



**L O W L I N E**

**AUSTRALIAN LOWLINE CATTLE ASSOCIATION Inc.**

C/- ABRI, University of New England

ARMIDALE NSW 2351

Website: [www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](http://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

Phone: (02) 67 73 3295 Fax: (02) 67 72 1943

Email: [office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au](mailto:office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au)

ABN: 98216776682

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**Australian Lowline Cattle Association  
Registration Procedure**

**By-Law 7**

**1. Introduction**

This procedural guide is provided to assist members understand the requirements and process of registering Lowline calves and/or embryos with the Association. While it is provided for convenience of members as a single reference point for the registration process, it should be read in conjunction with the Constitution and By-Laws of ALCA. In the event of any dispute, interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws shall take precedence.

**2. Basic Requirements and Inspections**

Before registering a calf, members should inspect the calf carefully with reference to the Breed Standard for Australian Lowline Cattle.

Both sire and dam of the calf must be registered in the Australian Lowline Herd Book. In the case of the sire not being owned at the time of mating/insemination, then a Certificate of Service shall be submitted or the sire be listed on the ALCA AI Sire list.

There can be up to 5 share owners of a bull, one of whom should be designated the nominee owner for recording purposes. This owner would normally have the physical possession of the bull.

**3. Mandatory Animal Identification**

All animals registered in the Australian Lowline Cattle Association Herd Book must be individually identifiable in a manner that can be verified against their Certificate of Registration and DNA profile, either by tattoo or, in Australia, the NLIS method of identification may be selected or in New Zealand, the mandatory NAIT method of identification may be selected.

*The Association notes that different forms of identification may be required by other authorities such as Government Agencies or Agricultural Societies. Such requirements do not replace the requirements above.*

The **stud tattoo code** is imprinted into the animal's **right ear** so that it can be read upright from the front. The stud tattoo code is the 3 letter unique herd identification as approved by the Association when first registering your stud. In the example below, the right ear has been tattooed with the stud prefix of XYZ.

The **year letter and individual calf number** is imprinted into the animal's left ear. Year letters are shown in the table below. In the example below the tattoo in the left ear is D002. This indicates that the calf was born in year 2008 and was the second calf numbered within the XYZ stud. Thus the full ear tattoo of the example calf is XYZ D002.

The individual calf number can be any number from 001 to 999. **No two calves can have the same tattoo.**

It is suggested that calf numbers are allocated consecutively as they are born regardless of whether they will be registered or not. The ear tag number would normally be the same as the ear tattoo number. **Note that the numeric sequence continues in following years – it does not return to 001 at the commencement of each year.**

RIGHT = OFF EAR

LEFT = NEAR EAR

Stud Tattoo Code

Year Letter & Calf No.

ie XYZ

ie D002

#### Tattoo Year Letters

2010 ..... F	2014 ..... K	2018 ..... P	2022 ..... T
2011 ..... G	2015 ..... L	2019 ..... Q	2023 ..... U
2012 ..... H	2016 ..... M	2020 ..... R	2024 ..... V
2013 ..... J	2017 ..... N	2021 ..... S	2025 ..... W

Note: the letters 'I' and 'O' are **excluded** from the letter series because of their ambiguity with the digits '1' and '0' (zero)

#### 4. DNA typing

Prior to registration, all animals must be verified for parentage. Since 1 January 2004 only DNA-typing is accepted by ALCA for parent verification using analysis by an ALCA-approved DNA service provider. At present there are two such providers in **Australia.**

Neogen Australasia Pty Ltd  
PO BOX 1388  
UQ Gatton Campus  
Gatton QLD 4343

Zoetis Pty Ltd  
5/10 Depot Street  
Banyo QLD 4014

In **New Zealand** there are also 3 approved DNA centres

GenomNZ – division of AgResearch  
Mosgiel  
Toll Free: 0800 362 522  
[www.agresearch.co.nz/genomnz](http://www.agresearch.co.nz/genomnz)

Zoetis Animal Genetics  
Dunedin  
Toll Free: 0800 228 278  
[www.genetics.zoetis.com/NewZealand](http://www.genetics.zoetis.com/NewZealand)

Equine Parentage and Animal Genetic Services Centre  
Massey University  
Palmerston North  
[www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-sciences/clinics-andservices/equine-parentage-animal-genetics/equine-parentage-animal-genetics\\_home.cfm](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/colleges/college-of-sciences/clinics-andservices/equine-parentage-animal-genetics/equine-parentage-animal-genetics_home.cfm)

Both the Sire and Dam need to have been previously “DNA-typed” to allow the calves to be tested for parentage.

The hair samples from each animal should be placed on the appropriate collection kit available from the ALCA Officer. The resultant report can take 6 - 8 weeks.

It is usual to submit tail hairs for DNA-typing. However, other tissues such as semen can be tested.

## **5. Animal Recording and Registration**

Both heifer calves and bull calves should be registered before they are 12 months of age. Late fees will apply for registration of animals older than the required age unless Council instructs otherwise following consideration of a submission from the member(s) concerned.

Alternatively, calves may be “recorded only” immediately following birth. A small fee applies and the balance is paid if you wish to proceed with the registration. Early recording of animals is also recommended so as not to attract a late fee. Later decisions about registration may then be made, provided that the required DNA parentage verifications are done.

Complete the Cattle Recording and Registration Form available on “Forms and Downloads”.

Calf registrations may also be done electronically. The procedure here is to login to the database with a login obtainable from the ALCA office. Go to members, herd search, database login, enter member ID and password, then online transactions, create a new batch, then create. Add all the relevant data in, ie dam, sire, calf etc and submit to the Association. Once received at the ALCA office, the DNA PV will be verified and the resultant certificate sent out.

**Note: The Registrar cannot process any registrations until all documentation has been received and properly completed and fees have been paid. The Registrar will refer any incomplete forms or shortfall of fees back to the applicant, which will delay your application. Refer any complaint about delays to the registrar in the first instance. If delays continue, contact a Council member. Note that a copy of the DNA type certificate MUST also accompany the registration documentation or have been sent by the DNA lab.**

## 6. Embryo Recording and Registration

**6.1** There is a special “**embryo transfer and registration form**” for the recording of all embryos. These forms are always available on request from the ALCA office.

Each form has a separate **form number** which is used as the individual registration number of each flush. Each embryo within the flush is numbered individually from “1” onwards. For example, two consecutive embryos recorded on form number 101 would be registered as numbers 101.1 and 101.2. There is a fee to register a flush of embryos – irrespective of the number of embryos actually collected.

Each form contains a maximum of eight lines to record eight separate embryos. If you obtain more than eight embryos from the one flush, please continue your records onto a second (or third) form and renumber those subsequent forms with the same number as used by the first form.

The Applicant is the owner of the donor dam at the time of the flush. Please record details of both frozen and implanted (transferred) embryos on the one form provided they have arisen from the one flush. When embryos are freshly transferred into recipient cows, please record the breed type, year of birth (approximate age) and ear tag number of each recipient.

Most veterinarians will use their own forms for embryo recording. Those forms are important for the commercial aspect of your “contract” with the vet. However, the ALCA forms are also important from your stud management viewpoint and can be completed from details first listed on the forms used by the vet.

It is important to return the completed form (s) to the ALCA office within 8 months of the flush, together with the appropriate fee.

### **6.2 Embryo registration certificates:**

Processing of completed embryo forms by ALCA keeps all records in chronological order. Joining records, flushing records and the total of embryos produced allows analysis of cow fertility. The output from processing is the embryo registration certificates.

There is a separate embryo registration certificate for each embryo, whether it be frozen or implanted. The registered embryo number is printed near the top left-hand corner and details of genetic dam and genetic sire are printed on the line below that number. Name and address of the breeder of the embryo is printed below the “dam”. Other name and address information will be printed below “current owner” only if the current owner is different from the “breeder”. This facility is important if there has been a sale of the embryo (either frozen or “in utero” i.e. in pregnant recipient dam) and details of this sale have been registered with ALCA.

The lower half of the embryo registration certificate is identified as **Form AL3** and this section is relevant for completion of details about the recipient dam, the date of implant and details of the

subsequent calf. This section is not directly a report on the genetic dam – it is more a report about management and outcome of the embryo and the recipient.

If the embryo was implanted at the time of flushing, and details were given on the initial embryo form, then the computer will print details of the recipient dam and the implant date on the embryo certificate. Otherwise the owner of the embryo should complete these details, particularly giving breed name of the base recipient dam. Base dam is any breed other than Australian Lowline. The BREEDPLAN system has a standard series of two letter codes for all breeds of beef cattle, which has been adopted by ALCA. (refer Appendix E).

Details of the calf should be given in similar manner to those given on the Cattle Recording and Registration Form. The calf Ident. No. is equal to the tattoo number, which has two components – being Stud Tattoo and Year Letter and Number. Refer section 3 above. Please complete a separate Form AL3 for each calf arising from embryo transplant.

The abbreviations given on the Form AL3 are as follows:

WT	=	birth weight (kg);
CALVING	=	calving ease; blank = not observed, 1 = no difficulty, 2 = easy pull, 3 = hard pull, 4 = surgical, 5 = posterior presentation.
FATE	=	calf fate at birth; A = alive, D = dead within 48 hours.
TWINS	=	Y = Yes, N = No
ABNORMAL	=	Y = Yes, N = No. If yes, you are invited to give details in writing of the abnormality, and any such information will be handled confidentially.
REGISTER	=	Y = Yes, R = Record Only, N = No

If an embryo transplant does not give a live (or dead) calf it is important to identify the embryo certificate as “failed to calve” or “embryo lost” and still return the certificate to the ALCA office.

Please note that the procedure for parentage verification by DNA typing is mandatory for registration of all embryo calves, just as it is for natural calves.

## 7. Naming Standards

An animal's name consists of two parts – The stud name followed by the animal's name.

**The Stud Name** is the prefix as allotted to the breeder when first joining the Association. The breeder is the owner of the calf at the time of birth.

**The Animal's Name** is the individual name given to the animal when it is registered with the Association.

For example, assume that the Stud name is Lowmark and the animal name is Matilda. The full name of the animal is therefore "Lowmark Matilda".

The Stud name can be up to 20 characters and the animal's name can be up to 20 characters. All spaces between words is to be included. An animal's name may be changed subject to Council approval, but the Stud name can never be changed, altered or omitted.

When referring to an animal, it is not acceptable to place another Stud Name in place of, or directly before, the animal's name. For example, if the Shady Spur stud purchased the above animal, then they **cannot** refer to it as "Shady Spur Matilda" or "Shady Spur Lowmark Matilda".

The alternative reference that is acceptable would be "Lowmark Matilda" owned by Shady Spur Stud.

In keeping with the above, animals bred at Trangie and Glen Innes will always retain the Trangie or Glen Innes stud names. These animals may not take on the purchaser's stud name.

## **Frequently Asked Questions.**

### **a) What if I make a mistake with the tattoo?**

Mistakes can be broken down to minor problems and major errors.

### **b) Minor Tattoo Problems.**

Examples of what would be considered minor problems include:

- a. The tattoo lettering is correct, but is accidentally placed in the wrong ear. i.e. the Stud code was incorrectly placed in the left ear and the year letter and calf number were placed in the right ear.
- b. One letter was accidentally placed on its side, or upside down, but is still obviously identifiable as such.
- c. The tattoo lettering is correct, but both the stud name and the year letter were incorrectly placed in the same ear.

Do not try and re-tattoo. Simply send a letter to the Registrar advising of the mistake. If the animal is being shown then the Registrar will provide the member with a letter confirming the identification of the animal.

### **c) Major Tattoo Problems**

Examples of what would be considered major problems include:

- a. the wrong year letter was used
- b. the calf number was duplicated
- c. the Stud Code was reversed ie ZYX used in lieu of XYZ
- d. the tattoo has become unreadable

In these cases you will need to re-tattoo to remedy the problem. Simply re-tattoo below or above the initial tattoo. If only one character is incorrect place the correct character above or below the original. NOTIFY ALCA USING A DIAGRAM.

In the case of the tattoo becoming unreadable, re-tattoo above or below the previous tattoo. Again, advise the Registrar of what you have done, so that your action is on record with the Association.

### **d) De-activation of animals**

Advise the Registrar, in writing, of any animals whose status in the Herd Book should be changed from "active" and the reason - eg. deceased, culled, sold for slaughter etc. This may be done once a year (in July) on the computer-printed Listing of Animals last recorded as being in your herd and produced at ALCA's office