



FIFe EMS system

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STATUS OF CHANGES

For previous changes than those listed below, please refer to the separate document "FIFe Statutes, Rules & Standards – History of Changes" available in the section "Rules & Forms" on the FIFe website.

Page	Breed(s)	Status	Remarks
Edited 01.01.26			
3, 4	KBL/KBS	Addition	Carnelian (EMS code: x *t) is a non-recognised variety in KBL/KBS
5	SIB	Change	Siberian with blue eyes only permitted in combination with EMS codes w (white), 01 (van) or 02 (harlequin)
6	BLH/BSH	Change	Description of tipped pointed to shaded pointed (11 33)
6	BLH/BSH	Addition	Shell pointed (12 33)
6	CYM/MAN	Change	The longie (EMS code 54) is a fully recognised variety
Edited 01.10.25			
3, 4, 5	BLH/BSH	Change	Corin (EMS code: u) is a preliminary recognised variety in BLH/BSH
Edited 01.06.25			
3, 4, 5	SIB/NEM	Change	Corin (EMS code: u) is a preliminary recognised variety in SIB/NEM; Corin remains a non-recognised variety in BLH/BSH und KBL/KBS
3, 4, 5	BEN	Change	Charcoal (EMS code: 14) is a preliminary recognised variety in BEN

FIFe EMS system

The FIFe Easy Mind System (EMS) is a system used to describe cats by codes.

The code for a specific colour, pattern or other trait is always the same, no matter the breed.

The EMS System, which is not a genetically based system, is intended to be both easy and logical.

With a little practice anyone should be able to speak EMS as fluently as his native tongue.

FIFe EMS system codes

FULLY RECOGNISED BREEDS

ABY	Abyssinian
ACL	American Curl Longhair
ACS	American Curl Shorthair
BAL	Balinese
BEN	Bengal
BLH	British Longhair
BML	Burmilla
BSH	British Shorthair
BUR	Burmese
CHA	Chartreux
CRX	Cornish Rex
CYM	Cymric
DRX	Devon Rex
DSP	Don Sphynx
EUR	European
EXO	Exotic
GRX	German Rex
JBS	Japanese Bobtail Shorthair
KBL	Kurilian Bobtail Longhair
KBS	Kurilian Bobtail Shorthair
KOR	Korat
LPL	LaPerm Longhair
LPS	LaPerm Shorthair
MAN	Manx
MAU	Egyptian Mau
MCO	Maine Coon
NEM	Neva Masquerade
NFO	Norwegian Forest Cat
OCI	Ocicat
OLH	Oriental Longhair
OSH	Oriental Shorthair
PEB	Peterbald
PER	Persian
RAG	Ragdoll
RUS	Russian Blue
SBI	Sacred Birman
SIA	Siamese
SIB	Siberian
SIN	Singapura
SNO	Snowshoe
SOK	Sokoke
SOM	Somali
SPH	Sphynx
SRL	Selkirk Rex Longhair
SRS	Selkirk Rex Shorthair
THA	Thai
TUA	Turkish Angora
TUV	Turkish Van

PRELIMINARY RECOGNISED BREEDS

BOM	Bombay
LYO	Lykoi

PRELIMINARY RECOGNISED VARIETIES

* 14	Charcoal (only for BEN)
*u	Corin (only for SIB/NEM and BLH/BSH)

NON-RECOGNISED BREEDS

ABL non	American Bobtail Longhair
ABS non	American Bobtail Shorthair
ALH non	Asian Longhair
AMS non	American Shorthair
AMW non	American Wirehair
ASH non	Asian Shorthair
AUM non	Australian Mist
BGL non	Bengal Longhair
BRX non	Bohemian Rex
JBL non	Japanese Bobtail Longhair
MBT non	Mekong Bobtail
NEB non	Nebelung
RGM non	RagaMuffin
TGR non	Toyger
TIF non	Tiffanie
TOL non	Tonkanese Longhair
TOS non	Tonkanese Shorthair

OTHER NON-RECOGNISED BREEDS

XLH	non-recognised longhair breeds
XSH	non-recognised shorthair breeds

NON-RECOGNISED VARIETIES

x *t	Carnelian (only for KBL/KBS)
x *u	Corin (only for KBL/KBS)

HOUSECAT

HCL	Housecat Longhair
HCS	Housecat Shorthair

The EMS codes for housecats are only to be used for show purposes.

Non-recognised	Amount of white
non non-recognised breed x non-recognised variety	01 van 02 harlequin 03 bicolour 04 mittet (only for RAG) 05 Snowshoe pattern (only for SNO) 09 unspecified amount of white
Colours	Agouti
* stands for additional information following the EMS system, i.e. lower-case letter of the basic colour, and so on n black a blue b chocolate c lilac d red e cream f black tortie g blue tortie h chocolate tortie j lilac tortie o cinnamon p fawn q cinnamon tortie r fawn tortie w white	11 shaded 12 shell 14 charcoal (only for BEN/BGL non); <i>preliminary recognised variety in BEN</i> 21 tabby 22 tabby blotched 23 tabby mackerel 24 tabby spotted 25 tabby ticked
Dilute modifier (m)	Pointed
m dilute modifier x am caramel known to be based on blue x cm caramel known to be based on lilac x pm caramel known to be based on fawn x em apricot known to be based on cream x *m caramel where base colour is unknown	31 Burmese pointed 32 Tonkinese pointed 33 Siamese pointed
Agouti modifier (t)	Tail
Amber (only for NFO) / Carnelian (only for KBL/KBS) – “x” variety: nt amber / <i>black carnelian</i> at light amber / <i>blue carnelian</i> dt (d) red based on amber / <i>carnelian</i> et (e) cream based on amber / <i>carnelian</i> ft amber tortie / <i>black tortie carnelian</i> gt light amber tortie / <i>blue tortie carnelian</i>	51 rumpy 52 rumpy riser 53 stumpy 54 longie
Silver, Corin, Golden	Eye colours
s silver *u corin – only for SIB/NEM and BLH/BSH; <i>preliminary recognised variety</i> x *u corin – only for KBL/KBS; non-recognised variety (“x”) y golden	61 deep blue 62 copper or deep orange 63 odd eyed: one deep blue eye, the other one according to the standard for the breed 64 green 65 golden yellow – Burmese eye colour 66 aquamarine (bluish green) – Tonkinese eye colour 67 intense deep blue – Siamese eye colour x * 68 albino - non-recognised variety (“x”)
	Ears
	71 straight ears 72 curled ears
	Hair structure
	only for DSP/PEB: 81 longhair 82 shorthair 83 brush only for LPL/LPS, LYO, SRL/SRS: 84 straight coat (LYO: non-roan)

FIFe EMS system – user manual

General principles and restrictions

Please note the following general principles and restrictions:

- an asterisk (*) stands for any information according to the EMS System
- individual EMS codes will always be separated from each other by a space, unless specifically indicated otherwise
- individual numerical EMS codes are always shown in ascending order
- if a breed is limited to only one specific occurrence of a trait, the code for this trait is never used in that full EMS code.

Breeds

The codes of the breeds are always indicated in three capital letters.

BSH, PER

Non-recognised breeds (non)

If the cat belongs to a non-recognised breed, always put “non” after the breed code.

BRX non, RGM non

Non-recognised varieties (x)

If the cat belongs to a non-recognised variety, write an “x” before the colour code.

BSH x dy 01 11, BSH x nu 03 24, BSH x nsu 22

Colours (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, n, o, p, q, r, w)

The colour codes are always indicated in lower case letters.

ABY p, BSH a

If the cat's breed is limited to only one colour and the cat does not show any pattern, do not use any colour code.

RUS (and not RUS a)

BOM (and not BOM n)

Silver (s) / **Corin (u)** / Golden (y)

If the cat shows silver **and/or corin**, or golden, it will always have a lower-case letter, which is not separated by a space from its main colour code(s).

BSH *s, PER *y 11, SIB *u

Corin

The code for Corin (“u”):

- must be used in any variety to register the genotype based on a valid DNA confirmation
- cannot be used in any variety of red and cream cats to register the phenotype
- can only be used in any other variety together with an agouti code (11-12, 21-25) to register the phenotype.

SIB nsu 22 – Siberian black silver corin blotched
BSH du 22 (d 22) – British Shorthair red blotched

SIB eu 24 (e 24) – Siberian cream spotted

SIB nu (n) – Siberian black

BSH du (d) – British Shorthair red

NEM nu 09 21 – Neva Masquerade seal corin tabbypoint with white

Silver/golden

The code for silver or for golden may not be used for hairless and flock varieties of SPH, DSP and PEB, regardless of the cat's genotype.

Modifiers (m, t)

The code for dilute modifier “m” is applicable to for example Siamese.

SIA x *m

The modifier code “t” is only applicable to NFO (amber) **and KBL/KBS (carnelian)**.

NFO *ts, KBL x *t 09 22

The EMS codes “dt (d)” and “et (e)” may only be used for registration purposes.

The EMS codes “dt” and “et” may only be used to register the genotype of red/cream progeny from two amber cats always together with their phenotype “d” respectively “e” in brackets.

The code for modifier is not separated by a space from its main colour code.

Amount of white (01-09)

If the cat shows an amount of white, write the code for that amount of white.

PER * 01, BSH * 03

Code 04 is only applicable to RAG.

Code 05 is only applicable to SNO.

If the cat's breed is limited to only one kind of white amount, do not use any code.

TUV * (and not TUV * 01)

Agouti (11, 12, 14, 21-25)

If the cat is agouti, the code of the pattern must be indicated.

PER * 11

BSH * 22

Code 14 (charcoal) is only applicable to Bengal.

BEN * 14 24, BGL non * 14 22

If the cat's breed is limited to only one pattern, do not use any additional code for pattern.

ABY n (and not ABY n 25)

SOM n (and not SOM n 25)

Exception:

OCI * 24 (and not OCI *)

If the cat's breed is limited to only one colour/pattern, do not use any additional code for colour nor for pattern.

SIN (and not SIN n 25)
SOK (and not SOK n 22)

If the cat is agouti in a pointed, a hairless or a flock variety, always code 21 must be used, regardless of the cat's genotype or phenotype:

RAG * 04 21 (and not RAG * 04 22-25)
SPH * 03 21 (and not SPH * 03 22-25)
SIA * 21 (and not SIA * 22-25)

Exception: For BLH/BSH, code 11 must be used for **shadedpointed varieties and code 12 for shellpointed varieties.**

If the cat has an agouti with van (01) – including tabby TUV – or harlequin (02) pattern in other varieties than pointed or hairless or flock:

- if the agouti pattern is known or can be clearly defined either as shaded, shell or as blotched, mackerel, spotted or ticked, use the appropriate code for the pattern (11, 12, 22-25)
- else code 21 must be used.

If the cat is agouti with bicolour (03) pattern or any amount of white (09), in other varieties than pointed or hairless or flock, the agouti pattern must be identifiable (11, 12, 22-25) and the code 21 may not be used.

PER * 03 22 (and not PER * 03 21)
MCO * 03 23 (and not MCO * 03 21)
CRX * 09 24 (and not CRX * 09 21)

Pointed (31-33)

If the cat is pointed, always use the appropriate code.

PER * 33, SPH * 32

If the cat's breed is limited to only one pointed variety, do not use any code for pointed.

SBI * (and not SBI * 33)
BUR * (and not BUR * 31)
SIA * (and not SIA * 33)
TOS non * (and not TOS non * 32)

Tail (51-54)

These codes are only applicable to CYM and MAN.

CYM * 51, **MAN * 54**

Eye colour (61-67)

The code for eye colour must be used if:

- the cat is white ("w") **or**
- the cat is non-pointed and has an amount of white (01, 02) **or**
- the cat is non-pointed with blue eyes (61).

PER * 02 61, PER * 02 62, PER * 02 63
TUV * 61, TUV * 62, TUV * 63
NFO w 61, NFO w 62, NFO w 63, NFO w 64
EXO x n 22 61, SIB n 61, BSH x b 61

In MCO **and SIB**, blue eyes (61) are only permitted in combination with EMS codes w, 01 or 02. Other varieties with blue eyes must be registered as XLH * 61 (MCO) **respectively XLH * 61 (SIB).**

The code for eye colour also must be used for EXO/PER or BLH/BSH if:

- the cat is silver tabby without white **and**
 - its variety is not limited to one eye colour.
- PER *s 22 62, PER *s 22 64
BSH *s 23 62, BSH *s 23 64

The code for eye colour is never used if:

- the cat's breed is ABY, BEN, BML, OCI, SOK or SOM
- the cat's breed is limited to only one eye colour
SBI * (and not SBI * 67)
NEM * 02 (and not NEM * 02 67)
BUR * (and not BUR * 65)
RUS (and not RUS 64)
SIA * (and not SIA * 67)

Exception: SIA/BAL w 67 (and not SIA/BAL w)

- the cat's variety is limited to only one eye colour
BSH a (and not BSH a 62)
CRX * 01 32 (and not CRX * 01 32 66)
MAU ns 24 (and not MAU ns 24 64)
- the cat's variety is bicolour (03) or with any amount of white (09)
PER * 03 (and not PER * 03 62)
MCO * 09 (and not MCO * 09 63)
BSH * 03 24 (and not BSH * 03 24 64)

Exceptions:

- BLH/BSH bicolour silver tabby varieties and PEB * 03/09 (see their standards)
- the breed is EUR or the breed is judged in groups, always except for white (w), non-pointed van (01) / harlequin (02) varieties and non-pointed varieties with blue eyes (61)
MCO n (and not MCO n 62)
NFO ns 22 (and not NFO ns 22 62)
EUR ns 23 (and not EUR ns 23 64)

Ears (71-72)

These codes are only applicable to ACL/ACS. Code 71 is a non-recognised variety for ACL/ACS.

ACL x * 71

Hair structure (81-84)

The codes for hair structure are only applicable to:

- DSP and PEB (81, 82, 83), LPL/LPS (84), LYO (84) and SRL/SRS (84)
DSP x * 83, LPL x * 84, LYO x * 84, PEB * 83
- cats resulting from crossbreeding (→ Breeding & Registration Rules § 9).