



## agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

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# **POLICY ON TIME EXTENSION OF CURRENT PERMITS**

Approved by the Executive Council for the Genetically Modified Organisms on 20 July 2010  
Within the framework of the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997 (Act No.15 of 1997) and the Genetically  
Modified Organisms Amendment Act, 2006 (Act No.23 of 2006)

## **BACKGROUND**

Regulation 5(12) of the Genetically Modified Organisms Act, 1997 (GMO Act) makes provision for the Registrar to, subject to approval of the Executive Council, extend GMO activities for which a permit had previously been issued. This implies that the Registrar may, provided that the extension of such activity, i.e. continuation of a specific activity under the prescripts of a specific permit, has been approved by the Executive Council. The re-issuance of the specific permit will grant the applicant a time extension in order to conclude experimental work.

## **PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

The policy shall serve as a framework with regard to extending the time frame for previously approved permits in terms of the GMO Act.

## **CRITERIA FOR THE ISSUANCE OF EXTENSION PERMITS**

The Registrar may issue a time extension for an activity relating to regulated events for which a permit had been previously been issued and the continued activity approved by the Executive Council, subject to the criteria stipulated below and the applicant's adherence to relevant application procedures.

An extension permit may be granted for the following activities, if previously approved by the Executive Council which includes imports and exports of regulated events, contained use and trial release:

***In the interest of monitoring the Office of the Registrar shall notify the Department of Environmental Affairs of the activities and volumes involved.***

### **Import and exports of regulated events:**

1. If, after the issuance for an import or export permit for a regulated event, the applicant is unable to utilise the permit within the prescribed timeframe, the applicant may request for a **once-off** 30-day extension. This will however only apply if, requested before the permit expires. If this request is made after the

initial permit has expired, the applicant will be required to submit a new application.

**Contained use:**

1. If an applicant is unable to utilise the permit issued due to various conditions e.g. unavailability of material, lack of registration of facilities where activity will be conducted, etc an application may be lodged with the Office of the Registrar for consideration by the Executive Council for an extension of the time frame to conduct or conclude a specific activity.
2. If an applicant, initiates a study and the study will extend passed the stipulated timeframe as per permit, an application should be lodged to request an extension of the time frame for the specific permit's activity before the permit expires.

**Trial release:**

1. Extension of the time period to complete activities relating to genetically modified organisms for which a permit had previously been issued e.g. additional data to be collected for analysis purposes.
2. An extension may be granted if unforeseen circumstances prohibit the activity from commencing or being completed within the specified time period as stipulated in the permit e.g. No planting due to delays in the importation of seed, inclement weather resulting in damage to field trials etc

**NB: THE ADDITION OF A SITE TO CONDUCT THE SAME ACTIVITY AT A NEW SITE WHICH HAS PREVIOUSLY NOT BEEN INCLUDED AS PER PERMIT CONDITIONS, FALLS OUT OF THE SCOPE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A TIME EXTENSION FOR ACTIVITIES LINKED TO A SPECIFIC PERMIT AND WOULD REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF A NEW APPLICATION FOR THE PARTICULAR CATEGORY OF ACTIVITY**

**Application Procedure**

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicant for an extension application to be considered by the Executive Council:

- Cover letter outlining request for extension
- CBI copy of application including risk assessment
- 8 copies of CBI application including risk assessment

- Non-CBI version of risk assessment (1 copy)
- Electronic version of non-CBI risk assessment and non-CBI application.
- In the case of a contained use or trial release application, clear maps indicating sites (as indicated in the original application) and description of sites, including GPS co-ordinates and proposed trial design
- Detailed reports of the previous authorised activity. This report should include information pertaining to activities for which an extension permit is required. In the case of a trial release or contained use permit, include the objectives of the trial, data required/generated and compliance of stipulated permit conditions.
- Copies of public notification, if applicable
- Proof of payment for the relevant activity or extension fee
- Any other information as stipulated by the Registrar or Executive Council