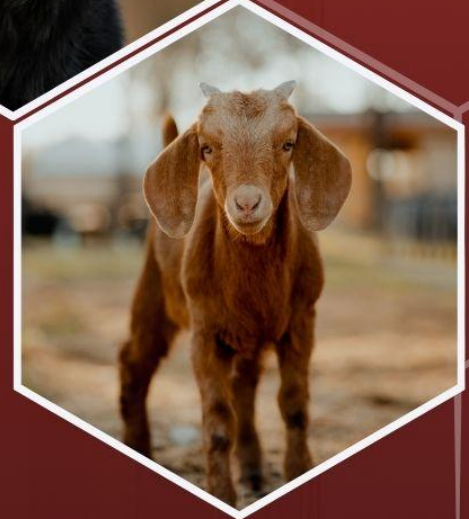




CODE OF PRACTICE

LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION, TRACEABILITY, AND DATA EXCHANGE

An industry code aligned with government and international requirements

Version 2
16 March 2026



The South African Livestock (Cattle, Sheep, Goat) and Red Meat Industry

RMIS – Red Meat Industry Services

Document Version

Version 2

16/03/2026

This version of the Code of Practice replaces all previous versions and serves as the current official guideline for implementation and compliance.

DISCLAIMER

This document is a working document and may change as the process progresses. The content herein is for informational purposes only and may not reflect the final version of the material. As the process evolves, modifications and updates will incorporate new information and insights.

No part of this document should be considered final, legally binding, or authoritative. We acknowledge that certain details are yet to be determined, and as such, we cannot document what is not yet known to be the final process.

Any reliance on the information contained in this draft is at the reader's own risk. The authors, editors, and affiliated parties disclaim any liability for errors, omissions, or misinterpretations that may be present in this preliminary version.

For the most accurate and up-to-date information, please refer to the latest version of this document when available.



Table of Contents

DEFINITIONS	iv
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. APPROACH AND STANDARDS	1
2.1 CODE OF PRACTICE	2
2.2 GOLDEN CIRCLE FRAMEWORK (<i>Why, How, What</i>)	2
2.3 AN AGILE PHASED APPROACH	3
2.4 POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS	4
3. RMIS PLATFORM	7
3.1 LOCATION IDENTIFICATION – PRODUCTION UNIT NUMBER (GLN)	8
3.2 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENT DATA	8
3.2.1 VISUAL IDENTIFICATION DEVICES (VIDS)	11
3.2.2 ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION DEVICES (EID) TAGS	13
3.2.3 ULTRA HIGHFREQUENCY (UHF) RFID	14
3.3 RECORD-KEEPING SYSTEMS	15
4. TIMELINE	18
CONCLUSION	18
ANNEXURE	19
A. Gendac GLN Application	19



DEFINITIONS

API – Application Programming Interface	A technical interface that enables different software systems (e.g., record-keeping systems and the traceability platform) to communicate and exchange data securely and efficiently.
GLN – Global Location Number	A unique number assigned according to GS1 standards to identify a specific physical location within the supply chain (e.g., farm, auction, feedlot, or abattoir). Publicly referred to as a Production Unit Number within the RMIS Traceability Platform.
GS1	A global standards organization that develops and maintains supply chain identifiers, including barcodes and location numbers. GS1 ensures international consistency and credibility for traceability systems.
POC – Proof of Concept	A preliminary demonstration to validate the feasibility of a specific integration, process, or technology before full-scale implementation.
Record-Keeping System	Any digital system or software used to record animal production information on site by the farmer, auction house, feedlot, or abattoir. These systems can be integrated with the RMIS platform to share traceability data.
Traceability	The ability to track and verify the movement and history of livestock throughout the supply chain, from farm to consumer
ICAR	International Committee for Animal Recording



1. INTRODUCTION

Traceability refers to the ability to track and verify the movement and history of individual livestock throughout the supply chain, from farm to consumer. In South Africa, an effective traceability system is crucial for enhancing food safety, managing disease outbreaks, preventing stock theft, and improving market access for livestock and red meat products. By implementing robust traceability measures, the industry can ensure compliance with international standards, build consumer confidence, and support sustainable and ethical farming practices.

2. APPROACH AND STANDARDS

The traceability initiative for the South African red meat industry should be underpinned by a clear Code of Practice and guided by strategic frameworks and legal standards to ensure consistency, accountability, and effectiveness. This document represents the second draft in the process of developing a finalized Code of Practice. This industry traceability initiative is in alignment and conjunction with the Department of Agriculture.

Utilizing Simon Sinek's Golden Circle Framework (Why, How, What), the framework clearly outlines its purpose — to enhance disease management, meat safety, and market access.

The implementation follows a structured, agile phased approach to ensure effective adoption and operational efficiency. Governance is reinforced through adherence to national and international standards, including GS1 and ICAR. Furthermore, compliance with key legislation—namely the Animal Identification Act (AIDA), the Animal Diseases Act, the Animal Improvement Act, and the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA)—ensures regulatory alignment. Lastly, adherence to ISO guidelines and Microsoft Azure Data Security protocols enhances industry credibility and data protection.

Using Surveyor General data as the foundation, geofences are established to enhance official government data, ensuring accuracy and reliability. Collaboration with industry stakeholders and government entities is crucial to achieving robust and compliant execution across the entire South African red meat value chain.



2.1 CODE OF PRACTICE

"A **Code of Practice** refers to a set of **guidelines** established by an organization or industry to ensure **standardized behavior** and promote **ethical practices** in specific situations. It provides clear expectations and recommendations for how participants or organizations should conduct themselves in particular areas."

Key Features of a Code of Practice

Standards and Expectations	Sets a clear standard for behavior or actions.
Best Practices	Offers guidance on how to achieve high-quality outcomes in specific fields or industries.
Ethical Guidelines	Often include ethical considerations to ensure fairness, transparency, and integrity.
Voluntary or Legal Compliance	It may be voluntary or mandated by law, depending on the context.
Data Protection	A code detailing how to handle sensitive information securely and comply with privacy laws.

Purpose:

- To provide **consistency** in practices.
- To promote **accountability** and **transparency**.
- To protect **participants**, **consumers**, and the **environment**.

2.2 GOLDEN CIRCLE FRAMEWORK (Why, How, What)

WHY (Purpose):

The traceability platform aims to enhance the South African red meat industry's competitiveness, sustainability, resilience, and safety. It addresses the industry's needs for accurate identification, livestock tracking, meat safety, disease management, and market compliance.

- Enable effective livestock disease management.
- Improve traceability for both domestic and global market access.
- Ensure meat safety and quality.
- Strengthen transparency, trust, and data integrity across the value chain.



HOW (Process):

Through a standardized approach for identifying, capturing, and exchanging livestock data across the red meat value chain:

- **Identification using GS1 Standards:**
Locations within the value chain—such as communal farms, commercial farms, feedlots, abattoirs, and auction houses—are assigned unique Global Location Numbers (GLNs). These GLNs ensure accurate and consistent location identification and are publicly referred to as Production Unit Numbers (GLN).
- **Standardization of Tags and unique Tag Numbers:**
Physical tag specification and standardized numbering
- **Digital Data Capture:**
Livestock information is captured through integrated record-keeping systems, recording details such as GPS coordinates, timestamps, species, and individual animal tag IDs to enable accurate and real-time tracking.
- **System Integration and Data Exchange:**
Integrating multiple record-keeping systems allows for the standardized and secure exchange of data across stakeholders in the supply chain.

WHAT (Implementation & Outcome):

- A digital data exchange platform for animal identification and movement data, serving as the industry-wide tool to achieve traceability.
- Data standardization ensures compatibility with existing global standards.
- Collaboration with stakeholders: commercial & small-scale farmers, auctioneers, feedlots, abattoirs, product and service providers, and government bodies.

2.3 AN AGILE PHASED APPROACH

An **agile phased approach** means breaking down the platform development into clearly defined, manageable stages (phases) to rapidly deliver tangible results, gather feedback, and make iterative improvements. The approach includes:

- **Phase 1: Identification**
 - Assign unique identifiers (GLNs) to production units (farms, auction houses, abattoirs).
 - Foundation for standardized data exchange.
- **Phase 2: Data Capture**
 - Digitally capture animal-specific data (tag ID, GPS coordinates, timestamps).
 - Integrate multiple existing record-keeping systems for decentralized yet unified data sharing.
- **Phase 3: Data Sharing**
 - Standardized, secure data exchange across the entire livestock value chain.
 - Produce accurate, user-friendly traceability reports.



Benefits of this Agile Phased Approach:

- **Rapid delivery of measurable results**
- **Flexibility and adaptability** (able to pivot quickly based on feedback or new requirements)
- **Early identification of risks and issues**
- **Enhanced stakeholder collaboration and buy-in**

2.4 POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

GS1 – Global Standards 1

GS1 is a globally recognized, non-profit organization that develops and maintains standards for supply chain management, including barcodes, RFID, and electronic data interchange (EDI). Their standards ensure traceability across industries such as agriculture, retail, healthcare, and logistics. GS1's policies emphasize global data accuracy, security, and compliance with regulatory requirements. With a presence in over 100 countries, GS1 is widely trusted for its credibility in setting universal identification and communication standards that enhance transparency and operational efficiency in global trade.

ISO – International Organization for Standardization

An independent, global body that develops and publishes internationally recognized standards to ensure quality, safety, efficiency, and interoperability across industries. ISO standards are created through a rigorous process involving experts from various sectors, ensuring credibility and reliability. These standards establish best practices for management systems, production processes, and safety protocols, helping organizations comply with regulatory requirements and improve operational efficiency. Widely respected and adopted worldwide, ISO standards enhance consumer trust, facilitate trade, and promote consistency in products and services.

ICAR - International Committee for Animal Recording

A global organization that sets standards and guidelines for animal identification, performance recording, and genetic evaluation in the livestock industry. ICAR works to improve the accuracy, reliability, and efficiency of animal recording systems, ensuring data integrity and consistency across different countries and organizations. Its policies focus on best practices for animal identification, traceability, and data management, supporting sustainable livestock production. Recognized for its credibility, ICAR collaborates with industry stakeholders, research institutions, and regulatory bodies to develop internationally accepted standards that enhance livestock management, breeding programs, and market access.



WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

Formerly known as the Office International des Epizooties (OIE)

an intergovernmental organization responsible for setting international standards for animal health, disease control, and veterinary practices. Established in 1924, WOAH works to improve global animal health, food safety, and public health by monitoring and preventing the spread of infectious diseases in animals. It provides scientific guidelines for disease surveillance, vaccination programs, and animal welfare, ensuring safe international trade of animals and animal products. Recognized by the World Trade Organization, WOAH plays a crucial role in strengthening veterinary services worldwide and supporting sustainable livestock production.

General Principles on the Identification and Traceability of Live Animals
Article 4.1.1 – This article outlines foundational principles for animal identification systems, emphasizing the need for unique, verifiable, and accessible identification methods to enable effective traceability across the livestock value chain. These principles support disease control, food safety, and market access.

KEY LEGISLATION

- **Animal Identification Act (AIDA), 2002**

The Animal Identification Act regulates the compulsory marking of livestock for identification purposes in South Africa. It requires all livestock owners to register an identification mark and use approved methods, such as branding or tagging, to prevent stock theft and ensure traceability. Compliance with this act enhances livestock tracking and ownership verification.

- **Animal Diseases Act, 1984**

The Animal Diseases Act governs the control and prevention of animal diseases in South Africa. It establishes measures for disease surveillance, reporting, and quarantine to protect animal health and prevent outbreaks. The act also regulates the movement of animals, requiring permits and health certifications to curb the spread of infectious diseases within the livestock industry.

- **Animal Improvement Act, 1998**

The Animal Improvement Act promotes genetic improvement and breeding standards within South Africa's livestock industry. It regulates the registration, evaluation, and use of breeding animals and genetic material to enhance productivity, sustainability, and genetic diversity. The act supports agricultural development by ensuring responsible breeding practices and genetic resource management.



- **Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA), 2013**

The POPI Act governs the processing, storage, and protection of personal information in South Africa. It ensures that businesses and organizations, including those in the livestock industry, handle personal data lawfully, transparently, and securely. POPIA grants individuals rights over their data while imposing strict requirements on entities to prevent misuse, unauthorized access, and data breaches.

- **Stock Theft Act, 1959**

The Stock Theft Act provides measures for the prevention and prosecution of stock theft in South Africa. It outlines procedures for the lawful possession, movement, and sale of livestock, including the requirement for documentation and permits. The act supports traceability by ensuring proper identification and control of livestock ownership.

- **Meat Safety Act, 2000**

The Meat Safety Act aims to promote the safety of meat and animal products for human and animal consumption. It regulates abattoirs, meat inspection, and hygiene practices throughout the meat supply chain. The act also supports traceability by requiring records of animal origin, movement, and processing to ensure food safety and public health.

Surveyor General

The Surveyor-General of South Africa is responsible for maintaining and regulating the country's cadastral system, which records land ownership, boundaries, and subdivisions. Cadastral data includes precise geographical and legal information about farm portions, ensuring accurate land registration, ownership verification, and property rights protection. This data is crucial for agricultural development, land use planning, and legal transactions. The Surveyor-General oversees the surveying and mapping of farm portions, ensuring compliance with national land laws and providing authoritative records for landowners, government agencies, and industries that rely on accurate land information.



3. RMIS PLATFORM

This is a traceability platform for the South African red meat value chain that is driven by the Red Meat Industry and aligned with the government to assist with national disease management, market access requirements, and meat safety. The platform focuses on **identifying**, **capturing**, and efficiently **exchanging** relevant traceability data in a standardized language between role-players.

A phased approach will enhance resource focus and efficiency to ensure accurate results in the shortest period possible. The image below points out the three phases and the steps each consists of:





3.1 LOCATION IDENTIFICATION – PRODUCTION UNIT NUMBER (GLN)

RMIS launched Phase 1 on 1 November 2024, which focuses on the identification and numbering of all key locations within the red meat value chain. Each site, including communal land farms, commercial farms, auction houses, feedlots, meat processing facilities, testing stations, and abattoirs, will receive a unique Global Location Number (GLN).

GLNs, or Global Location Numbers, are unique identifiers in the GS1 standard assigned to physical locations within a supply chain. Within the traceability context, assigning unique GLNs to relevant locations within the red meat industry supply chain will ensure communication and **accurate referencing**. GS1, through its global standards, ensures national and international credibility while maintaining alignment with the primary value chain, retail, and export sectors.

Required data captured on the platform for GLN issuing include:

- Cell nr and OTP to register/login to profile
- Name and surname
- Cell nr and email address
- Farm type
- Livestock species
- Geo-fence of the production unit
- GPS coordinate in the geo-fence (Placed by the platform)
- Additional contacts (Optional)

Registered Global Location Number (GLN) Numbers form the foundation of the Traceability Platform. Role-players can already register their production units by visiting: <https://productionunit.rmis.co.za/>

Additionally, registered Production Units are displayed on an interactive map at <https://rmis.co.za/rmis-traceability-platform/>, allowing users to verify the legitimacy and location of a Production Unit Number (GLN). This phase is ongoing and will continue indefinitely as long as new production units continue to register. Legitimate GLNs can also be verified through the WhatsApp bot; only preapproved cell phone numbers have access to the bot. During phase 2, as various recordkeeping systems integrate with the platform, this number (GLN) will serve as a key location reference for sharing traceability data.

3.2 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND MOVEMENT DATA

As this is a phased approach, current tags and their numbers used in the industry will be able to integrate into the platform through accredited record-keeping systems.



Initially, all technologies (tags and readers) will be accommodated to prevent duplication and minimize additional costs for producers. These technologies also cater to diverse producer needs, offering different functionalities. **Hardware must comply with international identification and traceability standards that include ICAR or similar approved regulations**, of which standards can and will be explored, like PASS 44, PASS 66. Important to note that other standards for hardware (tags) will also be required to use the ICAR numbering standard sequence. Currently, (16/03/2026), only the ICAR approved numbering is accepted in the code of practice.

To ensure that recognisable tag numbers are issued without duplication, RMIS has adopted a decentralized yet standardized approach. Rather than creating a centralized number bank, RMIS now recognizes all tag manufacturers/suppliers who are ICAR-approved. ICAR manufactures receive a unique ICAR numbering prefix which will be recognised by the RMIS Traceability Platform. This approach will ensure officially recognised numbers and avoid duplication of numbers, without influencing the current business and logistics of tag manufacturers/suppliers.

ICAR-approved tags comply with ISO standards, ensuring international standards, numbering integrity, and tag quality. This approach allows existing manufacturers to continue issuing tags under their approved prefixes while maintaining national consistency and avoiding duplication across systems.

The recommended tag and tag number standardization framework is discussed under the Animal Identification section. These standards—aligned with ICAR and ISO—will be formally included in the final version of this Code of Practice once fully ratified.

This collaborative and inclusive model ensures credibility, transparency, and trust across all sectors of the South African red meat value chain, while maintaining alignment with both government oversight and international best practices.

The **minimal traceability data** exchanged through record-keeping systems on the platform as animals move will include:

- **Production Unit Numbers (Origin and destination)**
- **GPS location**
- **Animal identification**
- **Movement Date**
- **Livestock Species**
- **Brandmark**
- **FMD Vaccination Status/Verification**



Under the **Animal Identification Act (2002)**, all South African livestock owners must register and apply a brand mark to their animals as a form of permanent identification. The Act also permits tattoos for smaller species such as sheep and goats, where branding is impractical.

While these traditional methods remain valid for proving ownership, they are limited in supporting individual animal traceability. Technological advancements now allow for more efficient and verifiable systems. The **RMIS Traceability Code of Practice** aims to harmonize traditional and modern identification methods to achieve a nationally consistent and internationally credible traceability framework.

Current Animal Identification Methods in South Africa

Visual Identification Devices (VID)-Visual ear tags remain one of the most common methods of identifying livestock in South Africa. These are usually blank plastic tags purchased from agricultural suppliers, onto which farmers manually write their own numbering systems.

While widely used due to their low cost, easy accessibility, and practicality, this system has notable limitations:

- No verifiable ownership — handwritten tags cannot be traced back to a registered owner.
- Duplication of numbers — different producers often use identical numbering formats.
- No national standardization — numbering practices vary by individual, region, and cooperative, making reliable traceability impossible.

VIDs remain essential for small-scale and communal farmers due to their accessibility and low cost, even though they do not support full traceability. The farmer's own numbers do not comply with the traceability standards as set below, and therefore can only be used for management purposes.

Electronic Identification Devices (EID) - Radio Frequency Identification (Low and Ultra High frequency RFID), tags are electronic devices that carry a unique, scannable digital code linked to an animal's management record. RFID technology allows for automated data capture, improved accuracy, and streamlined integration with digital record-keeping systems.



RFID tags are already being used effectively in certain sectors of the South African livestock value chain, such as feedlots, stud farms, and abattoirs, where the benefits of digital tracking are most apparent.

These tags enable:

- Automated data exchange and updates through management software.
- Seamless ownership transfer and movement tracking.
- Improved herd and health management capabilities.

Countries such as Namibia and Australia have successfully made RFID identification mandatory, achieving full livestock traceability and enhanced disease management.

However, the higher cost of RFID tags and the logistical challenges associated with purchasing and applying them—especially in communal areas or for last-minute sales—limit widespread adoption in South Africa at this stage.

Challenges in the South African Context

South African law does not currently require the use of ear tags—only registered brand marks and tattoos. This has led to inconsistent practices: some producers use RFID, others use handwritten VIDs, and many rely solely on branding. This fragmented approach hinders national traceability, complicates disease control, and limits market access.

Specifications for Traceability Animal Identification

To improve national traceability, enhance accuracy, and reduce the risk of number duplication, a standardized tagging and numbering framework is needed. ICAR-approved tags from suppliers are integrated with the RMIS traceability platform.

3.2.1 VISUAL IDENTIFICATION DEVICES (VIDS)

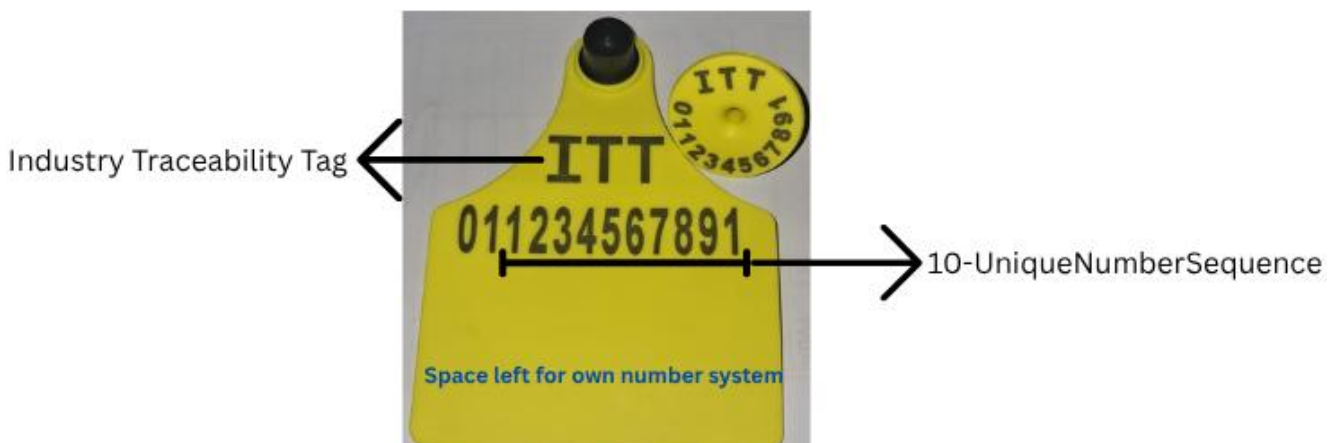
Visual tags (VID) are commonly used by farmers with their own numbering system. The traceability platform will accommodate VID due to the relatively low cost of the tag itself, and no electronic reader is needed. This option is specifically included for farmers with lower quantities of animals to ensure inclusivity. Secondly, numbering systems from recognised existing traceability systems will also be accommodated for the phase-in period (period length to be determined).

- ICAR-approved VID tag (ICAR Approved)
- **Pre-printed** Number on VIDs before commercial distribution.



- **Number Generation:** The numbering sequence printed on VID's will be generated, issued, and managed by the RMIS Traceability Platform.
 - All ICAR-approved tag manufacturers/suppliers to register on the RMIS Traceability Platform.
 - Each registered manufacturer will receive a bank of unique number sequences allocated electronically through the platform.
 - Manufacturers/Suppliers in agreement:
 - ✓ Allflex
 - ✓ Datamars
 - ✓ Sentrac
 - ✓ Survecom
 - ✓ Shearwell

(Open for additional suppliers)
- **Format:** 3-digit ICAR Prefix _ 12-Digit serial number
 - Number sequence duplication is possible with the manufacturer's ICAR prefix being used in EIDs and the serialization being done from two different platforms (EID international manufacturers and RMIS Traceability Platform).
 - To avoid number sequence duplication, the manufacturer's prefix will be masked with an industry code when printing the VID, namely:
ITT → Industry Traceability Tag
- **VID Number Format:** Each VID will carry a unique alphanumeric serial code structured as follows: **ITT_01_[10-UniqueNumberSequence]**
 - **ITT** = Industry Traceability Tag (Masked ICAR Prefix)
 - **01** = Registered Tag Manufacturer Identifier *(as issued through the RMIS platform and linked to the manufacturer ICAR prefix, e.g., Allflex = 01)*
 - **[10-UniqueNumberSequence]** = System-generated serial number ensuring national uniqueness





- **Tag:** ICAR Approved and tamper-evident
- VIDs must use a secure two-piece lock design (Tamper-evident) where the male and female parts cannot be separated without visible breakage.
- **Printing standards:**
 - Number print font and size should be readable at arm's length with the naked eye and OCR (Optical Character Recognition)
 - In the **ITT** (Industry Traceability Tag), the font should ensure that the 'I' is presented with the horizontal stripes to enhance and ensure readability; 'I'
 - Number to be printed on the Female tag.
(The male pin is optional to be printed with the number)
 - The number can be printed anywhere on the tag (Front, back, top, bottom)
 - Optional duplication of the number in a QR-code or barcode format

3.2.2 ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION DEVICES (EID) TAGS

Electronic Identification (EID) tags include low (LF) and Ultra-High (UHF) frequency RFID.

Low-frequency (LF) RFIDs

- The majority of EID tags are imported with a pre-coded ICAR number embedded in and printed on the EID tag by global suppliers. The numbering sequence is therefore issued by global suppliers before the importation of tags.
 - RMIS will thus not establish a centralized number bank to be used in Low Frequency EIDs that are imported.
 - Instead, RMIS will recognize all tag manufacturers/suppliers who hold an ICAR-approved manufacturer code, to accommodate the numbers embedded in the LF EID tags.
 - If LF EID tags are not pre-encoded, the numbering sequence printed on and embedded in LF EID will be generated, issued, and managed by the RMIS Traceability Platform
 - This approach:
 - Ensures globally recognized numbering standards (ICAR)
 - Ensures the use of recognized tag numbers by the RMIS Traceability Platform
 - Avoids duplication of tag numbers
 - Provides supplier options to participants
 - Does not disrupt existing manufacturing, supply, or logistics processes.



- The RMIS Traceability Platform will also recognize the number format using **government prefixes**, such as the “710” prefix followed by a 12-digit serial number, ensuring full interoperability with state-administered identification numbers (Used by LITS-SA).
- **Format:** 3-digit manufacturer ICAR prefix, followed by a 12-digit serial number
- **Tag:** ICAR (ICAR approved) and tamper-evident LF EID combined with a male tag of the farmer's choice (male tag could either be a button or a flag tag of choice).
- **Printing Standards:**
 - Embedded number printed on the tag
 - Printed on the female tag (preprinted)
(Printing the number on the male is optional)



3.2.3 ULTRA HIGHFREQUENCY (UHF) RFID

As identification technology continues to evolve, RMIS will remain open to innovation and improvement. Future systems—such as Ultra High-Frequency (UHF) RFID or other advanced identification technologies—will be evaluated through continued industry consultation. UHRFID technology tags and readers are in the process of being ICAR compliant, approximately a 12-month period (Confirmed by ICAR).

RMIS will accommodate UHRFID tags before ICAR registration on two conditions:

- Standardized ICAR numbering sequence embedded in and printed on the tag
- Manufacturers/suppliers must register with ICAR when ICAR publishes guidelines and opens registration.

The printing, numbering, and coding standards for UHF-RFID EID are the same as LF EID as described above.

Tag distribution and usage process: Industry Traceability Tags (*ITT*) can be ordered/purchased from RMIS-integrated ICAR-approved manufacturers/suppliers. Logistics will be handled between the buyer and manufacturers/suppliers based on the seller's business structure. (Ordering, manufacturing time, delivery)



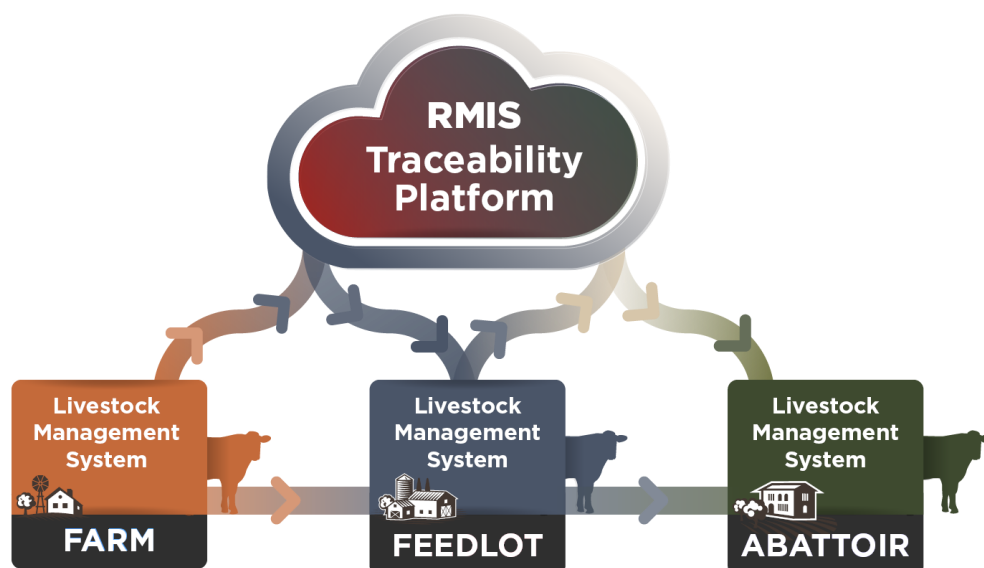
Phasing in the Adoption of Traceability Tags

To minimise costs for farmers during the national rollout of traceability tags, all existing tags, including the ones in stock at integrated tag manufacturers/suppliers and their associated numbers (issued by recognized traceability systems), will continue to be recognised and integrated into the RMIS Traceability Platform for a transitional period. This allows current identification systems to function without disruption while ensuring full data compatibility.

It is recommended that, already during the phase-in period, newly tagged animals be identified with tags that contain an ICAR-approved tag and number, either embedded in the tag or printed on it. This requirement ensures standardised, internationally recognised numbering and supports long-term traceability integrity.

3.3 RECORD-KEEPING SYSTEMS

The platform is designed to be widely accessible, ensuring that the entire industry can participate in this initiative. To achieve this, the platform integrates with existing record-keeping systems, allowing seamless data exchange. This approach enables role-players to continue using their current record-keeping systems — provided these record-keeping systems can integrate with the traceability platform — rather than being required to adopt a single, uniform system. Data is thus decentralized, which enhances trust and participation.





Requirements for record-keeping system integration

For record-keeping systems to integrate with the RMIS Platform, they must digitally capture the minimum required traceability data (as outlined above) and be able to connect via a secure HTTP API provided by the platform.

Collaboration with record-keeping systems has already been initiated, with communications sent out and exploratory meetings conducted. The following record-keeping systems have received the API integration document:

- Gigalot
- Matrix Software
- AIMS
- Herdmaster
- Logix
- FlexiAuction
- Gallagher Animal Performance
- Allflex Connect
- Bloutand
- ID-Scan
- Sparta
- FarmCon
- GMP Basics
- Bengue Farm
- Webroute eLivestock
- My Farm Works
- Beeftech
- Karan
- Datamars
- Ketendo
- Buffalo Analytic

(This is a dynamic list that is updated frequently)

Integrated record-keeping systems

(16/03/2026)

- Logix (ID Track)
- Herdmaster
- BenguFarm
- AIMS
- Datamars
- FlexiAuction
- Gigalot
- Pointr Solutions
- Matrix Software
- Webroute eLivestock
- Bloutand
- FarmCon
- RMIS Movement App



Integration in progress

(16/03/2026)

- Sparta
- Karan
- Gallagher

Record-keeping systems throughout the value chain can request to be integrated into the platform to exchange traceability data. Contact RMIS.

The dashboard and functionality to interrogate the movement data to generate a traceability report are developed on the platform. Reports include:

- Abattoir Report - Full traceability report, default report
- Search per location (GLN) report – Incoming and/or outgoing animals
- Search per animal (ID-tag) report – Movement between GLNs

To maintain data integrity, only authorized RMIS staff will have access to initiate disease-related queries, and owners will be notified via WhatsApp each time their data is accessed for disease traceability purposes. The official rules governing these functions will be formally included in this document once finalized, prior to the system becoming operational.



4. TIMELINE

The roadmap and puzzle pieces to reach the end goal of livestock traceability are realistically achievable. Still, it requires a collaborative attempt by all industry role-players, including small-scale farmers, commercial farmers, auction houses, feedlots, abattoirs, service providers, product providers, organized agricultural organizations, and the government.

Task	Milestone	Status
Phase 1: Application to register production unit number (GLN)	November 2024	Completed
<i>GLNs issued</i>	<i>February 2026</i>	<i>7 000</i>
Phase 2a: Deployment of a workable proof of concept	May 2025	Completed
Phase 2b: Integration of record-keeping systems	November 2025	Completed
<i>Systems integrated</i>		<i>10</i>
Phase 2c: Tag and number specifications	February 2026	Completed
Phase 3: Animal movement data exchange	March 2026	In progress

CONCLUSION

This Code of Practice is a **living, working document** that will continue to evolve alongside the development of the Red Meat and Livestock Identification and Traceability platform - South Africa.

As RMIS, in consultation with relevant roll-players, reaches formal resolutions on key aspects—such as standard guidelines, identification frameworks, and system integrations—those decisions will be added into this document in a structured and transparent manner.

Nothing will be included unless a definitive and inclusive decision has been made, recognizing that each addition may have a significant impact across the industry. All decisions will be made with careful consideration and broad stakeholder consultation, ensuring that the Code remains credible, practical, and representative of all role-players affected by traceability.



ANNEXURE

A. Gendac GLN Application



GLN Analysis



GLN Design

Gendac Data Exchange Platform



API Integration



TST-002-01-(RMIS-TR
) - Traceability API Inte