



Directorate Animal Health

Private Bag X138, Pretoria, 0001; 20 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Agriculture Place.
Tel: 012 319 7615; E-mail: Mpho.Maja@dalrrd.gov.za; Website: www.dalrrd.gov.za

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE ON IMPORTING OF LIVE REPTILES AND
AMPHIBIANS INTO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

1. Legal requirement

In terms of Section 6 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act no 35 of 1984), concerning the Importation of certain controlled animals or things:

"No person shall import into or convey in transit through the Republic any animal, parasite, or contaminated or infectious thing except under the authority of a permit and in compliance with any conditions imposed in such permit".

2. Import requirements for Reptiles and Amphibians

When a reptile or amphibian is imported into South Africa, the importer must ensure that they have obtained a Veterinary Import Permit from the South African Veterinary Authority and a signed and endorsed veterinary health certificate from the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country, prior to the departure of the consignment from the exporting country.

Reptiles and amphibians that are imported into South Africa may only arrive via OR Tambo (Johannesburg) or Cape Town International Airports. Reptiles and amphibians will not be allowed to enter South Africa via any other airport or port of entry (including land border posts). All consignments of reptiles and amphibians may only disembark via the cargo terminal of the respective airports.

The following documents must be presented to the South African Border Management Authority officials at the Port of Entry:

- i) Original Veterinary Import Permit, issued in terms of section 6 of the Animal



- Diseases Act,
- ii) Original Veterinary Health Certificate, signed, stamped and certified by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country,

These documents will be inspected by the respective authorities at the port of entry and when all requirements have been fully complied with, the reptiles and/or amphibians will be transported to the state or private quarantine station, approved by the Director Animal Health for the purpose of post import quarantine.

3. Procedure to apply for a Veterinary Import Permit

Please note that Veterinary Import Permits are valid for the duration of the **quarantine intake period** of seven (7) days and for one consignment only.

The application form can be obtained on request from VetPermits@dalrrd.gov.za or from the following link: <https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/index.php/publication/439-animal-health>.

In order to apply for a Veterinary Import Permit for the importation of reptiles and amphibians the relevant application form must be completed legibly in block letters and in full.: "Application to import reptiles and amphibians subject to quarantine" Please note that no Veterinary Import Permit will be issued without the correct and complete information being provided as required in the application form.

The completed application form can be submitted by e-mail or hand delivered to the permit office. (See "Contact details of permit office" below). In cases where an agent is used to apply for a permit, a third-party authorization letter must also be attached to the application. This letter must state that the agent is authorized to act on behalf of the importer and that the importer agrees to comply with the conditions and import requirements as stated on the veterinary import permit.

Proof of payment must accompany the application form. In the case of CITES species, certified copies of the CITES permit(s) must accompany the application. In the case of private quarantine facilities, a certified copy of a valid ZA certificate for the facility must be attached.

Veterinary import permits are usually issued within 5 to 10 working days for routine imports where an agreement with the trade partner already exist, and once the permit has been



approved by the National State Veterinarian (if all relevant documentation is provided and is in order). In certain instances, additional veterinary approval or negotiations with foreign veterinary authorities may be required, which may result in indeterminate processing times. Importers may apply well in advance 4-6 weeks before the import in order to avoid delays in issuing of Veterinary Import Permits.

The application form should clearly state whether the permit must be posted (normal post within the Republic) or will be collected in person, or if the importer will arrange their own courier. We recommend that the permit is either collected in person or is collected by a courier service, as problems have been experienced with permits being lost in the post. Should a courier be used, it is the responsibility of the applicant / importer to arrange the service. This must be done at the applicant or importer's expense.

The courier service must have the following information when collecting the permit: -

- a. full name of importer
- b. full name of importers agent (where applicable)
- c. Name of the commodity
- d. Identity Number of applicant (as stated on the application form)

Please wait to receive a short message service (SMS) or confirmation that the permits are ready for collection, before making arrangements for the collection. Permits may be collected at the permit office at the physical address provided below.

Costs and payment options (A tariff/ payment is required for the following):

- a. Issuance of a veterinary import permit
- b. Issuance of extension/ dispensation/ amendment letters

The applicant is responsible for bank charges as well as the Foreign Bank charges. Applications will not be processed unless proof of payment has been received. The proof of payment must be sent to the permit office together with the application form. In cases where you are applying on behalf of another person or company, please make sure that you make the transfer/ deposit in that person's or company's name.

Contact details of The Veterinary Permit office:

Physical Address: Agricultural Place, 20 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Room Q-GF-11

Email Address: VetPermits@Dalrrd.gov.za

Web: www.dalrrd.gov.za



4. Veterinary Health Certificate

A Veterinary Health Certificate template will be provided with the Veterinary Import Permit. This needs to be completed within 10 days of departure prior to departure, in English, by a veterinarian authorized thereto by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country.

Importers may request specimen copies of the required veterinary health certificates from the Directorate Animal Health, Import Export Policy Unit, in order to prepare for the importation of a consignment. The **specimen copy of the health certificate does not replace a veterinary import permit** and consignment may not be imported without a valid veterinary import permit, even if the importer has been provided with a specimen copy of the veterinary health certificate.

5. Quarantine of animals

All reptiles and amphibians imported into South Africa must be placed under quarantine on arrival in South Africa.

A quarantine booking is required when applying for the veterinary import permit. The confirmation of quarantine booking must be included on the application for the veterinary import permit and must be endorsed by the state veterinarian responsible for supervising the quarantine station. It must also include confirmation of the intake period, prior to the start of the quarantine period.

Please take note that the intake period (period during which the reptiles and amphibians may arrive at the quarantine station for the aforementioned quarantine booking) may be maximum of seven (7) days.

The animals must be quarantined for a minimum period of 30 days in insect-free conditions under the control and supervision of the State Veterinarian or his/her representative. This State Veterinarian must be timeously advised of the arrival of the consignment.

In cases where the state quarantine facility is being used, the importer must contact the Border Management Authority officials at the port of entry for the reservation of accommodation at the state Quarantine Station and must complete the applicable part of the application form.



An Indemnity Declaration (in respect of imported reptiles and amphibians undergoing quarantine) must also be completed and attached to the application form. This Indemnity Declaration form can also be obtained from the Permit Office.

In the case of a ZA approved private post import quarantine facility, the state veterinarian in the province responsible for supervising the facility needs to complete the section of the application regarding the reservation and supervision for the accommodation at the quarantine station during the intake period and the quarantine period.

6. General:

Should you require any further technical information regarding the disease mitigation requirements for the import of reptiles and amphibians, please contact the Directorate Animal Health, Sub-Directorate Import / Export Policy Unit. For information regarding specimen copies of the Veterinary Health Certificate or conditions on the veterinary import permit, please contact Permit Office at VetPermits@dalrrd.gov.za



Dr Mpho Maja

DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH



