

GUIDELINES FOR CATTLE IDENTIFICATION AND MARKETING

BACKGROUND: This document was developed by the Meat Board of Namibia with inputs by the Directorate of Veterinary Services. The purpose of this document is to provide a visual guideline on the identification requirements for cattle in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011) in Namibia, and includes the identification requirements for the keeping and for the marketing of cattle.

GENERAL CATTLE IDENTIFICATION: The Animal Identification Regulations (2017) in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011) states the following regarding the **identification of cattle (Section 20):**

1. An owner of cattle must ensure that each cattle is identified by means of an approved device (official ear tags);
2. In the case of the official ear tags,
 - a. A primary ear tag must be applied to the left ear; and
 - b. A secondary ear tag must be applied to the right ear,to ensure that identification of cattle is possible if one ear tag is lost.

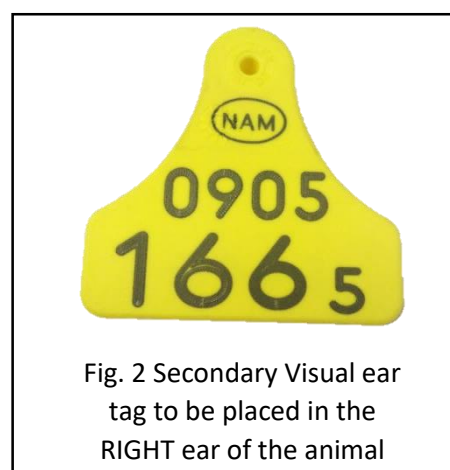
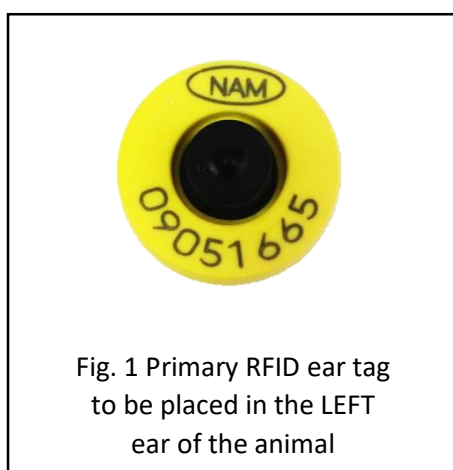
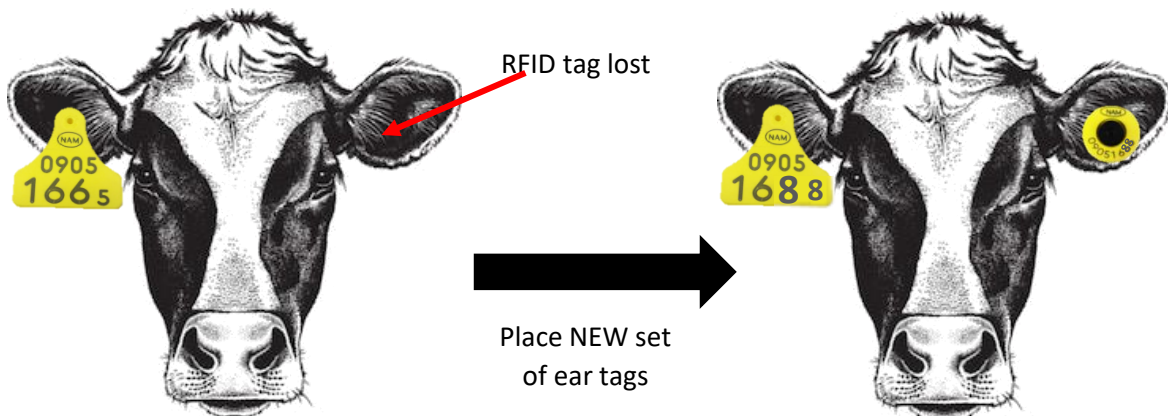


Fig. 3 Correct placement of ear tags

3. Calves must be identified with ear tags by the age of 6 months, regardless if being sold or kept for breeding or fattening purposes;
4. No cattle (including calves) may leave the place of origin at any stage without BOTH ear tags;
5. If, at any stage, the primary ear tag is lost or ineffective, the owner of the cattle must replace BOTH ear tags and complete an ear tag replacement form and submit to the nearest State Veterinary office OR do an ear tag replacement on NamLITS online. This must be done within 28 days of becoming aware of the missing or ineffective tag, OR before the animal leaves the establishment, whichever occurs first;
6. If, at any stage, the secondary ear tag is lost, the owner of the cattle must replace it with another approved ear tag of the same colour and the same number (insert a blank tag with the same number written on it as what is displayed on the RFID primary ear tag).

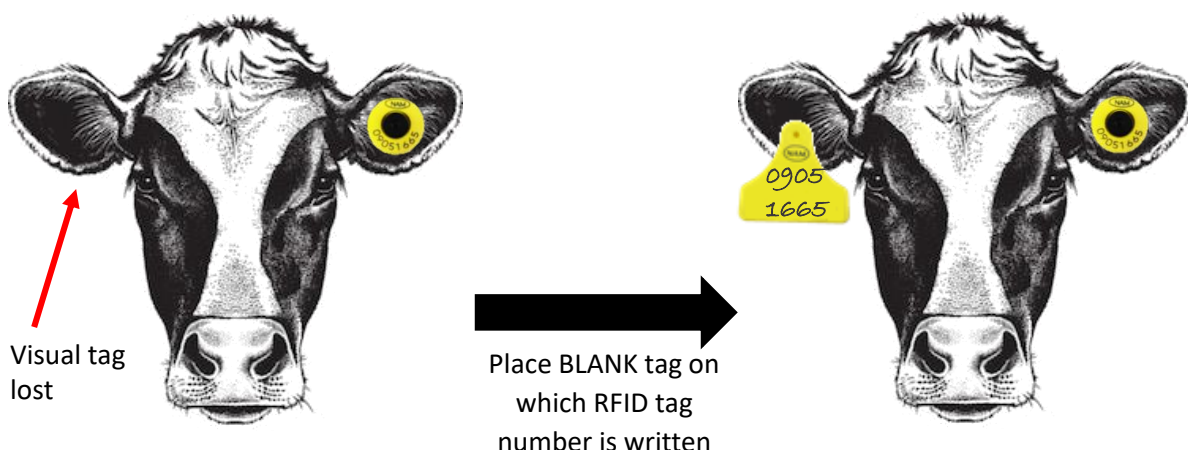
Scenario 1: Primary ear tag lost on the farm.

Action: Replace both ear tags with a complete set of new ear tags and complete a replacement form or do a tag replacement on NamLITS online. DO NOT terminate the old number and register a new number as cattle will then lose their residency period.



Scenario 2: Secondary ear tag lost on the farm.

Action: Use a blank tag, which can be obtained from the Meat Board, and write the same number as is displayed on the RFID primary ear tag. No further action needed.

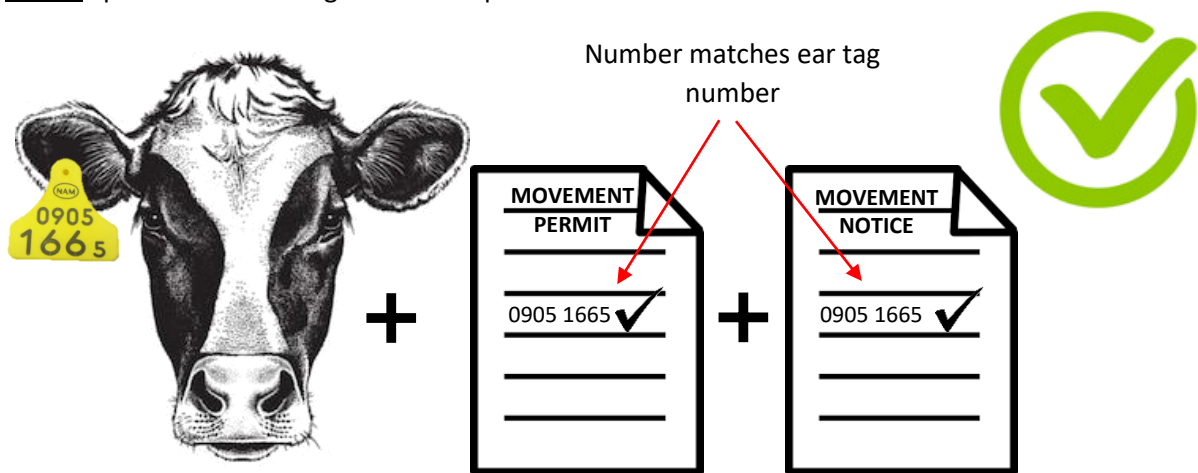


IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MARKETING TO AN ABATTOIR OR TO EXPORT: The Animal Identification Regulations (2017) in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011) states the following regarding the loss of ear tags on the way to the abattoir or the border (Section 23):

1. When cattle leave the place of origin (farm) all cattle must have both ear tags;
2. When cattle arrive at the abattoir or the border with EITHER the primary or the secondary tag AND a movement permit AND a movement notice AND the animal can be traced, then the animal can proceed to be slaughtered or exported.

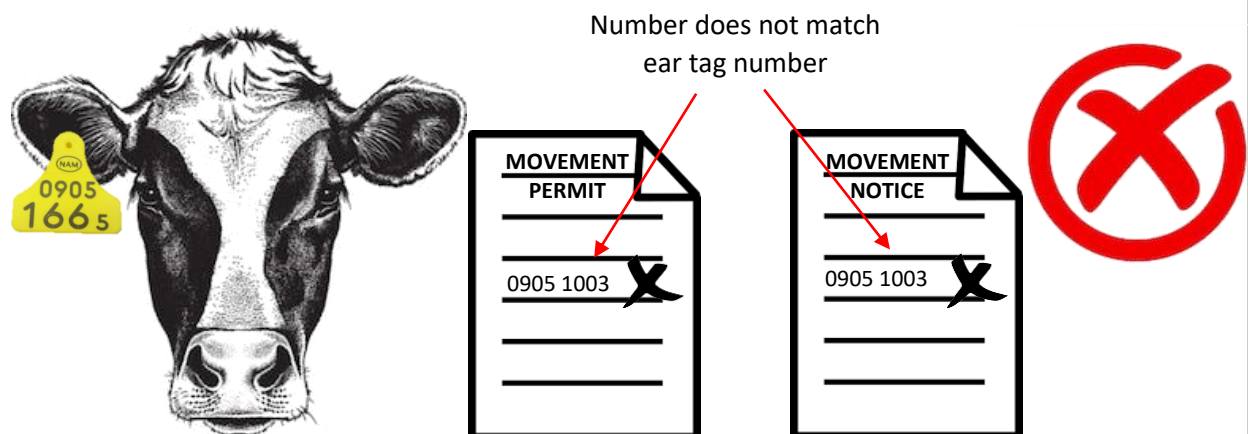
Scenario 1: One ear tag lost on the way to the abattoir or border. Can provide movement permit and notice with the relevant number on it and the animal can be traced

Action: proceed to be slaughtered or exported



Scenario 2: One ear tag lost on the way to the abattoir or border. Can NOT provide movement permit and notice with the relevant number on it and the animal can NOT be traced

Action: CANNOT proceed to be slaughtered or exported



IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MARKETING TO AN ANIMAL GATHERING (AUCTION): The Animal Identification Regulations (2017) in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011) states the following regarding the **loss of ear tags on the way to an Animal Gathering (Section 23):**

("animal gathering" means an event at which animals are brought together for the purpose of marketing, health events, fairs, exhibitions, public sales, parades or race meetings of animals or any other similar events as may be determined by Chief Veterinary Officer;)

1. When cattle leave the place of origin (farm) all cattle must have both ear tags;
2. When cattle arrive at the place of gathering, and has lost ANY ear tag on the way to the gathering, and cannot be individually identified, then that animal cannot participate in the gathering event (auction);
3. When cattle arrive at the animal gathering, and has lost ANY ear tag on the way to the gathering, AND the animal is individually identifiable, provided that there is substantive evidence that the animal indeed had both ear tags (i.e a hole on the ear that had lost the ear tag or the ear tag that fell off is available, e.t.c) then that animal can proceed to participate in the gathering event (auction).
4. Any cattle movement must be accompanied by a Movement Permit and Movement Notice displaying the relevant ear tag numbers.

Scenario 1: Ear tag lost and CANNOT be individually identified, with no evidence that animal originally had 2 ear tags:

Action: CANNOT participate in auction



Scenario 2: Ear tag lost and CAN be individually identified, with evidence that animal originally had 2 ear tags.

Action: CAN participate in auction

