



# **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
<b>Edited 01.01.26</b>			
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
<b>Edited 01.10.25</b>			
3, 4, 5	BLH/BSH	Change	Corin (EMS code: u) is a preliminary recognised variety in BLH/BSH
<b>Edited 01.06.25</b>			
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		PRELIMINARY RECOGNISED BREEDS			
ABY	Abyssinian	BOM	Bombay		
ACL	American Curl Longhair	LYO	Lykoi		
ACS	American Curl Shorthair	PRELIMINARY RECOGNISED VARIETIES			
BAL	Balinese	* 14	Charcoal (only for BEN)		
BEN	Bengal	*u	Corin (only for SIB/NEM and BLH/BSH)		
BLH	British Longhair	NON-RECOGNISED BREEDS			
BML	Burmilla	ABL non	American Bobtail Longhair		
BSH	British Shorthair	ABS non	American Bobtail Shorthair		
BUR	Burmese	ALH non	Asian Longhair		
CHA	Chartreux	AMS non	American Shorthair		
CRX	Cornish Rex	AMW non	American Wirehair		
CYM	Cymric	ASH non	Asian Shorthair		
DRX	Devon Rex	AUM non	Australian Mist		
DSP	Don Sphynx	BGL non	Bengal Longhair		
EUR	European	BRX non	Bohemian Rex		
EXO	Exotic	JBL non	Japanese Bobtail Longhair		
GRX	German Rex	MBT non	Mekong Bobtail		
JBS	Japanese Bobtail Shorthair	NEB non	Nebelung		
KBL	Kurilean Bobtail Longhair	RGM non	RagaMuffin		
KBS	Kurilean Bobtail Shorthair	TGR non	Toyger		
KOR	Korat	TIF non	Tiffanie		
LPL	LaPerm Longhair	TOL non	Tonkinese Longhair		
LPS	LaPerm Shorthair	TOS non	Tonkinese Shorthair		
MAN	Manx	OTHER NON-RECOGNISED BREEDS			
MAU	Egyptian Mau	XLH	non-recognised longhair breeds		
MCO	Maine Coon	XSH	non-recognised shorthair breeds		
NEM	Neva Masquerade	NON-RECOGNISED VARIETIES			
NFO	Norwegian Forest Cat	x *t	Carnelian (only for KBL/KBS)		
OCI	Ocicat	x *u	Corin (only for KBL/KBS)		
OLH	Oriental Longhair	HOUSECAT			
OSH	Oriental Shorthair	HCL	Housecat Longhair		
PEB	Peterbald	HCS	Housecat Shorthair		
PER	Persian	The EMS codes for housecats are only to be used for show purposes.			
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				

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