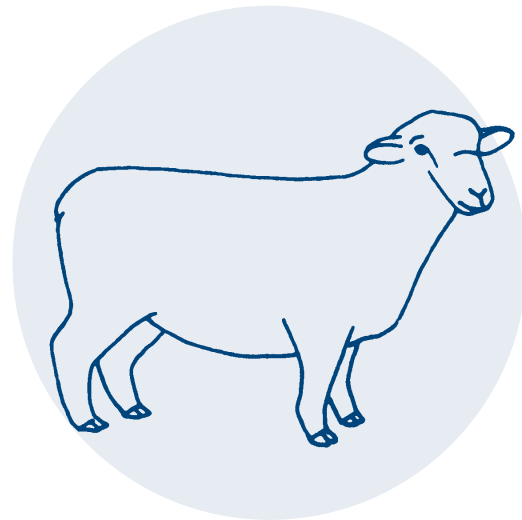


Sheep and goat brands and earmarks

Owners' manual



If you have any questions about any aspect of the registration or the use of brands and/or earmarks, contact:

Registrar of Brands
 Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
 Primary Industries Building
 80 Ann St, Brisbane, Queensland
 Post: GPO Box 46, Brisbane Qld 4001
 Telephone: (07) 3539 3574 or (07) 3239 3573
 Call Centre: 13 25 23 (at local call rates)
 Web: www.dpi.qld.gov.au/health/3836.html
 Email Address: brands@dpi.qld.gov.au

Or ask your local stock inspector.

Age or class marks

Any owner of a registered sheep earmark or sheep brand may use any number of distinctive marks to denote the age or class of his or her sheep or goats, but such distinctive marks shall not be made on the same ear as the registered sheep earmark, and shall not be such as, in the opinion of the registrar or an inspector, is similar to or readily convertible into any sheep earmark registered and used in the same locality.

Travelling sheep

The *Stock Act 1915* requires all travelling sheep to be branded with the letter 'T' not less than 75 mm long.

Exceptions are where sheep:

- (i) are legibly branded with the owner's registered sheep paint brand and are intended to be driven not more than 65 km, or conveyed by rail or motor vehicle to their destination; or
- (ii) are intended to be driven to a pound; or
- (iii) are stud sheep travelling to a sale or show; or
- (iv) are fat lambs travelling to a saleyard or licensed slaughter house.

Brand returns

Section 18 of the *Brands Act* requires that a person who is the owner of a registered brand or registered earmark on the first day of January of any year shall, before the thirty-first day of January of that year furnish to the Registrar a return. Failure to furnish such return for three consecutive years will render the brand and earmark of any owner liable for cancellation.

These returns are used to continually update the brands register and:

- identify brands being incorrectly used.
- allow cancellation of brands no longer in use so that they may be reissued to other applicants.
- check that the brands and earmarks are being used in the correct district for which they are registered.
- check that a brand is correctly registered.
- identify the need for a transfer, change of address/name or some other action.

A **brands return form** must be completed and forwarded in January every year.

If there is no change to brand details, returns may

be submitted by phoning (07) 3239 3577, (07) 3239 3573 or 13 25 23 at local rates.

Forms are available from:

- the Brands office.
- every DPI office.
- police stations and clerks of the court (in most country areas).
- the DPI website at www.dpi.qld.gov.au

Sheep ownership

Branding of sheep or goats is not compulsory, but when an animal is branded with a legally registered brand or earmark, it does constitute proof of ownership in the absence of proof to the contrary.

Sheep and goat brands

(Sheep brands are also used on goats.)

Sheep and goat brands are registered for use within a particular district and cannot be used in any other district.

Brand information

- Fire brands and paint brands may be registered for use on sheep.
- There is no specific size for sheep brands; however they are required to be of a practical size for legibility.
- Fire brands may be of any shape not already registered, but can only be registered for use on horn.
- Paint brands may take the form of a letter, numeral or other shape. The letter 'T' may not be a registered symbol.

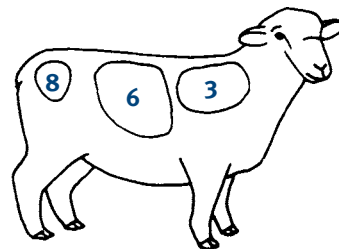
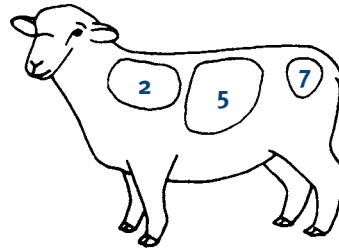
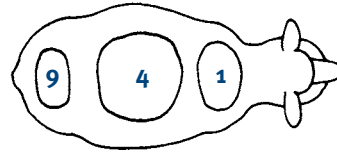
What can be a sheep brand?

- One or two letters of the alphabet *or* one or two numbers *or* one letter and one number can be a sheep brand. Other shapes or designs may be registered in which case the brand is known as a symbol paint brand.
- There are only three legal colours which may be used – blue, red and green. Use of tar or any colour other than those mentioned above is illegal and does not constitute proof of ownership.

Positions for branding

Paint brands are registered in a specific colour for use in a specified position. The only positions which may be registered are as shown below. The 'off' refers to the right side of the animal and the 'near' refers to the left side of the animal.

1. between shoulders
2. near shoulder
3. off shoulder
4. middle of back
5. near rib
6. off ribs
7. near rump
8. off rump
9. top of rump



Sheep and goat earmarks

Sheep and goat earmarks are registered for use within a particular district.

- Sheep and goat earmarks also provide proof of ownership and do not have to be applied in conjunction with any other brand.
- All earmarks must be made using pliers and must not remove more than one third of the ear.
- Earmarks must be placed in the off or right ear of a male animal and the near or left ear of a female.

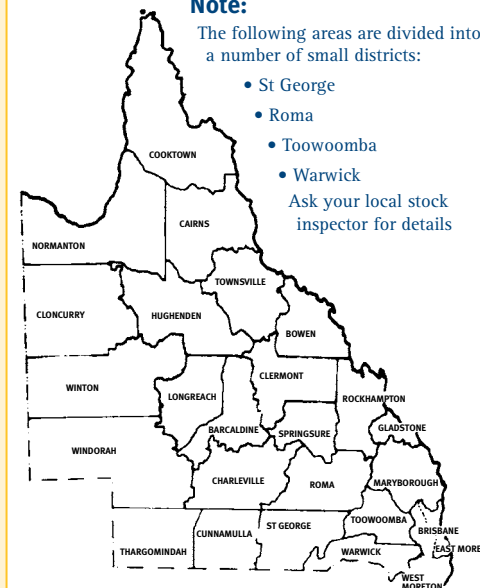
Districts for registered sheep brands and ear marks

Note:

The following areas are divided into a number of small districts:

- St George
- Roma
- Toowoomba
- Warwick

Ask your local stock inspector for details



Front of ear

