A person must apply for registration as a marking operator by completing the relevant form obtainable from the registrar and submitting it to the registrar.

(2) The fee payable by an applicant is set out in item 3 of Annexure 2.

(3) The applicant must have successfully completed a course of instruction on –

- (a) the theory and technique of “hot iron branding”;
- (b) the theory and technique of “freeze branding”;
- (c) the theory and technique of tattooing;
- (d) the theory and technique of restraining and marking animals;
- (e) the legislation regarding the identification of animals; and
- (f) the legislation regarding the welfare of animals.

(4) A marking operator must keep a register of animals marked by him or her. The following must be recorded –

- (a) name and address of the owner whose animals were marked;
- (b) date on which the concerned animals were marked;
- (c) the kind or specified breed of such kind 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.

(5) The registrar must keep a register of marking operators to record –

- (a) the registration number of each operator;
- (b) the full name, identity number and address of each operator;
- (c) the date on which each operator completed the required course; and
- (d) the date of each registration.

Procedures for pound-masters [14]

8. (1) 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.

Character sizes for identification marks [18(1)(a)]

9. (1) In the case of large stock, the size of a character at the time of the application of an identification mark by means of:

- (a) tattooing, must not exceed 20 mm in width at the widest and 20 mm in height at the highest part;
- (b) branding, must not be less than 40 mm and exceed 100 mm in width at the widest part and must not be less than 40 mm and exceed 100 mm in height at the highest part.

(2) In the case of small stock, the size of a character at the time of the application of an identification mark by means of tattooing, must not exceed 20 mm in width at the widest and 20 mm in height at the highest part.

(3) In the case of ostriches, the size of a character at the time of the application of a identification mark by means of –

- (a) tattooing, must not exceed 20 mm in width at the widest and 20 mm in height at the highest part.
- (b) branding, must not exceed 25 mm in width at the widest and 25 mm in height at the highest part.

Shape, pattern and composition of identification marks and the manner of marking [18 (1)(a) and (d)]

10. (1) (a) An identification mark in the case of large stock must consist of one to three characters.
- (b) 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, and 6 mm from each other.
- (c) In the case of branding, the identification mark must be branded –
- (i) next to and 20 mm from each other;
 - (ii) below and 20 mm from each other;

- (iii) in an equilateral 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
- (iv) in an equilateral 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, form the top edge.

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

(3) 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.

Age of animals at the time of marking [18(1)(c)]

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.

Parts on which animals must be identified and the positions in which successive identification marks must be applied in relation to each other [18(1)(d)]

12. (1) In the case of cattle –
- (a) the identification mark by means of tattooing must be applied in the left or right ear; and
 - (b) the identification mark by means of branding must be applied on any clearly visible part, with the exception of the neck.
- (2) In the case of small stock, the identification mark must be applied by means of tattooing in the left or right ear.

- (3) Pigs, the identification mark must be applied by means of tattooing in the left or right ear.
- (4) In the case of –
 - (a) ostriches under the age of six months, the identification mark must be applied by means of tattooing under the left or right wing;
 - (b) ostriches over the age of six months, the identification mark must be applied by means of branding on the left or right outer thigh.
- (5) In the case of equine –
 - (a) the identification mark by means of tattooing must be applied on the upper jaw, lower lip, left or right ear.
 - (b) the identification mark by means of branding must be applied on any clearly visible part, with exception of the neck.

ANNEXURE 1

A	A	A	A	S	S		2
B	B	B	B	T	T	T	T
C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U
D	D	D	D	V	V	V	V
E	E	E	E	W	W	W	W
F	F	F	F	X	X	≡	£
G	G	G	G	Y	Y	Y	Y
H	-	I	I	Z	N	△	◇
J	J	J	J	^	v	l	l
K	K	K	K	()	+	-
L	L	L	L	♥	♥	♥	♥
M	M	M	M	♣	♣	♣	♣
N	N		O	☾	☾	☾	☾
P	P	P	P	¥	¥	¥	¥
Q	Q	\$	\$	F	G	1	P
R	R	R	R	R)	(

ANNEXURE 2**Fees payable**

1. Application for the registration of an identification mark [reg.3(a)].....	R100,00 per application.
2. Application for the transfer of registration of an identification Mark [reg.5(b)].....	R100,00 per application.
3. Application for the registration of a marking operator [reg. 11 (1)(b)].....	R100,00 per application.