



Updated 2017-03-20

INFORMATION ON IMPORTING LIVE FRESH WATER AQUARIUM FISH INTO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Legal requirement

- ❖ In terms of Section 6 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act no 35 of 1984), no animal or animal product (including samples) may be imported into or moved in transit through South Africa without the importer obtaining a veterinary import permit from the Directorate Animal Health.

Procedure to apply for an import permit

- ❖ In order to apply for a veterinary import permit, the **attached application form** must be completed.
- ❖ The completed application form can be **posted or faxed** to the permit office. (See "Contact details of permit office" below). Application forms must be completed in full and signed.
- ❖ **Proof of payment** must accompany the application form. (See "Costs and payment options" below)
- ❖ Veterinary import permits are usually issued within **5 to 10 working days** once the permit has been approved by the state veterinarian. In certain cases, veterinary approval and/or negotiations with foreign veterinary authorities are required and it is difficult to predict how much time this will take.
- ❖ Please state on the application form whether the permit will be **collected or mailed** to you. We recommend that the permit is either mailed using Speedpost within RSA, or that the applicant arranges for the permit to be collected and couriered by a courier service, as problems have been experienced with permits being lost in the post. Should a courier be used, it is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange the service and at the applicant's expense.
- ❖ Please confirm that the permits are **ready for collection**, before making arrangements for the collection. Permits may be collected at the permit office at the physical address provided below.
- ❖ A **Veterinary Health Certificate** will also be sent to you with the Veterinary Import Permit. This needs to be completed, before departure and within 10 days of departure, in English, by a veterinarian authorised thereto by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country.
- ❖ The following must be **presented** to the South African State Veterinarian or his/her representative or agricultural import official (land posts) at the Port of Entry:
 - Original Veterinary Import Permit
 - Original Veterinary Health Certificate

Costs and payment options

- ❖ The fee is reviewed annually and usually amended on 1 April. **Please confirm the new tariff before applying.**
- ❖ The applicant is responsible for bank charges as well as the Foreign Bank charges.
- ❖ Normal post is done free of charge. Importer is to arrange own courier services.
- ❖ In cases where you are applying on behalf of someone please make sure that you make the transfer / deposit in that person's name or company's name.
- ❖ **Banking details:**

Name of Bank:	STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA
Account Holder:	NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Account Number:	011219556
Branch Code:	010845
Branch Name:	ARCADIA
	IB BRAND 0001982 CENTRE CODE
	Swift Code SBZA-ZAJJ
Reference:	Importers Name & Surname

- ❖ Proof of the deposit must be faxed to the permit office.

OR

- ❖ Payments can also be made at the permit office at the physical address provided below.

Contact details of permit office

- ❖ Telephone numbers:
+27 12 319 7514 / 7476 / 7632 / 7633 / 7406 / 7500 / 7503 / 7461
- ❖ E-Mail

VetPermits@daff.gov.za

- ❖ Postal address:

The Director Food Import and Export Standards
P. O Box 40024
Arcadia
0007
South Africa

- ❖ Physical address:

Room G52 Delpen Building
Corner of Annie Botha & Union Street
Riviera
Pretoria

General:

- ❖ The Directorate Food import and Export Standards in Pretoria will be able to assist you should any further information be required. The list of contact persons can be obtained from the website: (<http://www.daff.gov.za> →Branches→ Agricultural Production Health & Food Safety→ Animal Health→ Import/Export Policy Unit →how to apply for an import permit →Contacts.
- ❖ If any information is needed on the exact requirements, **specimen copies** of the Veterinary Import Permit and the Veterinary Health Certificate can be obtained from the Permit Office.
- ❖ Fresh water aquarium fish that appear on the White list may be imported. This list is compiled by the Department Environmental Affairs.
- ❖ Permits for fresh water aquarium fish, that do not appear on the White list, will only be considered if approval is given in writing by Nature Conservation. The client must obtain written permission prior to applying for a veterinary import permit.
- ❖ Fish that appear on the Black list may not be imported. This list is compiled by the Department Nature Conservation.
- ❖ Application for importation of marine fish must be sent to Marine and Coastal Management.



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DIRECTOR: FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT STANDARDS