



Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Private Bag X343, PRETORIA, 0001

TO: All Processors, Packers, Importers and Retailers of frozen fruits and vegetables, canned products (mushrooms, pasta, fruits and vegetables) and jam, jelly and marmalade

Directorate: Inspection Services

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Subject

DISPENSATION: EXEMPTION OF CODE MARK REGISTRATIONS AND INDICATION THEREOF ON IMPORTED PROCESSED PRODUCTS

1. Background

(a) The following local regulations regarding control over the sale of certain processed products (which also apply to the same products when imported) currently prescribe the registration of certain code marks with the executive Officer as well as the indication thereof on the packaging and/or labels:

- Frozen fruits and vegetables
- Canned products (mushrooms, pasta, fruits and vegetables)
- Jam, Jelly & Marmalade

These code marks usually consist of a (i) factory code, (ii) date of preparation code, and (iii) product code.

(b) Although the Department has up till now not enforced it as such, the mandatory registration of code marks and the indication thereof on the above-mentioned processed products may be interpreted as also being applicable to imported products. Since this was never the intention of the legislator and would also be impractical, the Department has decided to issue the following dispensation to do away with any confusion it may create:

2. Dispensation

Permission is hereby granted by the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards in terms of section 3(1)(c) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), to all processors, packers, importers and retailers of frozen fruits & frozen vegetables, canned products (mushrooms, pasta, fruits and vegetables) and Jam, Jelly & Marmalade to only apply the mandatory registration of certain code marks (i.e. factory, date and product codes) with the Executive Officer as well as the indication thereof on packaging and/or labels to locally manufactured/packed products.

This permission is subject to the following conditions:

- All other conditions of the relevant regulations shall be complied with.
- Traceability and lot identification shall be in place and maintained for imported products.
- It may be withdrawn at any time should a valid complaint be received.

- (d) All processors, packers, importers and retailers of frozen fruits & frozen vegetables, canned products (mushrooms, pasta, fruits and vegetables) and Jam, Jelly & Marmalade indemnify this Directorate and this Department from any detrimental effect, financially or otherwise, which may emanate as a result of this permission.
- (e) Termination date: When the amendment to the relevant local regulations are published in the Government Gazette.


EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT 119 OF 1990)