

NAIT RFID TAGS

This factsheet provides information about the NAIT Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) device legally required under the *National Animal Identification and Tracing Act 2012*



A NAIT approved RFID tag is the device used to identify an individual animal under the NAIT scheme.

NAIT RFID tags house an electronic transponder that can be read electronically with an RFID scanner to identify the tag's unique 15-digit RFID number. Each tag number is used to register and identify a unique animal in the NAIT online system. This allows each animal to be individually traced throughout its lifetime through the

recording of NAIT movements by registered persons in charge of animals (PICAs). NAIT RFID tags are also printed with a visual ID that is linked to the RFID number in the NAIT online system, so that the tag can be read without an RFID scanner if required.

It is a **legal requirement** for a person in charge of animals (PICA farmer) to tag and register cattle and deer within 6 months of birth or before moving them off-farm – whichever comes first.

Registration of animals is not automatic.

- NAIT tags **cannot be removed** without permission from NAIT Limited
- NAIT tags **cannot be reused** for any reason
- NAIT animals **cannot move** to a different NAIT location without a NAIT tag (exemptions apply under the NAIT Act, these are explained over the page).



TAGGING ANIMALS

TAG PLACEMENT & APPLICATION

- Always make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions when you are applying tags, and use the correct tag applicator for the tags you are using.
- To maximise retention, apply the NAIT tag to the central/inner part of the animal's ear with the RFID portion (female) of the tag facing forward.
- Your safety is important - you should always consider the risks associated with tagging your animals. Refer to the impractical to tag (ITT) exemption explained below.

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

It is recommended that you make a record of the tag number(s) or the tag sequence range used when tagging animals. This makes it easier to register the animals in the NAIT online system, or to locate the tag numbers in your NAIT account when re-registering the animals.

You will need to record the production type and the month and year of birth of the animals you are tagging, so you can enter these details into the NAIT online system when registering the animals.

TAGGING EXEMPTIONS

Tagging exemptions include:

- **Calves less than 30 days old** consigned directly to a meat processor from their birth farm (bobby calves).
- **Fallow deer.**
- **Trophy stags** that are going to a game estate, safari park or zoo.
- Cattle and deer that the PICA deems too dangerous to tag qualify for the **impractical to tag (ITT)** exemption, provided they are going direct to slaughter.

Conditions of exemptions:

- ITT animals will incur an ITT levy of \$13 per head (excl. GST) by the meat processor.
- Fallow deer and trophy stags may move between farms, but an exempt animal movement must be recorded in the NAIT online system. The PICA must be registered in the NAIT online system and provide an annual tally of exempt animals at their location.

READING TAGS

1. **Visually reading the NAIT tag**
NAIT approved RFID tags are printed with a visual ID number. The visual ID is linked to the tag's 15-digit RFID number in the NAIT online system. Visually reading tags is best done prior to tagging the animal.

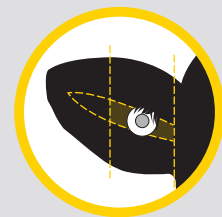
2. **Using visual panel tag**

Using a secondary visual panel tag in addition to the NAIT RFID tag can make visually identifying an animal easier. The NAIT online system enables a secondary tag to be linked to the NAIT RFID tag when registering an animal. It is recommended that you keep a record of visual panel tags and NAIT RFIDs for replacement tagging purposes.

3. **Using an RFID scanner**

You can use an RFID scanner to read and save the RFID tag numbers to a file. This file can then be uploaded into your NAIT account to register the animals or create a movement.

TAG PLACEMENT



✓ Correct placement

NAIT RFID TAG TYPES

CATTLE AND DEER

Cattle and deer require different coloured tags:

- **White tags are for cattle.**
The back portion must also be white.
- **Orange tags are for deer.**
The back portion may be any colour except white.

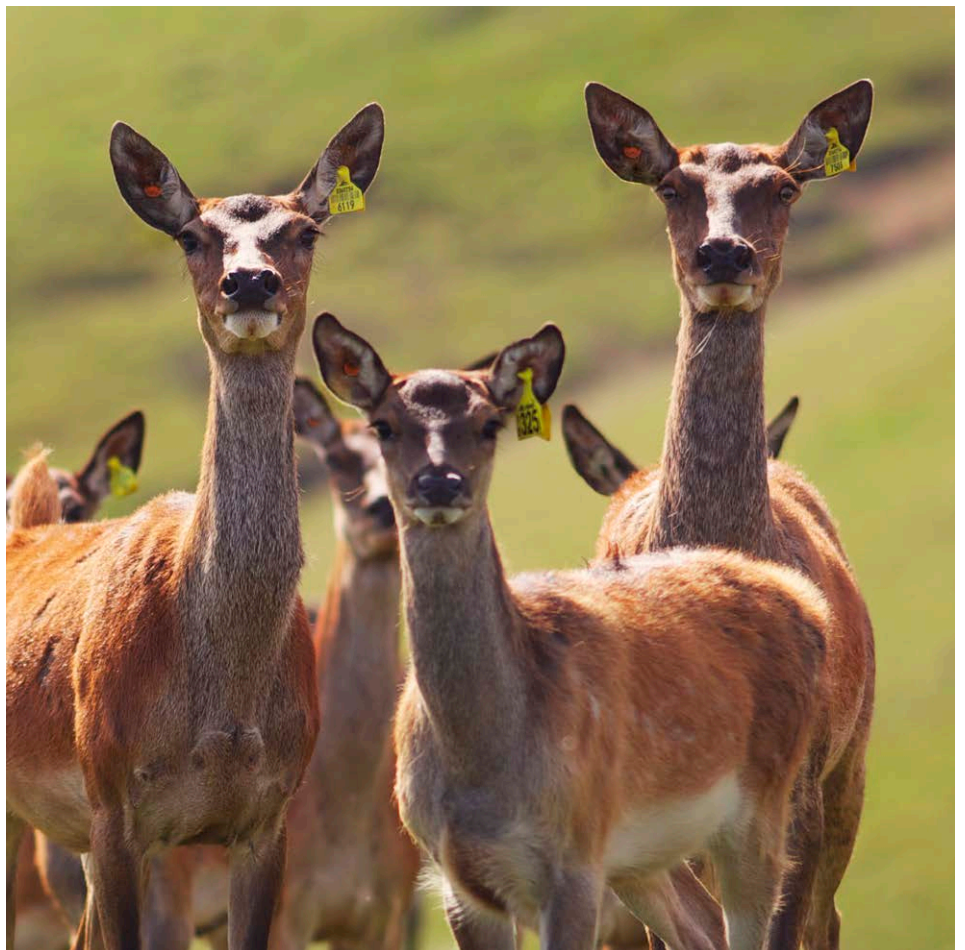
It is an offence to tag an animal with a NAIT RFID tag for a different species type.

BIRTH TAGS

- Birth tags are printed with a NAIT number or dairy participant code, a year code (optional), and a sequence number.
- Birth tags are for tagging new-born animals within 6 months of birth or prior to their first off-farm movement - whichever comes first.
- Birth tags can be purchased with a matching visual panel tag to assist in visual identification and farm management of that animal.
- Animals must be registered in the NAIT online system within 7 days of tagging or before moved to another NAIT location - whichever comes first.

REPLACEMENT TAGS

- Replacement tags are printed with a NAIT number or dairy participant



code, and the 15-digit RFID number of the tag.

- Replacement tags are for tagging animals that have lost a NAIT tag.
- The tag replacement will need to be updated in the NAIT online system:
 - If you know the NAIT RFID tag number the animal was previously tagged with, the **replace tag** function can be used to link the

original tag to the new tag. Keeping a record of secondary visual panel tags or production tags linked to an animal's RFID number can help you to identify a lost tag.

- If the original tag number is unknown you will need to re-register the animal in your NAIT account to activate the replacement tag.

CATTLE & DEER



White tag



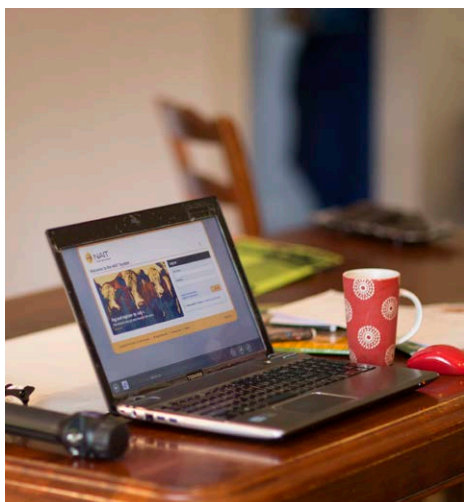
Orange tag

BIRTH TAGS



REPLACEMENT TAGS





HDX OR FDX?

NAIT approved RFID tags come in two types:

- HDX (Half duplex)
- FDX (Full duplex)

The tag type relates to the way the transponder operates when scanned

by an RFID reader. You should research which type will be most appropriate for your farming operation prior to purchasing (your on-farm scanning equipment may be designed to perform better with HDX or FDX technology). For advice on purchasing the right tags or related scanning equipment for your operation, we recommend you get in touch with manufacturers of NAIT tags and RFID readers directly.

PURCHASING TAGS

- There are several accredited manufacturers of NAIT RFID tags in New Zealand, visit ospri.co.nz.
- Tags can be purchased through your local farm supply store, your vet, or your artificial breeding provider.
- A tag levy of \$0.90 (excl. GST) is included within the cost of cattle tags - this contributes to the running of the NAIT scheme.

? NEED HELP?

For up to date information on accredited tag manufacturers visit:

ospri.co.nz

If you have questions, visit our website or call OSPRI on:

0800 482 463

For advice specific to the type of tags you are using, it is recommended you contact the tag manufacturer directly.