

## **DIRECTORATE ANIMAL HEALTH (SOUTH AFRICA) IMPORTATION OF MEAT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE**

2012-10-09

The Directorate Animal Health administers the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 1984). ([Animal Diseases Act, No 35 of 1984](#)). The Import Export Policy Unit of the Directorate Animal Health also administers the sections of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No 40 of 2000) ([Meat Safety Act, No 40 of 2000](#)) and regulations that apply to the importation of meat. The importation of animals and animal products from individual countries is evaluated in accordance with these Acts, international standards and other requirements.

Copies of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 and the regulations promulgated there-under can be obtained from the website: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) → Divisions → Food and Veterinary Services → Import/Export → Import → Legislation or by contacting Mrs Viviers at tel 012 319 7700 (International tel. +27 12 319 7700), [ElmarieV@daff.gov.za](mailto:ElmarieV@daff.gov.za) or fax no 012 329 6892.

Copies of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 and the regulations promulgated there-under can also be obtained from the website: [www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) → Divisions → Food and Veterinary Services → Import/Export → Import → Legislation.

### **List of Approved Establishments**

Frozen and chilled meat may only be imported from establishments (abattoirs and cutting plants) approved by the National Executive Officer (In terms of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act No 40 of 2000) of South Africa. A list of approved establishments can be obtained by contacting Mrs Viviers at tel 012 319 7700 (International tel. +27 12 319 7700) or fax no 012 329 6892. [Link to Approved Establishments](#)

The veterinary authorities in countries exporting meat to South Africa routinely inspect approved establishments. The Directorate will be notified as soon as a plant no longer complies with the stipulated requirements.

The listing of an establishment does not necessarily imply that the Directorate will allow the importation of a particular meat or meat product from that country. For example, the listing of an establishment as a red meat plant does not imply that the Directorate will allow the importation of beef, mutton and pork from that plant or country.

### **Listing of Additional Establishments**

In order to obtain approval for an additional abattoir or cutting plant (in countries already exporting to South Africa) the owner or manager of the establishment must contact the veterinary authority in the country in which the establishment is situated. The relevant veterinary authorities will then inspect the establishment on our behalf. If the establishment complies with our requirements, the veterinary authority (head office) will send us confirmation thereof. Meat may only be produced for export to South Africa at the establishment once we have confirmed the approval in writing to the relevant veterinary authority.

### **Veterinary Import Permit**

No animal or animal product (including samples) may be imported without obtaining a veterinary import permit from this Directorate. The importer must be in possession of the veterinary import permit before the consignment departs from the country of origin. Import permits for animal products

(e.g. meat) imported for commercial purposes are issued only to companies residing in South Africa or an agent in South Africa appointed by an international company for legal reasons.

Import requirements vary according to product and the animal health situation in individual countries. Specimen copies of permits (examples) can be obtained from the permit office (Contact numbers are given below). If you request specimen copies please mention the country of origin and the product you want to import.

It is not advisable to enter into any agreement before you have received a signed and stamped veterinary import permit for a particular product (this excludes specimen copies of veterinary import permits) - especially, if you are importing it for the first time.

### **Obtaining an Import Permit**

Please ensure that the correct application form is completed.

Applications for veterinary import permits will not be processed unless a payment of R120 per permit has been received. (Fees are increased, if necessary, every year during April and are published in the Government Gazette).

Please indicate on the application form whether the import permit must be mailed to you or whether it will be collected at the permit office.

Completed application forms must be returned to:

Postal address:

The Director Animal Health  
Import / Export (Permit Office)  
Private Bag X138  
PRETORIA  
0001

Physical address:

The Permit Office G 51  
Delpen Building  
c/o Annie Botha and Union Avenue  
Riviera  
Pretoria

Fax No: 012 329 8292  
International Fax No: +27 12 329 8292

Application forms and information concerning the payment can be obtained from the permit office at tel no 012 319 7514 / - 7414 / -7633 / -7503 or via the following link: [Link to application forms](#)

### **Ship Chandling and In Transit Consignments**

Ship chandling and in transit movement of animals and animal products are regarded as importation, unless the consignment does not leave international ground and departs within 24 hours. If the products are in transit through the Republic of South Africa, a copy of the veterinary import permit from the country of final destination must be submitted with the application for a South African veterinary in transit permit. In Transit consignments must comply with South African import requirements.

### **Veterinary Health Certificate**

A veterinary health certificate, which is in compliance with the conditions stipulated by the South African veterinary import permit, must be obtained from the veterinary authorities in the country of origin before the product is shipped. Imports via third countries are generally not accepted.

## Ports of Entry

The veterinary import permit and the veterinary health certificate must be presented to the relevant authorities at the port of entry. Only original documents will be accepted. Meat must be inspected at one of following inspection sites stipulated on the import permit:

Durban:	tel no	031 337 4346/7	
Cape Town:	tel no	021 551 2050	
City Deep Abattoir (only from neighbouring countries):	tel no	011 613 1636	
Port Elizabeth (special permission):	tel no	041 585 8907	

## Importation from countries not exporting to South Africa at present

An application to import meat from countries not exporting to South Africa at present (or to import a particular product for the first time from a country exporting other animal products to the RSA) is evaluated in terms of the relevant legislation, international standards and other requirements.

South Africa is an active member of an international network of veterinary authorities. Through these international contacts we receive regular reports on the disease status of other countries. Disease reports are received from the Office International des Epizooties / World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and by direct contact with the veterinary authorities in the exporting countries.

Trade is based on a series of requirements, which the importing country considers appropriate to prevent the entry of diseases. The regulating authority in the importing country always requires someone independent of commercial involvement in the exporting country to act as its agent to ensure that its import requirements are appropriate for the trade and that they are complied with when an export takes place. The Directorate of Animal Health specifies that this must be its equivalent government agency. In some circumstances it may be considered sufficient for the process to be audited by the government body. The draft conditions of trade are drawn up by the Directorate Animal Health and represent the Directorate's perceptions of the exporting country's animal health status. The conditions usually reflect the concerns of our agricultural industries and our own livestock disease status. Because the industry's / ies perceptions are not always well-founded, considerable negotiation takes place to try to reduce the requirements to the lowest level compatible with the maintenance of adequate agricultural security.

The animal disease situation in a country is first evaluated using OIE reports and other information available internationally. Depending on the outcome it is decided whether further consideration should be given to the importation of a product from a certain country. If the outcome is favourable the next step is usually to send a questionnaire to the veterinary authority. After the response to the questionnaire has been received and evaluated, we will decide whether an inspection visit to evaluate the animal disease situation, veterinary control and surveillance programs should be planned and budgeted for. The inspection of establishments can be done during the same visit, but will usually only be considered if the animal health situation appears to be favourable.

Inspection visits are planned and budgeted for, each financial year (starting 1 April). It is usually very difficult to deviate from this schedule.

Before planning an inspection visit our Directorate requires the following from the Chief Veterinary Officer of the prospective exporting country:

1. An official invitation
2. A day-by-day itinerary.

3. Confirmation that the establishments (abattoirs, cutting plants, etc) have been inspected and, in their opinion, could comply with our requirements [Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000) and the regulations promulgated there-under]

The date of the visit will be set only after receiving the documents mentioned above and will not be sooner than 3 months after having received the above-mentioned documents.

A major part of the risk analysis aims to confirm the reliability of statements made by the veterinary authority in the exporting country and by the industry organisations in that country. This requires a detailed knowledge of controls and procedures in the country of origin. These include:

- The legislative controls on import and export of animals and animal products.
- The state veterinary service.
- The laboratory service coverage (both private and state).
- The veterinary practitioner base and its interactions with the state services.
- The industry, its use of veterinarians and its interactions with the state veterinary service.
- Systems of disease notifications and exotic disease response procedures.

Knowledge of these factors allows an assessment to be made of the degree of disease surveillance in place in the exporting country.

The requirements include that the exporting country must be free of certain diseases. All statements must be supported by documented surveillance information.

The requirements on the veterinary health certificate vary according to the conditions in individual countries and are only agreed upon once the procedure described above has been completed.

## Enquiries

The Director Animal Health  
Import Export Policy Unit  
Private Bag X138  
Pretoria  
0001  
Fax +27 (0)12 329 6892

### Dr Caroline Gibbs

Tel +27 (0)12 319 7673

- Import of fresh poultry meat

[CarolineG@daff.gov.za](mailto:CarolineG@daff.gov.za)

### Dr Leana Janse van Rensburg

Tel +27 (0)12 319 7507

- Import of fresh and semi-raw pork

[LeanaJvR@daff.gov.za](mailto:LeanaJvR@daff.gov.za)

### Dr Zarina Motala

Tel +27 (0)12 319 7613

- Raw material for pharmaceutical use

[ZarinaM@daff.gov.za](mailto:ZarinaM@daff.gov.za)

### Dr Sumari Potgieter

Tel +27 (0)12 319 7684

- Import of fresh and semi-raw beef and mutton
- Meat for own consumption ( from SADC)

[SumariP@daff.gov.za](mailto:SumariP@daff.gov.za)

### Dr Jyotika Rajput

Tel +27 (0)12 319 7540

- Import of fresh venison and biltong/dry wors for commercial purposes

[JyotikaR@daff.gov.za](mailto:JyotikaR@daff.gov.za)

**Dr Julia Reeves**

Tel +27 (0)12 319 7524

Cell 082 326 5848

- Processed meat, gelatine, flavouring, colouring

[JuliaP@daff.gov.za](mailto:JuliaP@daff.gov.za)

[www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za) → Divisions → Food and Veterinary Services → Import/Export → Import

[Import Export Policy Unit contacts list](#)

