



**IMSA Regulations (Regulation 203) - Hive Marking Requirements**

Regulation 202 of the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013 (IMSA Regulations) requires a beekeeper to identify every hive a beekeeper owns, or cause it to be identified, with the beekeeper’s registered identifier.

Regulation 203(1)(a) sets out hive marking requirements:

(1) A registered identifier must —

(a) be applied to a hive and marked in a manner approved by the Director General, as published on the department’s electronic site; and

(b) meet the requirements of subregulation (2).

(2) Each letter and numeral forming part of a registered identifier for hives must be visible, legible and indelible.

(3) A beekeeper must apply the beekeeper’s registered identifier to a hive within 7 days of taking possession of the hive.

**Hive marking requirements**

As provided for in reg 203(1)(a) hives must be marked using one of the following methods approved by the Director General:

*Method 1:*  *burnt in, stamped, carved or scored*

* A registered identifier applied to a hive must be burnt in, stamped, carved or scored so that it is distinctly impressed below the level of the surface of one conspicuous exterior surface of each hive component that has an external surface.

*Method 2*: *adheres to, or is affixed*

* A registered identifier must be marked on a conspicuous place on one exterior surface of each hive component at all times, and with a product that:
  1. is clearly visible during the daytime.
  2. adheres to or is firmly affixed.
  3. is permanent and durable in an outdoor environment (able to withstand rain, dust and direct sunlight).

*Other requirements*

The following requirements apply to both Method 1 and Method 2:

* Each letter and numeral forming part of a registered identifier for hives must be not less than 19 mm in height.
* Letters and numerals must be set in alignment and must not be conjoined.
* The hive components that must be marked are:
  + the hive box, also called a super; and
  + where a hive consists of more than one hive component with an external surface, each component must be marked with the registered identifier on one of its exterior surfaces.
* Unless eligible for transitional arrangements set out below, beekeepers must mark their hives by **22 October 2025** or within 7 days of taking possession of a hive.

*Change of ownership*

* If ownership or control of a hive or hive component passes to a different registered beekeeper:
  + identifiers that have been applied under Method 1 must be ‘struck’, removed, or covered by permanent and durable material when ownership or control changes. (‘Struck’ means a distinguishable line is burnt in, stamped, carved or scored through the identifier).
  + identifiers that have been applied under Method 2 must be removed or covered and the new registered identifier must be applied.
  + the new beekeeper’s registered identifier must be applied within 7 days of change of ownership using a marking method in Method 1 or Method 2 above.

**Transitional arrangements**

* Amendments to the IMSA Regulations commenced on 10 July 2025.
* Identifiers that were applied to hive components before the amendments came into force, and that comply with the regulations in effect at that time, are exempt from the minimum height requirement for letters and numerals set out in these requirements until **15 October 2026**.

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