

## Specification of straw color and identification

Description of Swissgenetics' specification of straw color and identification, effective since 16 March 2011.

### 1 Straw specification

#### 1.1 Size

French straws 0.25 ml

#### 1.2 Colors

Swissgenetics has defined a specific straw color for each principal breed in Switzerland. Additional colors are used for special semen straws (articles).

Breed	Code	Semen straw color
Brown Swiss	BS	green (transparent)
Swiss Fleckvieh	SF	red (transparent)
Holstein	HO	grey (transparent)
Limousin	LM	ocher
Original Braunvieh	OB	green (transparent)
Red Holstein	RH	red (transparent)
Simmental	SI	red (transparent)


The color for other (exotic) breeds is not defined and is chosen individually for each semen production.

The color for special articles is defined as follows:

Product	Semen straw color
Heterospermic doses	orange
Sexed semen (X)	lilac (Cryovet 662) (transparent)
Sexed semen (Y)	blue (Cryovet 262) (transparent)
others	light

### 2 Straw identification

#### 2.1 Sequence of the imprinting on the straw

EU code	Production date DDMMYY	Barcode	Article code	Batch number	Animal ID	Name of the bull	Breed code
CHAGAI02B	140514		N	046	CH 120.0917.3984.8	HARRY	BS
		19608425046					



#### 2.2 Detailed information

##### EU code

Since January 1st, 2007, the official code for the semen collection center Mülligen assigned by the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office is CH-AG-AI-02B (before Code: CH-AI-2B). In order to save

space, the EU code is printed without hyphens.

**Production date**

The production date is printed as DDMMYY<sup>1</sup>, with

- DD =day
- MM = month
- YY = last two digits of the year of production (e.g. 14 for 2014)

**Barcode (128C)**

The barcode is a machine-readable information according to the ICAR Guidelines. It is printed in type 128C format and consists of the following elements:

NAAB stud code	196: Registration number of the semen collection center Mülligen at NAAB
Internal number Bull x Article	Unique number of Bull x Article (5 digits), as assigned by the internal central database of Swissgenetics
Batch number	Number within Bull x Article as defined below (3 digits)

Examples: see Appendix

Please note: A barcode of type 128C includes an internal checksum digit.

**Article code**

This code represents the specificity of the semen doses, e.g. sexed semen. Different products (articles) can be produced from the same bull, depending on the processing procedure. In order to be able to distinguish these products, a process-specific code is necessary.

Code	Specification
N	Standard/conventional semen
H	Heterospermic doses
S	SpermVital
X	Sexed semen (X)
Y	Sexed semen (Y)

**Batch number**

A batch is in the terminology of Swissgenetics a certain number of semen straws of an article processed the same way, which origin from one or more ejaculates of a bull at the same day.

Batch numbers are assigned to ejaculates processed **within Bull x Article**. If at the same day two ejaculates of a bull are merged for producing one kind of article, one batch number is assigned to the mixture. If the ejaculates are processed separately, different batch numbers are assigned.

**Animal ID**

Official herdbook identification of the bull

**Name of the bull**























Name (short form) of the bull (maximum of 12 characters)

**Breed code**

Breed code according to herdbook registration

<sup>1</sup> From March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 till March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, the production date was printed as YYDDD with DDD = n<sup>th</sup> day within year (e.g. 054 for February 23<sup>rd</sup>)

**Appendix: Barcode example of a single bull producing different articles**

Production date	Article	Barcode Type 128C	In clear text
09 Jan 2017	Conventional		19600430153
12 Jan 2017	Conventional		19600430154
16 Jan 2017	Conventional		19600430155
19 Jan 2017	Conventional		19600430156
24 Jan 2017	SpermVital		19611824013
26 Jan 2017	Sexed (X)		19607966095
26 Jan 2017	Sexed (X)		19607966096
02 Feb 2017	Sexed (X)		19607966097
02 Feb 2017	Sexed (X)		19607966098
06 Feb 2017	Conventional		19600430157
09 Feb 2017	Conventional		19600430158
13 Feb 2017	Conventional		19600430159
20 Feb 2017	Conventional		19600430160
23 Feb 2017	Conventional		19600430161
27 Feb 2017	Conventional		19600430162
06 Mar 2017	Conventional		19600430163
13 Mar 2017	Conventional		19600430164
15 Mar 2017	Conventional		19600430165
23 Mar 2017	Sexed (X)		19607966099
28 Mar 2017	Conventional		19600430166
03 Apr 2017	Conventional		19600430167
05 Apr 2017	SpermVital		19611824014

where

196

00430 / 11824 / 07966

153 ...

= NAAB stud code of the semen collecting center Mülligen

= unique internal number of Bull x Article

= batch number within Bull x Article