

Branding cattle and horses is a clear way of identifying ownership of stock, and can also play an important role in disease control programs and chemical residue trace back programs. This is important to both consumers and producers, to maintain confidence in the safety and integrity of livestock products.

The Northern Territory *Livestock Act* and *Regulations* uses a three-letter brand system where one letter must be the letter "T" and a distinctive (symbol) brand system.

It is compulsory to brand cattle before they are moved off a property or are sold (unless they are less than 8 months of age). Brands can be used on horses, buffalo and camel but it is not compulsory.

A brand is registered to a person or company for use on a nominated NT property only. **Under no circumstances are these brands to be used in any other State or Territory. This means the branding iron can only be used by the registered owner (or their representative) on the registered Northern Territory property as stated on NT Brand Certificate/s.** It does not restrict branded cattle being agisted on other properties. To brand on a NT property not registered with the Registrar of Brands is an infringement of the *Livestock Act* and *Regulations* and is an offence that incurs a penalty.

Owners of brands must give notification to the Registrar of Brands in the following events:

- Change of property (if the owner moves from the registered property or the property is sold)
- Change of branding position required
- Cancellation required
- Change of name by marriage
- Notification of death
- Transfer to a new owner
- Change of contact address.

Sale of a property

While the sale of a property may include the stock, the brand cannot be sold to the new owners.

1. If an agreement is made in the sale contract to transfer the brand to the new owners, an application to *Transfer Brand* must be lodged with the Registrar of Brands.
or
2. If the owner no longer wishes to use the brand, it may be cancelled. An Application for *Cancellation of Brand* must be lodged with the Registrar of Brands.
or
3. If registered owner of the brand wishes to keep the brand, but move it to a new property, a *Request to Change of Run* must be lodged with the Registrar of Brands, together with original certificate/s for amending.

The Northern Territory *Livestock Act* and *Regulations* can be obtained on the Primary Industry website www.nt.gov.au/nlis/dor Brands in the NT.

A copy of the *Northern Territory Brands Directory* can be purchased from Technical Publications for \$15.00 (includes \$1.36 GST) and are printed 1st week in January and July each year.

In any proceedings, proof that an animal is branded in accordance with the provisions of this Act with a registered brand is prima facie proof that the animal is the property of the owner of the registered brand.

NT Brands Register Search Database is available on the
Primary Industry website which is located with other important issues relating to
Livestock Identification and Movement at www.nt.gov.au/d/nlis
Or through the direct URL: <http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au>

1. **3-letter Brand**

A **Three-letter brand** must consist of three letters, one of which must be the letter 'T', except brands which were registered prior to 1928 under the South Australian Brands Act and those containing an inverted 'T' (⊥) (registered for use in Central Australia up to 1932). These come within the same category as three-letter brands.

Contact your Regional Livestock Biosecurity Officer (RLBO) for a copy of the *NT Brands available for registering*.

2. **Application for registration of 3-letter brand**

1. Applicant who is at least 18 years of age; and
2. Applicant must specify the property on which the 3-letter brand will be used; and
3. Applicant must specify the livestock to which the brand will be applied; and
4. Must be the owner of the specified property; or
5. Must have permission of the owner of the specified property.

(Livestock Regulation 7)

3. **Number of brands to be registered for use on a NT property**

A person may have only one 3-letter brand registered to the person for use on a particular property. *(Livestock Act 10(1))*

4. **Number of Distinctive (symbol) brands to be registered**

The registered owner of a 3-letter brand may have no more than 3 symbol brands registered in connection with the 3-letter brand *(Livestock Act 10(2))*.

5. **Persons who are not owners of land / Owners Permission**

Application for registration of 3-letter brand *(Livestock Regulation 7(3))*.

The applicant must be:

- (a) the owner of the specified property; or
- (b) a person who, with the permission of the owner of the specified property, intends to brand the livestock on the property.

Before registering a 3-letter brand on the application of a person who is not the owner of the property on which the brand will be used, the Registrar must be satisfied:

- (a) the owner of the property has given the person permission to brand on the property.

(Livestock Regulation 8(2))

6. **Construction and size of 3-letter brands**

- (1) All 3 letters of a 3-letter brand must be constructed on 1 handle.
- (2) Each letter must be between 4cm and 8cm in both height and width

(Livestock Regulation 15).

The imprint surface of the irons is to be no more than 4mm wide and no less than 3mm wide. The letters must also be 'clean joined' print and not 'fancy' or 'broken' print.

7. **Brand to be held before applying for distinctive (symbol) brand**

On application by the registered owner of a 3-letter brand, the Registrar may register a symbol brand or earmark (or both) in connection with the 3-letter brand. *(Livestock Act 9(2))*.

8. **Size of Distinctive (symbol) brand**

A distinctive (symbol) brand must be between 4cm and 12cm in both height and width. *(Livestock Regulation 16)*.

The imprint surface of the irons is to be no more than 4mm wide and no less than 3mm wide.

A full scale drawing of the required distinctive brand is to be submitted at the time of application.

If, in the opinion of the Registrar or Delegate of the Registrar, a distinctive (symbol) brand produced from the chosen design would not be clearly legible the distinctive brand will not be registered.

9. Brand to be used on registered NT property only

A brand may only be used on a nominated NT property. This means the branding iron can only be used by the registered owner (or their representative) on the registered Northern Territory property / run (as stated on NT Brand Certificate/s).

Under no circumstances are these brands to be used in any other State or Territory.

To brand on a NT property not registered with the Registrar of Brands is an infringement of the *Livestock Act* and *Regulations* and is an offence that incurs a penalty.

(*Livestock Regulation 21*).

10. Branding positions

- (1) The first brand applied to livestock must be in the position described in the certificate of registration for the brand.
- (2) Each subsequent brand applied to livestock may be in any other position, where there is sufficient space, specified in Schedule 2.
- (3) A person commits an offence if the person applies a registered brand to livestock in a position other than is required or permitted by sub-regulation (1) or (2).

(*Livestock Regulation 18*)

11. Cancellation of brands

- (1) The Registrar may decide to cancel the registration of a 3-letter brand in any of the following circumstances (*Livestock Regulation 14*) :
 - (a) if the registered owner of the brand is also the owner of the registered property for the brand – the registered owner:
 - (i) has sold or rented out the registered property; and
 - (ii) has not applied to the Registrar to register the transfer of the brand to the purchaser or tenant of the property;
 - (b) if the registered owner of the brand is not also the owner of the registered property for the brand – the registered owner no longer has the permission of the registered property owner to use the brand on the property;
 - (c) if the registered owner of the brand is deceased – the administrator or executor of the owner's estate has not, within 12 months after the date of death, applied for the registration of the brand to continue;
 - (d) the registered owner of the brand is found guilty of an offence against a provision of this Division or Division 2;
 - (e) to the best of the Registrar's knowledge and belief, the brand has not been used for at least 3 years;
 - (f) a notice under this Part, sent by post to the registered owner of the brand at the owner's last known address, is undeliverable;
 - (g) the registered owner of the brand fails or refuses to comply with a notice that:
 - (i) is sent under this Part to the owner's last known address; and
 - (ii) requires the owner to reply within 60 days of the date of the notice;
 - (h) there is any other reasonable ground for the cancellation.

12. If the registration of a 3-letter brand is cancelled, then it includes any earmarks, distinctive (symbol) brands, or distinctive numerals, registered for use in connection with that brand.
(*Livestock Act 12(3)*)

13. Once cancelled, a 3-letter brand may not be re-registered again for five years or more, from date of cancellation. (*Livestock Act 12(4)*).

14. Certificate/s of registration – brands, earmarks, transfers

(*Livestock Act 9 & 11 and Livestock Regulation 11*)

As soon as practicable after registering a brand or earmark, the Registrar must issue to the registered owner a:

Certificate of Registration of Three-letter Brand

Certificate of Registration of Earmark

Certificate of Registration of Distinctive Brand for Horses and Cattle

Certificate of Transfer of Brand

These certificates are official documents and it is the registered owners responsibility to ensure all information written on the above certificate/s is accurate and abided by, and ensure their safekeeping.

Should the registered owner wish to make any future changes regarding the brand or earmark registration, then the original certificate/s will need to be amended by the Registrar or their Delegate.

15. Certificate/s lost or misplaced

If original Certificates are lost or misplaced, then a Replacement Certificate can be issued at a cost of \$51. The Replacement Certificate replaces all other Certificates.

16. Unbranded cattle, means cattle of at least 8 months of age that have not been branded.

Owner must not hand over unbranded cattle for travel

A person in charge of travelling cattle shall ensure that all animals over the age of eight months in the mob are branded. (*Livestock Regulations 58(1)(a) & (b)*).

Person in charge must not include unbranded cattle

The person in charge of travelling livestock commits an offence if any of the livestock are unbranded cattle (*Livestock Regulations 59(1)*).

No transaction relating to unbranded cattle

A person must not sell, give away, exchange or receive travelling livestock that are unbranded cattle. (*Livestock Regulations 60(1)*).

Branding of other travelling stock (ie. buffalo, camels, horses) is optional.

17. Brands to be permanent

Brands shall be made and impressed in a manner which so far as is practicable is clear, legible and permanent (*Livestock Regulation 22(1)*).

18. Buffalo branding

It is not compulsory to brand buffalo.

19. Transfer of brands

When it is intended that the ownership of a brand should change, an *Application for Transfer of Brand* must be lodged to the Registrar of Brands (*Livestock Act 11 and Livestock Regulation 9*).

BRANDS ARE NOT TRANSFERRED AUTOMATICALLY BY A PROPERTY SALE OR BY A WILL.

20. Requirement to notify change of address

- (1) If the residential or contact address of a registered owner of a brand or earmark changes.
- (2) The registered owner must notify the Registrar of the change and the owner's new address within 28 days after the date of change.

(Livestock Regulation 13)

21. Fees payable – New Charges as at 1 July 2011

Brand Applications

Application for registration of Three-Letter brand \$102.00

Application for registration of Distinctive (symbol) brand \$102.00

Application for registration of Earmark \$77.00

Application for Transfer of Three-Letter brand \$51.00

Additional services and charges

Replacement certificate for lost or damaged certificate \$51.00

NT Brand Search (includes \$3.09 GST) \$34.00

NT Brands Directory (includes \$1.36 GST) \$15.00

Waybill Books (includes \$2.27 GST) \$25.00

Livestock Identification Systems Administrator (LISA) / Brands

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NT Property Identification Code (PIC) Search Database

<http://pic.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/>

NT Brands Register Search Database

<http://brand.primaryindustry.nt.gov.au/>

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