

NAIT: NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION & TRACING

- Official position on RFID tags for cattle and deer

- And how LIC can make it easy to be NAIT approved

NAIT (National Animal Identification and Tracing) will introduce mandatory identification for cattle from the *NAIT mandatory date*; a revised launch date has been set as mid-late 2012, pending the passing of legislation.

The scheme will be mandatory for deer from 1 March 2013.

NAIT is recommending that farmers consider using NAIT-approved RFID ear tags on newborn animals / heifer replacements before the scheme becomes compulsory to avoid the expense of re-tagging animals once NAIT becomes a mandatory requirement.

This fact sheet outlines the:

- i. Range of NAIT approved RFID ear tags.
- ii. Recommendations and tagging requirements for the Transition period (until the NAIT mandatory date).

NAIT-approved RFID tags available from LIC

NAIT approved RFID tags, available from LIC, include:

◆ **RFID Birth ID tag**

Preferred RFID tag option for all young stock.

Markings: Female tag = Unique Birth ID number & MINDA logo

Male tag = NAIT logo



◆ **RFID Traka tag** (otherwise referred to as *Unallocated* or *Unassigned* tag)

RFID tag is NOT cross-referenced to the animals ID at the time of production.

Record the animal ID to which the RFID tag is applied and use MINDA to update your animal records.

Markings: Female tag = Unique 16-digit RFID number & Farm (LIC)

Participant Code | Male tag = NAIT logo



◆ **RFID Management tag**

Accurate, convenient tag option for adult animals.

RFID tag is cross-referenced to the **cow management number** at the time of production; making it easy to tag to the corresponding animal.

Markings: Female tag = Unique 16-digit RFID number & Farm (LIC)

Participant Code & Cow Management number | Male tag = NAIT logo



Note: RFID (Traka and Management) tags produced prior to April 2010 have printed markings that differ slightly to the current range of tags. These RFID tags will be ratified and are accepted as NAIT approved RFID tags.

Transition Period -> up to NAIT mandatory date (expected mid-late 2012)

The current AHB tagging rules will continue to apply up until NAIT becomes mandatory (expected to be mid—late 2012).

For replacement stock - calves:

For animals born after 1 March 2011, NAIT approved RFID Birth ID tags may be used as an optional Primary tag for movements other than to slaughter, otherwise a official primary yellow barcoded Birth ID tag is required.

Tagging Option 1: Be NAIT ready - RFID tag your new season calves

Primary tag: RFID Birth ID tag



Secondary tag (options):

Official Birth ID tag (no barcode required) with Scheme logo (MINDA or AHB) **or** Brass tag **or** Double-Button tag



Tagging Option 2: Comply only with Standard AHB tagging rules

Primary tag: Official barcoded yellow Birth ID tag with Scheme logo (MINDA or AHB)

Secondary tag (options): Brass tag **or** Double-Button tag



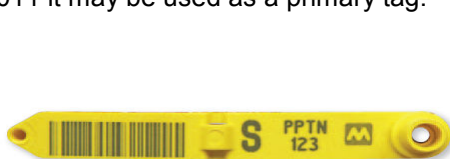
For last seasons replacements and adult animals:

Animals being moved directly to slaughter

- ◆ From farm of origin: Must be tagged with an official barcoded primary tag or official direct to slaughter tag.
- ◆ NOT from farm of origin: Must be tagged with an official barcoded primary tag and secondary tag or R-tag/s in replacement of one or both lost primary and/or secondary tags.
** A NAIT approved RFID tag can be used as the secondary tag. **

For movements other than to slaughter

- ◆ From farm of origin: Must be tagged with an official barcoded primary tag and secondary tag.
** From 1 November a NAIT approved RFID tag can be used as a primary tag **
- ◆ NOT from farm of origin: Must be tagged with an official barcoded primary and secondary tag or R-tag/s in replacement of one or both lost primary and/or secondary tags.
** Currently a NAIT approved RFID tag can be used as the secondary tag and from 1 November 2011 it may be used as a primary tag. **



Example of Direct to Slaughter tag



Example of R-tag

Mandatory NAIT -> from NAIT mandatory date (expected mid-late 2012)

From the NAIT mandatory date (expected to be mid-late 2012):

- ◆ The NAIT approved RFID Birth ID tag will be recognised as a Primary tag (for all animal movements).
- ◆ ALL animals must be identified with a Primary NAIT Approved RFID tag for direct to slaughter movements and a NAIT approved RFID primary tag and secondary tag of a type currently approved under the AHB system for movements other than to slaughter.

For replacement stock (born after NAIT mandatory date):

Primary tag: RFID Birth ID tag



Secondary tag (options):

Official Birth ID tag (no barcode required) with Scheme logo (MINDA or AHB) **or** Brass tag **or** Double-Button tag



Key information

- ◆ **Calves being retained on the farm of birth** must be tagged with a NAIT approved RFID Birth ID tag within 180 days of birth or first off-farm movement, whichever comes first.
- ◆ **Bobby Calves** (animals less than 30 days old going direct to slaughter) are not part of the NAIT scheme and will not require NAIT approved RFID tags. Continue using a direct to slaughter tag issued by meat processing companies.

For last seasons replacements and adult animals:

Any off-farm animal movement (e.g. to slaughter, grazing, sale)

If the animal is already tagged with official primary and secondary tags (as per AHB tagging rules), the animal **MUST** be tagged with a NAIT approved RFID tag (Birth ID or Traka or Management).

** Existing official primary and secondary tags (MINDA or AHB scheme) must NOT be removed.**

If the animal is NOT tagged with official primary and secondary tags (as per AHB tagging rules), the animal **MUST** be tagged with:

- ⇒ a NAIT approved RFID tag (Birth ID or Traka or Management), which will be recognised as the primary tag.
- ⇒ a secondary tag of either a; official yellow Birth ID tag (no barcode required) with Scheme logo (MINDA or AHB) **or** Brass tag **or** Double Button when moving other than to slaughter.

Key information

- ◆ **Capital stock** - Once NAIT becomes mandatory, there will be an exemption period for the tagging of existing capital stock that does not leave the farm. NAIT is working on the details to make it easier for farmers to transition these animals to the NAIT scheme.

However, an inventory of **ALL** capital stock on hand at the start of mandatory identification will need to be reported to NAIT; LIC is a NAIT Animal Information Service Provider (AISP) and will be able to assist with informing NAIT on animal location and movement information.

How RFID tags are recorded to National Database and NAIT

When RFID **(i) Birth ID**, or **(iii) Management**, tags are ordered, the tag manufacturer links the animal's identification number, which is printed on the tag, to the unique RFID 16-digit number that is encoded to the microchip inside that tag.

The tag supplier will automatically inform NAIT of the quantity of RFID tags purchased for the herd and the Birth ID of the animal that the RFID number is linked to (if RFID Birth ID tags are purchased).

On your behalf, LIC can inform NAIT of

- i. the RFID number that is linked to the associated animal ID,
 - ii. if Replacement/Duplicate RFID tags are ordered - the change in RFID number linked to an animal and,
 - iii. animal movements so you can be confident you're meeting NAIT requirements.
- If you purchase **RFID Birth ID tags**, LIC will automatically load the tag file to the national database and inform NAIT of the RFID 16-digit number linked to the animal's Birth ID.
 - If you purchase **RFID Management tags** you will need to ensure that, at the time of the 'Due on Farm' date of the tag order, the herd management number is linked to an animal with a Birth ID on MINDA herd records. LIC can then load this tag file to the national database and inform NAIT of the RFID 16-digit number linked to the animal's management number and Birth ID number.
 - If you purchase **RFID Traka tags** these will, at the time of ordering, not be linked to a Birth ID or management number of animals in MINDA. This means NAIT needs to be informed of the quantity of RFID tags that have been applied to the herd from that batch order – this can be done in two ways
 - i. You contact NAIT directly and inform them of the number range of RFID tags that have been applied to animals in the herd.
 - ii. You record the RFID number and the Birth ID or management number (ensuring the management number is linked to the animal's Birth ID on MINDA herd records as stated above) and update your MINDA records with this information. LIC will load the file to the national database and inform NAIT of the RFID 16-digit number that is linked to the animal's Birth ID.

Further information about this process will be available from LIC.

General Information

- To ensure high retention, NAIT recommends that you apply NAIT approved RFID ear tags to the central/inner part of the right ear with the white female portion of the tag facing forward.
- If an animal loses its RFID tag and the animal,
 - ⇒ Can be identified by its secondary tag, a duplicate NAIT approved RFID Birth ID tag can be ordered to replace the lost tag.
 - ⇒ Can be identified by its Management tag, which is linked to the animals' birth ID on the national database, a replacement RFID Management tag can be ordered and applied, or alternatively an RFID tag can be ordered and applied to the animal.
 - ⇒ Has no other tags to identify it, an RFID Traka tag can be applied to the animal to be NAIT compliant. Lifetime traceability however, will be lost.



Note: the person in charge of the animal (PICA) must record the new RFID details in the NAIT system alongside the existing tag information; alternatively, LIC can do this for you (i.e. by recording the RFID unique 16-digit number to the appropriate animal and recording the animal movement in MINDA (this functionality in MINDA software is currently being developed)).

- Animals that have an existing RFID tag that is NAIT ISO approved, but may not have the correct visual markings on the outside of the tag purchased from LIC, will be ratified by NAIT (provided the relevant tag information is provided to NAIT, as described in the steps above).

If you have any questions about your tagging obligations, please call 0800 2MINDA (0800 264 632) or refer to NAIT www.nait.co.nz