

Brandmarking & Identification

Stock brands are not optional

To legally keep livestock, you need a **registered stock brand**. NamLITS documentation states livestock keepers are required by law to register a stockbrand within **14 days of keeping livestock**, and it's issued via the **Meat Board Stockbrand Office**. The legal foundation is the **Stock Brands Act 24 of 1995**.

Branding/identification timeframes

The Stock Brands Act sets duties including:

- Brand your stock with your registered brand **within 6 months** of receiving the registration certificate
- Brand newly acquired stock **within 30 days**
- Re-brand if the brand becomes indistinct

Species-specific identification (important for farmers)

NamMIC guidance (widely used by producers) explains:

- Sheep/goats/pigs must be **identified by 3 months** (or earlier if moved earlier)
- Sheep & goats are generally identified with **ear tags** bearing the owner's stock brand number
- Sheep/goats imported/exported have additional identification requirements