

# NT requirements for making branding irons

## Livestock Act 2008

### Livestock regulations – division 2 brands

#### 15. Construction and size of 3-letter brand

- 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.

Therefore, it is recommended that:

- the imprint surface of the irons is to be no less than 3mm wide and no more than 4mm wide.
- a 6mm by 45mm steel plate be used in the construction of the brand and that it is worked down to 3mm on the working edge
- the letters be 'clean joined' print and not 'fancy' or 'broken' print

For example, the letters should be:

TYS      and      NOT like these as shown in red      TYS      TYS      TYS

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#### 16. Size of symbol brand

A symbol brand must be between 4cm and 12cm in both height and width.

Therefore, it is recommended:

- the imprint surface of the branding iron should be no less than 3mm thick and no more than 4mm thick
- that any adjacent lines of a distinctive brand be at least 20mm apart to avoid blotching
- symbol brand must be constructed on 1 handle and
- the branding iron is consistent with the design / description of the brand on the certificate of registration.

Example of recommended alphabet. Note: size of letters is not to scale.

ATB      CTD      ETF      GTH      ITJ      KTL  
MTN      OTP      QTR      STU      VTW      XTY

## 12. Requirement to give impression of brand

- 1) The registered owner of a brand must, within 60 days after receiving the certificate of registration for the brand, give the Registrar an impression of the brand:
  - a) made on linen, canvas, cardboard, leather or other material acceptable to the registrar
  - b) consistent with the design or description of the brand in the certificate of registration.

## 17. Brand to be consistent with registered design

The registered owner of a brand commits an offence if the instrument used to apply the brand to livestock does not produce a brand consistent with the design or description in the certificate of registration for the brand.

**Registrar, GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801 OR drop into your Regional Livestock Biosecurity Office.**

Proof of ownership of three-letter brand and/or distinctive (symbol) brand **MUST** be presented to your rural merchandise outlet to order your branding iron. Show your certificate of registration.

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[www.nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock](http://www.nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock)

## Branding cattle – a mandatory requirement

Under current Northern Territory (NT) legislation, all cattle **MUST** be branded before being moved off a property or sold, unless they are less than eight months of age. To legally use a brand in the NT, it must be registered in the NT and comply with the [Livestock Act 2008](#) and [Livestock Regulations 2009](#).

Branding is a clear way of identifying ownership of stock. Although not legally required, it is recommended that purchased cattle are cross branded correctly to provide evidence of ownership.

The first brand must be applied in the position specified on the certificate of registration. Subsequent brands can be applied on the near or off side of the shoulder or rump, hip or thigh. According to the Livestock Regulations, it is an offence to apply a brand that is not clear, legible and permanent.

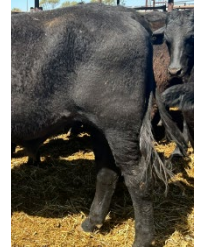
A brand is registered to a person or company for use on a nominated property. This means only the registered owner or their representative can use the branding iron on the registered property. Note: Brands can be registered for use on horses and buffalo, however they are not required for movement in the NT.

## Branding tips

1. Brands **MUST** be applied so they are clear, legible and permanent to the livestock.
2. When using hot iron branding,
  - a. Do not overheat the iron. Red-hot irons can ignite the hair, causing blemishes on the brand.
  - b. Do not use an iron that is too cool. Cool irons are held on for too long, cooking the total area leaving an unreadable brand.
  - c. Do not brand when the hide is wet. Wet-branding results in scalding.
  - d. Replace worn, thin-edged branding irons, as these can burn too deeply, causing crusting or blotching and can make the brand too fine to read easily.
3. Freeze branding is an alternative method to hot iron branding.
4. Restrain stock securely for branding. A squeeze crush is ideal for hard-to-handle adult stock.
5. To ensure clear visibility for livestock inspectors at saleyards or authorised officers, shave the hair or wet around the branding areas.



*Clear brand*



*Unclear brand*

## More information

For more information on livestock brand and identity, visit:

<https://nt.gov.au/industry/agriculture/livestock-and-animals/brand-and-identify-livestock>

For more information on best practice husbandry in beef cattle, visit:

[https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/program-areas/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/mla-guide-to-best-practice-husbandry-in-beef-cattle\\_final.pdf](https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/program-areas/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/mla-guide-to-best-practice-husbandry-in-beef-cattle_final.pdf)

## Contact

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