# Classification of Red Meat
## A Key to More Effective Marketing

Classification provides a sound basis for:
- Meat traders to describe their specific requirements in simple terms when purchasing carcasses.
- Utilisation of variety in the market with a view to optimum consumer satisfaction.
- Utilisation of price differences.
- Determining selling prices.

## Classification Characteristics of: Beef, Lamb, Sheep and Goat Meat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Teeth</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 Teeth</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–6 Teeth</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 6 Teeth</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FATNESS</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No fat</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very lean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fat</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly overweight</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessively overweight</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conformation Class

- **Very flat:** 1
- **Flat:** 2
- **Medium:** 3
- **Round:** 4
- **Very round:** 5

### Damage Class

- **Slight:** 1
- **Moderate:** 2
- **Severe:** 3

### Sex

The carcase of a ram or a bull as well as of a male goat, a kappeter or an ox showing signs of late castration of the AB, B or C age classes, are identified.

## Classification Characteristics of: Pork

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% MEAT</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;70</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68–69</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66–65</td>
<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64–65</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62–63</td>
<td>U</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤61</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Conformation Class

- **Very flat:** 1
- **Flat:** 2
- **Medium:** 3
- **Round:** 4
- **Very round:** 5

### Damage Class

- **Slight:** 1
- **Moderate:** 2
- **Severe:** 3

### Sex

The carcase of a boar as well as of a barrow showing signs of late castration, are identified.

## Marks for Classification Characteristics on: Beef, Lamb, Sheep and Goat Carcasses

### Trait | Mark | Where on the Carcase
--- | --- | ---
Age (A, AB, B, C) | ![Mark] | One mark on each quarter of beef carcase.
Fatness* (0 to 6) | ![Mark] | Only one mark on the carcarse for lamb, sheep and goat carcases.
Conformation (1 to 5) | ![Mark] | One mark on each side of beef carcases. No mark for lamb, sheep and goat carcases.
Damage** (1 to 3) | ![Mark] | Taking into account the area of damage, one mark on each side for beef carcases. Only one mark on the carcarse for lamb, sheep and goat carcases.
Sex | ![Mark] | One mark on each side of beef carcases. Only one mark on the carcarse for lamb, sheep and goat carcases.

*In case of a sheep carcase with a fat tail, a double impression of the mark. **Damage, if it occurs, is indicated on a scale of one to three for the areas concerned, viz. B (buttock), L (loin) and F (forequarter).

## Examples of the Roller-Mark Compositions for: Beef, Lamb, Sheep and Goat Carcases

| AAA ABAB BBB CCC | Age class of the animal as an indication of tenderness. The A age class is roller-marked in purple (most tender), AB carcasses are in green (tender), B in brown (less tender) and C in red (least tender).
| OOO OOO OOO OOO | - Fatness class** of the carcase. This symbol can be replaced in the roller-mark by 111, 222, 333, 444, 555 or 666.
| ZWZ ZWZ ZWZ ZWZ | - Abattoir-identification code.

### Marks for Classification Characteristics on: Pork Carcases

### Trait | Mark | Where on the Carcase
--- | --- | ---
Conformation (1 to 6) | ![Mark] | One mark on each side.
Damage* (1 to 3) | ![Mark] | Taking into account the area of damage, only one mark on the carcarse.
Sex | ![Mark] | One mark on each side.

*Damage, if it occurs, is indicated on a scale of 1 to 3 for the areas concerned, viz. B (buttock), L (loin) and F (forequarter).

## Marks for Classes of Pork:

### Class | Mark | Where on the Carcase
--- | --- | ---
Sucking pig | S | One mark on forehead.
Sausage pig | W | One mark on each buttock.
Rough | RU | One mark on each side.

*The class of a pig carcase is not roller-marked on it. Some pig carcasses may be roller-marked in purple ink with a specific abattoir-identification code/trade mark.

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**Classification Regulations No. R. 863 in Government Gazette of the Republic of South Africa, 1 September, 2003.**

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