Botswana Official Free Mark Typology

9 May 2020

The typology is based on the examination of 10 different aspects of the official free mark design and classifies marks into **categories**, **groups**, **types**, and **varieties**. The basis of differentiation is illustrated in the diagram (Figure 1). The process of classification is sequential with differences in the initial characteristics creating broad classes of marks that are further refined as one moves down through the process.

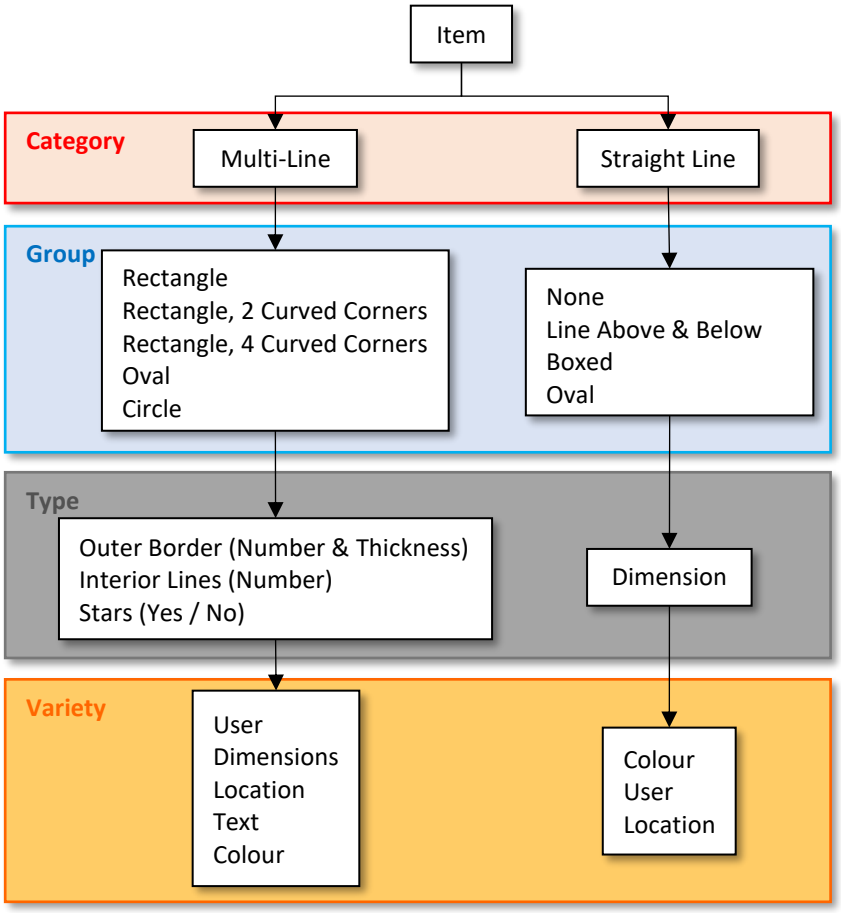


Figure 1: Process of Differentiation

Figure 2 on the following page provides a listing of the types of known Botswana official free marks using the process described above. It only goes to type level, since almost every official free mark is its own variety. Given this complication, it will remain important that the user of the typology looks at visual examples to determine if they have an exact match or not. A verbal or shorthand description of a mark can be given using the coding with the information on variety given in long-hand.

The prime characteristic used to determine the category of an official free mark is whether the mark is comprised only of the word “Official Free” which is defined as a straight-line mark or if it has additional text, which is defined as a multi-line mark. Given the fundamental differences in the look and information contained in these different categories of the marks, the process of further differentiation uses different characteristics to further define the marks. The process of further classification using these different characteristics is illustrated in Figure 1.

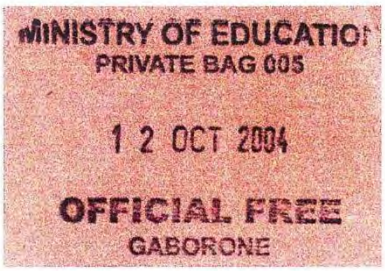
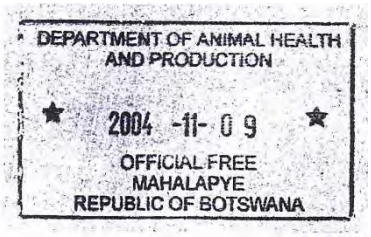
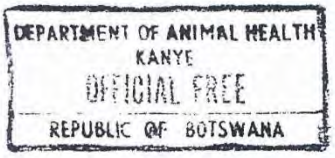
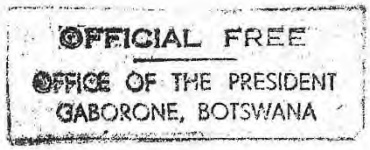
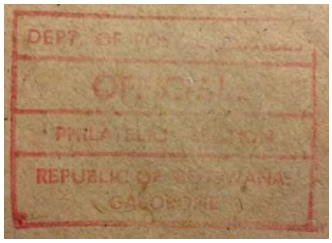
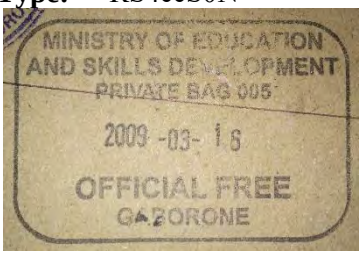
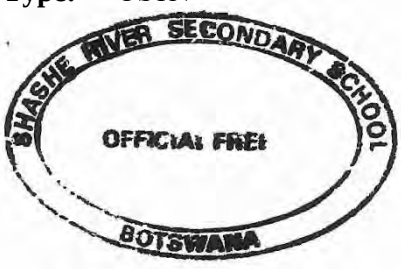
For multi-line marks, the dimensions are measured from the outside edges of the mark. On oval marks, the outer dimension of the widest parts of the mark are measured. For circular marks, measurements are taken of the outer diameter of the mark. For straight-line marks without lines or borders, the horizontal measurement is taken from the left centre of the '0' to the end of the middle stroke of the 'E' and the vertical dimension is usually the height of the first letter 'I'. On boxed markings, the outside dimensions of the box are used. On markings with the line above and below the length of the line is used for width and the outer dimensions between the lines is used for height. Dimension are listed width first and height second.

Category	Group	Type			Code
		Outer Borders	Interior Lines	Stars	
Multi-Line	Rectangle	None	0	No	RN0N
		Single	0	No	RS0N
				Yes	RS0Y
			1	No	RS1N
			1 partial	No	RS1pN
			2	No	RS2N
			2 both doubled	No	RS2bdN
			2 both doubled, 1 extra border at bottom	No	RS2bd1eN
			3	No	RS3N
	Rectangle, 2 Curved Corners	Single	0	No	R2ccS0N
	Rectangle, 4 Curved Corners	Single	0	No	R4ccS0N
			2	No	R4ccS2N
	Oval	Single	0	No	OS0N
				Yes	OS0Y
			1	No	OS1N
				Yes	OS1Y
		Double, both equal	0	No	ODbe0N
				Yes	ODbe0Y
			1	No	ODbe1N
				Yes	ODbe1Y
				1 on bottom	ODbe1b
		Double, outer thicker	0	No	ODot0N
				Yes	ODot0Y
				1 on right	ODot01r
				1 on left	ODot01l
			1	No	ODot1N
				Yes	ODot1Y
				Crosses	ODot1C
				1 on right	ODot11r
			1 + 2 partial horizontal	No	ODot12N
		Triple	0	No	OT0N
	Circle	Single	0	No	CS0N
			1	No	CS1N
		Double, both equal	1	No	CDbe1N
				Yes	CDbe1Y
		Double, outer thicker	0	Yes	CDot0Y
			0	No	CDot0N
			1	Yes	CDot1Y
		With Wings	1	No	CW1N
Straight Line	No Border	Dimensions ("#" in code)			N#x#
	Line Over & Under	Dimensions ("#" in code)			L#x#
	Boxed	Dimensions ("#" in code)			B#x#
	Oval Border	Dimensions ("#" in code)			SO#x#

Figure 2: Typology of Known Official Free Marks of Botswana

Figure 3 provides examples of the various Botswana Official Free Marks to the type level. The wide variety of marks is shown on the remainder of frame 1 and on frames 2 through 5.

Figure 3: Examples of Botswana Meter Mark Types

Type: RN0N 	**Type:** RS0N	**Type:** RS0Y 
Type: RS1N 	**Type:** RS1pN 	**Type:** RS2N
Type: RS2bdN	**Type:** RS3N 	**Type:** RS2ccS0N
Type: RS4ccS0N 	**Type:** R4ccS2N	**Type:** OS0N
Type: OS0Y	**Type:** OS1N 	**Type:** OS1Y

Type: ODbe0N

Type: ODbe0Y

Type: ODbe1N

Type: ODbe1Y

Type: ODot0N

Type: ODot0Y

Type: ODot1N

Type: ODot1Y

Type: OT0N

Type: CS0N

Type: CS1N

Type: CSw1N

Type: CDbe1N

Type: CDbe1Y 	**Type:** CDot0Y
Type: N OFFICIAL FREE	
Type: L OFFICIAL FREE	
Type: B OFFICIAL FREE	
Type: SO 	