

SPS NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1: MARCH 2017

SPS News

Welcome to the first issue of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Newsletter for 2017 which will report on SPS issues that were addressed at the National SPS Committee during the first quarter of 2017. During the period under review, the committee convened its first meeting for the year 2017 and held discussions on various issues as reported on below.

Update on market access issues

EU—citrus black spot (CBS)

The European Commission carried out an audit in South Africa between 13 and 24 June 2016. A positive report was received and there were two findings, namely: more resources are required to conduct official checks and follow-up actions in terms of import noncompliance for CBS. The systems were found to be in order and the department's responses on the findings were found to be satisfactory.

Reporting on SPS engagements

Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)

There has been an FVO visit on exports of ostrich meat to the EU market. South Africa is still able to export ostrich meat to the EU.

There has been the FVO meeting on residue monitoring and veterinary public health wherein consideration was on residue laboratories.

There is an EU mission scheduled to visit South Africa in June 2017. The mission is aimed at diseases control methods for game meat and the foot and mouth disease regionalisation. Abattoirs will be visited to check how game meat is being processed.

EU audit visit for residue and public health monitoring - Aquaculture

An EU audit visit was undertaken between 14 and 27 February 2017. It was noted that the residue monitoring plan in effect should include flavophospholipol which is registered for use in finfish. The laboratory being used for food safety testing is accredited. A need was determined for improved control on registration of feeds produced for aquatic animals and movement control between farms.

SPS trade concerns – South Africa

Importation of prawn products

Imported prawn products from different countries are monitored for the presence of vibrio species. It has been found that imported prawn products from some countries are contaminated with different vibrio species. Several consignments have been rejected due to the detection of different vibrio species. There is high demand for prawn products and there is no supply, very few countries are able to supply uncontaminated consignments.

Illegal slaughter and the illegal export of donkey skin

- There is an issue of illegal slaughter and the illegal export of donkey skin to East Asia.
- DAFF is working with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and there have been several arrests through cooperation between the different government departments, namely: SARS, South African Police Service, DAFF, and National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
- Follow-ups will be made to establish where the donkey meat goes considering that only the skin is used.
- There are three registered abattoirs for equine meat and therefore if the slaughter of donkeys is taking place in such abattoirs they can be exported legally.

Application to the OIE for disease-free status

In November 2016 two applications were submitted to OIE to recognize South Africa to be free from Classical Swine Fever (CSF) and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP). The application from CBPP has been successful. The outcome for the CSF application is still awaited.

National Codex Committee:

The National Codex Committee is the structure required for the endorsement of discussions made at the Codex. Currently there is no fully functioning National Codex Committee in South Africa. There is a forum which consists of coordinators for different committees wherein South Africa participates. The process is on-going to develop a policy which will provide guidance in terms of participation of South Africa in Codex activities, including subsidiary bodies. There is a workshop scheduled to take place on 29 May 2017 wherein coordinators will workshop different aspects of South Africa's participation in Codex, the policy which is being developed will also be considered.

There will be a meeting of the Codex committee for fresh fruits and vegetables to be held in Uganda. It will be the first time for it to be held in Africa. Considering that South Africa exports fresh fruits and vegetables, there is a consideration to have a bigger delegation attending, including some of the stakeholders.

Disease and/or pest outbreaks

Bactrocera dorsalis (B. dorsalis)

- *Bactrocera invadens* is currently known as *B. dorsalis*.
- The surveillance and management is ongoing.
- The pest is present in some parts of the country and it is still a quarantine pest.

Fall army worm

- The autumn army worm from the tropical Americas has invaded South Africa.
- The pest rapidly spread from Nigeria through Africa and landed in South Africa in January/February 2017.
- The pest is currently in seven of the nine provinces it has not yet been detected in the Western Cape Province and the Northern Cape Province and had been recorded in one area in the Free State Province.
- Its main host is certain types of maize, namely sweet corn and open pollinated seed maize, especially late plantings; other hosts include soya beans and potatoes.
- It is reported to have caused lot of damage in Limpopo Province.
- It is a known migratory pest.
- A lot has been done in registering pesticides for official use over the past months.
- There is a need to have a trapping system ready for the next season.
- It may be included in a quarantine list of the pests of concern for non-host commodities such as table grapes.
- It is a regulated pest for South Africa.

Tomato leaf miner

- Tomato leaf miner has been detected in South Africa.
- It disrupted export of tomato to Botswana and also Seychelles.
- Seychelles notified through the WTO SPS Committee that they have temporarily suspended tomato imports as an emergency measure, from various countries including South Africa.
- Botswana suspended imports of tomato and other commodities but has replaced its import ban with risk based measures.

Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) surveillance

- Aquaculture Animal Health Research (DAFF, Fisheries) will be undertaking passive and targeted surveillance for EUS.
- Targeted sampling will include the Palmiet river system; Olifants river system, Eerste river system, Orange River system, Vanderkloof Dam, and Limpopo river system.
- Samples from Lesotho previously tested negative, however to verify these results, the river systems in Lesotho will be tested. This is significant because the Lesotho river systems impact all freshwater sources in South Africa.
- Colleagues are partnering with Cape Nature to assist with the passive surveillance and as part of education and awareness a series of articles will be published in collaboration with Cape Nature.
- A standard operating procedure for EUS is in the process of being drafted.
- A workshop on EUS will be held at Gariep Dam in April 2017.

Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) outbreaks

- There was an outbreak of KHV in October 2016.
- There is currently no targeted surveillance being undertaken from DAFF concerning KHV, however passive surveillance will be included with the passive surveillance done with EUS.
- Aquaculture Animal Health Management is working on education and awareness material for KHV.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)

- The last case that was reported in December 2015 was subsequently closed in March 2016 and it was in the protection zone and did not affect the status of the country.

African Swine Fever:

- There has been an outbreak in the Free State and North West Province in June 2016 and they were successfully controlled.
- Suspect report has been received from the Northern Cape which tested positive and control measures will be applied.

Regional coordination of SPS matters

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

- Validation workshop for the study on the analysis of the SPS/TBT aspects of the EU-SADC EPA was attended in Johannesburg on 23-24 January 2017.
- SADC Phytosanitary Awareness Creation workshop was attended in Pretoria 13-14 February 2017.
- Management of the National Enquiry Point and the National Notification Authority training workshop was attended in Pretoria 15-17 February 2017.
- Meeting of the SADC SPS Coordinating Committee, Plant Protection Technical, Food Safety Technical and Livestock Technical Committees is scheduled to take place on 7-10 March 2017 in Tanzania.

Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

- First meeting of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Technical Working Group (TWG) on SPS Measures, NTB/ TBT was attended in Rwanda on 06 -10 February 2017.
- Upcoming meeting will be in Nairobi, Kenya on 1-5 May 2017.

WTO SPS notifications

- In October 2016 SA submitted the SPS notification to the WTO regarding Correction to Notice for prohibition of import, export, possession, acquisition, sale, use and disposal of agricultural remedies. Correction was made by deleting wording introduced by error.
- In March 2017 SA will submit the SPS notification to the WTO regarding emergency measures on Temporary ban on the importation of live poultry, pigeons, other birds, eggs (excluding SPF eggs), fresh and frozen poultry meat from some EU partners.
- In February 2017 SPS notification was received from Seychelles regarding temporary restrictions on importation of fresh tomatoes from South Africa and other specified countries.
- In February SPS 2017 notification was received from the EU regarding amendment of its plant health import requirements in certain instances as follows:
 - ✓ The EU notified that its new primary legislation has been adopted and would come into effect in due course. The annexures to the legislation had been amended and this would affect South Africa in terms of the inclusion of the false codling moth (FCM).

- ✓ Everyone who is interested is urged to look at the proposal.
- ✓ The Directorate: Plant Health will be collaborating with the industry concerned regarding the FCM.
- ✓ The comment due date is 14 April 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The WTO SPS Committee meetings will be in Geneva, Switzerland on the 21-23 March 2017 and the due date for submitting agenda items is Thursday, 09 March 2017.
- The OIE General session will take place in May 2017.
- AU-IBAR is organising a meeting where the African Chief Veterinary Officers are going to meet to consolidate their inputs for the General Session. The meeting is organised to take place in April 2017.

For further information, please contact:

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