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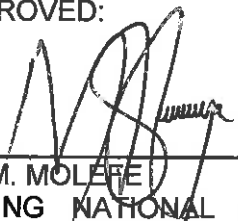
Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES DIRECTORATE OF
VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE ON REQUIREMENTS ON THE IMPORTATION OF
MEAT INTO SOUTH AFRICA AND HOW TO HANDLE THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH
IMPORTED MEAT IN SOUTH AFRICA

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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE ON REQUIREMENTS ON THE IMPORTATION OF MEAT INTO SOUTH AFRICA AND HOW TO HANDLE THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH IMPORTED MEAT IN SOUTH AFRICA

Following the signing of the agreement on poultry importation from the USA to South Africa, a standard operating procedure to guide all Importers and stakeholders about their roles with regard to the handling of imported meat has been developed.

1. All imported meat and animal products should be sourced from approved establishments in terms of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No 40 of 2000) and the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984).
2. The importer must ensure that cold stores used for handling imported meat and animal products have a valid Certificate of Acceptability and are approved to handle Imported meat and animal products.
3. The importer must ensure that all food vehicles used for transporting imported meat and animal products meet the regulatory requirements.
4. The importer must ensure that temperature control is maintained throughout the cold chain.
5. The importer must keep all records relating to the imported meat and animal products.
6. The importer must keep all records of clients who purchase imported meat and animal products.
7. The importer and the subsequent business distributors must ensure that all meat and animal products are properly labelled up to the consumer.
8. Importers and or end users should make sure that all meat and animal products are easily traceable in case a need arise to recall affected products.
9. Where repacking of imported poultry meat and poultry products is allowed once the consignment has arrived in South Africa, labelling instruction and information from the country of origin must be adhered to.

MARKING AND LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORTED MEAT

In terms of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No 40 of 2000), as prescribed in part VII of the Red meat regulations (Number 1072 of 17 September 2004) and Poultry regulations (Number 153 of 24 February 2006), the following specifications on marks, markings and labelling must be maintained throughout the meat distribution chain for imported meat in South Africa:

Specifications for marks

The mark must contain the following information:

(a) The country of origin and abattoir registration number and the wording which must be in at least two official languages, one of which must be English. Such an abattoir registration number shall be the number approved by the National Executive Officer in terms of section 13(5)(a) of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No 40 of 2000).

(3) The marks must be printed on the wrapping and packing or on labels of each individual carcass or cut portions in sizes to suit particular circumstances

Wrapping, packing and labelling

All labels used on carcasses and meat must:

(a) be printed on food grade paper or plastic printing material and treated in the same hygienic way as in contact wrapping material; and

(b) include the country of origin and abattoir registration number and other information required which include safe handling instructions for all poultry meat imported from the USA into South Africa.

(4) Bulk packing, containers or cartons must be clearly marked on both ends with the mark of approval clearly visible and of readable size and provide information required by the Agricultural Products Standards Act, 1990 (Act no. 119 of 1990), as well as:

(a) the name, address and registration number of the establishments in which the meat was packed in the country of origin;

(b) the net weight of the contents;

(c) an accurate description of the contents;

(d) the packaging date and

(e) directions regarding the temperature at which the product must be stored as indicated in the country of origin.

The National Department of Health can be contacted on the following contact details for further information: 012 395 8522 or celeA@health.gov.za