



NATIONAL SANITARY & PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) WORKSHOP

Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000)

9 -10 March 2021



**agriculture, land reform
& rural development**

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OUTLINE

- **MEAT SAFETY ACT AND REGULATIONS**
- **SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS RENDERED UNDER THE ACT**
- **MARKET ACCESS**
 - **EQUIVALENCE OF SANITARY MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS**
 - **EXPORTING MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS**
 - **IMPORTING MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS**
- **LINKS**



SPS AGREEMENT - Annex A

Sanitary or phytosanitary measure - Any measure applied:

- a) to protect animal or plant life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of pests, diseases, disease-carrying organisms or disease-causing organisms;*
- (b) to protect human or animal life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages or feedstuffs;*
- (c) to protect human life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from diseases carried by animals, plants or products thereof, or from the entry, establishment or spread of pests; or*
- (d) to prevent or limit other damage within the territory of the Member from the entry, establishment or spread of pests.*

Sanitary or phytosanitary measures include all relevant laws, decrees, regulations, requirements and procedures including, inter alia, end product criteria; processes and production methods; testing, inspection, certification and approval procedures; quarantine treatments including relevant requirements associated with the transport of animals or plants, or with the materials necessary for their survival during transport; provisions on relevant statistical methods, sampling procedures and methods of risk assessment; and packaging and labelling requirements directly related to food safety.



MEAT SAFETY ACT, REGULATIONS....

➤ Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No. 40 of 2000)

What is the purpose of the Meat Safety Act?

To provide measures to:

- promote meat safety, the safety of animal products;
- establish and maintain essential national standards in respect of abattoirs,
- regulate the importation and exportation of meat;
- to establish meat safety schemes; and
- provide for matters connected therewith.

Promulgated regulations

Red Meat Regulations

Poultry Meat Regulations

Ostrich Meat Regulations

Draft Regulations

Game Meat Regulations

Crocodile Meat Regulations

Rabbit Meat Regulations

➤ Veterinary Procedural Notices (VPNs)

➤ SOPs



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SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS RENDERED UNDER THE ACT

- Auditing/ Inspection to ensure compliance (facilities, systems)
- Registration of facilities: abattoirs, meat import or export facilities (cutting plants, cold stores, meat processing plants, etc)
- National Monitoring Programmes
 - Residue Monitoring and Control Programmes (hormones/growth promoting substances, veterinary medicines residues, pesticides, heavy metals, etc.)
 - Microbiological Monitoring Programme (foodborne pathogens)
- Meat Inspection
- Oversight over primary food production – ensuring food/meat is free from zoonotic diseases, chemical residues, etc
- Oversight over good manufacturing and good hygienic practices – ensure that food is fit for human consumption



SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS RENDERED UNDER THE ACT

- Oversight over importation of food of animal origin
 - Ports of entry-Land based/Seaports/Airports
 - Release of products

- Oversight over exportation of food of animal origin
 - Monitoring of export approved establishments
 - Export certification

- Extension to disseminate information (e.g. exhibition, farmers/community day, information day to schools/clinics, etc.)



MARKET ACCESS

- ability to enter a foreign market

DETERMINATION OF EQUIVALENCE OF SANITARY MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

- importing and exporting countries operate different food inspection and certification systems.
- reasons differences include:
 - differences in prevalence of particular food safety hazards,
 - national choice about management of food safety risks and,
 - differences in the level of development of food control systems
- in order to facilitate trade, an exporting and an importing country should work together to consider the effectiveness of sanitary measures of the exporting country in achieving the appropriate level of sanitary protection (ALOP) of the importing



SPS AGREEMENT – Articles 2, 3 & 4

Article 2

Basic Rights and Obligations

- *Members have the right to take sanitary and phytosanitary measures necessary for the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.*
- *Members shall ensure that any sanitary or phytosanitary measure is applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, is based on scientific principles and is not maintained without sufficient scientific evidence, except as provided for in paragraph 7 of Article 5.*
- *Members shall ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between Members where identical or similar conditions prevail, including between their own territory and that of other Members. Sanitary and phytosanitary measures shall not be applied in a manner which would constitute a disguised restriction on international trade.*

Article 3

Harmonization

- *To harmonize sanitary and phytosanitary measures on as wide a basis as possible, Members shall base their sanitary or phytosanitary measures on international standards, guidelines or recommendations, where they exist, except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement.*
- *Sanitary or phytosanitary measures which conform to international standards, guidelines or recommendations shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, and presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions of this Agreement and of GATT 1994.*



SPS AGREEMENT – Articles 2, 3 & 4

Article 3

Harmonization

- *Members may introduce or maintain sanitary or phytosanitary measures which result in a higher level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection than would be achieved by measures based on the relevant international standards, guidelines or recommendations, if there is a scientific justification, or as a consequence of the level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection a Member determines to be appropriate in accordance with the relevant provisions of paragraphs 1 through 8 of Article 5.2 Notwithstanding the above, all measures which result in a level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection different from that which would be achieved by measures based on international standards, guidelines or recommendations shall not be inconsistent with any other provision of this Agreement.*

Article 4

Equivalence

- *Members shall accept the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of other Members as equivalent, even if these measures differ from their own or from those used by other Members trading in the same product, if the exporting Member objectively demonstrates to the importing Member that its measures achieve the importing Member's appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection.*
- *For this purpose, reasonable access shall be given, upon request, to the importing Member for inspection, testing and other relevant procedures.*



DETERMINATION OF EQUIVALENCE OF ANITARY MEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS:

- ❖ Request for market access
- ❖ Questionnaires (country/ commodity/ establishment)
- ❖ Verification audits (country/ establishment)
- ❖ Approval of country, commodity/establishments
- ❖ Negotiation of Veterinary Health Certificate

Import Risk Analysis

EXAMPLES OF COMPONENTS EVALUATED:

- Competent Authority oversight (Organization and Administration, Enforcement Authority, Personnel- Training/Staffing etc)
- Relevant animal health standards and disease status
- Competent Authority verification of Food Safety and Other Consumer Protection Requirements (Animal welfare, Ante-Mortem Inspection, Post-Mortem Inspection, Product Standards and Labeling)
- Laboratories (diagnostic and food safety)
- Chemical Residue Program
- Microbiological Monitoring Programs
- Compliance of establishments etc



EXPORTING MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

☐ Meat or meat products can only be exported:

- to a country which has approved South Africa as a trade partner
- from a registered export facility

☐ Procedure to register an establishment to export meat/meat products

- Apply to be registered as an approved meat export establishment through the Provincial Executive Officer (PEO) of the province where the plant is situated
- An inspection of the establishment will be conducted to verify compliance with the applicable legislation, standards and where applicable, importing country requirements
- If the facility complies, a recommendation for registration will be send by the PEO to DALRRD
- DALRRD will issue an export certificate after verifying compliance based on the documents submitted by the PEO and where necessary or on-site visits
- After registration, the owner of the establishment must arrange export certification services with the PEO
- Each consignment that is exported has to be certified that it meets the importing country's requirements by attestation on a Veterinary Health Certificate



IMPORTING MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

➤ **Meat or meat products can only be imported:**

- from an approved country where there are no trade restrictions
- from approved import facilities (abattoirs, cutting plants, processing plants and cold stores,
- If an import permit has been issued

➤ **Procedure to register an import cold storage facility**

- The owner of an cold store that seeks approval to import meat must apply to register through the DIS office at port/ province in which where the plant is situated
- An inspection of the establishment will be conducted to verify compliance with the applicable legislation, standards
- If the facility complies, a recommendation for registration will be send by the veterinarian to DALRRD
- DALRRD will issue an export certificate after verifying compliance based on the documents submitted by and where necessary or on-site visits



RELEASE OF IMPORTED MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

➤ Meat in respect of which an import permit has been issued:

- may only be introduced through the place of entry specified in the permit;
- must be introduced within the period specified in the permit;
- may only be off-loaded at the place of entry if all the conditions specified in the permit have been complied with;
- must be stored at a facility approved by the national executive officer until the prescribed **veterinary procedures** or other acts specified in the permit have been performed; and
- must be available for **inspection, sampling and testing**.

➤ Veterinary procedures:

- documentary checks
- physical checks
- Sampling and testing

A release certificate will be issued if all conditions specified on the import permit have been met and the results of the veterinary procedures are satisfactory.



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LINKS

➤ **Directorate Veterinary Public Health:**

<https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Veterinary-Public-Health>

➤ **Import approved countries and facilities:**

<http://webapps.daff.gov.za/VetWeb/abbatoirsEstablishment.do>

➤ **Information relating to import permits**

- **Directorate Animal Health**

<https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/importexport>

- **Directorate Food Import Export Standards**

<https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Food-Import-Export-Standards/FAQ-Questionnaire-e-mails>



THANK YOU



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