

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

National Directorate Veterinary Quarantine and Public Health

Notice No. VPN/09/2008-09-2010-01

To: STATE VETERINARY OFFICERS

SUBJECT: Standard for the ante and post-mortem meat inspection and hygiene control at point of game harvest

Definitions

PART I	Duties of the game meat inspector
PART II	Requirements for Residue Monitoring
PART III	Other Veterinary Procedural Notices applicable for the export of game meat
Annex A	Animal health certification
Annex B	Certification of Origin of Partially Dressed Game Carcasses transported from the wild game farm to the abattoir
Annex C	Checklist for harvesting inspection

THIS VPN/09/2008-09 2010-01 REPLACES THE VPN/09/2007-02 2008-01

It will be effective immediately.



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Dr. Mpho Maja

Acting Director: Veterinary ~~Services~~ Quarantine and Public Health

2010-01-04

.....
Date

DEFINITIONS

Depo – A make shift, temporary, central location on a farm where game is hunted/harvested and turned in to partially dressed game carcasses, ready for transport to an European Union (EU) approved game abattoir. This is the location where the GMI/E will carry out the primary meat inspection on the carcasses.

Game Meat Examiner (GME) – an authorized person with a formal qualification to examine game meat carcasses from an animal health and public health point of view.

Game Meat Inspector (GMI) - an authorized person with a formal qualification to inspect game meat carcasses from an animal health and public health point of view.

Official Provincial Inspector – This is an authorized, provincial official appointed by the PSV or the PVA who is either an Animal health Technician or a Public Health Officer who will perform official ad hock inspections at hunting teams.

Official Veterinary Inspector (OVI) – The authorized, official veterinarian at the game export abattoir, who is responsible for export certification of game meat.

Partially Dressed Game Carcasses (PDGC's) – a game carcass from which the head, feet, abdominal and thoracic organs have been removed and that has been inspected and passed as fit for transport to an approved export game abattoir for final meat inspection.

PART I: MEAT INSPECTION AT POINT OF HARVEST

1. Only **authorized and registered** Game Meat Examiners/Inspectors (GME's/GMI's) may do meat inspection at point of harvest. The leader of the hunting team or **one** of the game harvesters, if qualified, can perform the task of the Game Meat Examiner.
2. The GME's/GMI's must have proof of qualification (certified copy of certificate) at each hunt, failure of which the hunt will be stopped, and no health attestation will be provided for the harvest.
3. Regular inspections **of game harvesting procedures (ad hoc)** will be carried out by the Provincial State Veterinarian (PSV) or **Official** Provincial Inspectors. Annex 9C must be completed by the ~~Official~~ **Official Provincial State Veterinarian (PSV), the Official Provincial Inspectors** or GMI/GME and accompany the PDGC's to the OVI at the establishment.
4. Hunting may not take place if it rains.
5. Functions of the game meat examiner/inspector include:
 - a. Checking all relevant documentation before/during harvesting. This includes:
 - ~~i. Copy of harvesting program given to PSV.~~
 - ii. **Farm registration confirmation. Copy of Registration certificate of farm**
 - iii. Copy/Copies of registration certificate(s) of **game harvester(s)**
 - iv. Health Certificate(s) of game harvester(s), **GMI/E**, as well as of assistants including copies of ID documents.
 - v. Checklist for harvesting inspection.(Annex 9C)
 - vi. Certificate of origin. (Annex 9B)
 - vii. Proof of qualification of GME's/GMI's.
 - viii **Progressive Official Inspection Register (Annex 8F)**
 - b. Inspections of equipment and personnel before harvesting.
 - c. Continuous hygiene control at depot.
 - d. During the course of hunting the GME/GMI must do periodic checks to ascertain if hunting procedures comply with requirements. In cases of non-compliance and malpractice the game harvester/ team leader must be informed and harvesting stopped.
 - e. The GME/GMI must complete the checklist in Annex **9C** providing reasons for stopping the harvesting (if applicable), and provide a copy to the game harvester/ team leader. The original must be forwarded to the Official **Veterinary Inspector (OVI)** at the export establishment for record purposes.
 - f. To verify the Critical Control Point (CCP) of the cold chain i.e. the chiller truck as well as meat (Deep bone temperature of $\pm \leq 7^{\circ}\text{C}$ at 24 hours), and the functionality of the thermograph.
6. Ante mortem inspection

Responsibilities of the **game harvester-**

- a. No game-animal may be hunted/harvested unless the game harvester/~~professional harvester~~ has assured him/herself that the animal has a normal healthy active appearance.
- b. No animals may be hunted if any sign of injury or disease is evident.
- c. Moribund animals, if killed, must be condemned.
- d. All suspect animals must be identified and clearly marked and relevant information be provided to the meat inspectors at the depo in the field – this includes having been wounded.
- e. Any additional information including observations made during hunting must be communicated to the game meat inspector **or game meat examiner**.
- f. No game harvesting may be performed, without the game harvester being in the possession of the Health Attestation of the farm. (Annex 9A)

7. Post Mortem Inspection

- a. The GME/GMI must do a comprehensive post mortem meat inspection according to requirements set in the Draft Game Meat Regulations under the Meat Safety Act 2000 (Act 40 of 2000), refer Annexure 10A, on all:
 - i. Heads and feet
 - ii. Plucks including: Oesophagus, trachea, lungs, spleen, heart, kidneys (if removed), diaphragm, liver, mediastinum.
 - iii. Abdominal organs: The game harvester who is also the GME must inspect the green offal during evisceration in the field.
 - iv. Reproductive organs as well as lactating udders must be removed leaving the *Lnn. Inguinalis Superficialis* on either side intact on carcass.
- b. The GME/GMI must inspect all Partially Dressed Game Carcasses (PDGC's) for:
 - i. Thoracic shots resulting in gross contamination of the thoracic cavity with blood and/or bone splinters or gut shots resulting in contamination of abdominal cavity with ingesta.
 - ii. Signs that wild game was wounded or required more than one shot to kill.
 - iii. Excessive contamination of abdominal cavity where game animals were eviscerated in the field with ingesta, soil, grass, mud etc due to poor eviscerating techniques.
 - iv. **Any signs of systemic disease.**

Such animals may not be used for export of wild game meat, and may not be loaded in chiller trucks together with PDGC's intended for export.

- 8. Air dried and chilled Partially Dressed Game Carcasses (PDGC's) already inspected must be loaded into chiller trucks within 4 hours of inspection during summer months, which can be extended to 12 hours at an 12°C ambient temperature or less.

When all PDGC's are loaded, the GME/GMI must seal the truck with an official seal containing a unique number. If a previous seal must be broken to load additional PDGC's, the number of the broken seal as well as the new seal numbers must be noted on the Certificate of Origin (C of O)(Annex B VP/09).

9. The GME/GMI must provide all relevant information required in Annex 9B and sign the required declaration.
10. Certificate of Origin (C of O) (Annex 9B) must accompany the chiller truck to the establishment where the ~~OVI official~~ **veterinarian** will verify that the seal number corresponds to the seal number as indicated, that the amount of PDGC's and their tag numbers concur with information provided and to note temperatures as required.
11. All carcasses must have appropriate tag numbers which correspond with the tag numbers listed on the certificate of origin.
12. The PVA must conduct annual audits on each PSV to ensure that the requirements of this VPN and related VPNs are met. A report must be compiled of all non-conformances noted and supplied to the PSV. The PSV must correct the non-conformances as indicated in the report compiled by the PVA.

PART II: REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDUE MONITORING

13. Requirements for Residue Monitoring

Refer to VPN/19 for the standard relating to the national residue-monitoring programme.

In addition, the following must be adhered to:

- 13.1 All withdrawal periods of Veterinary medicines must be adhered to.
- 13.2 The GMI/GME, if not the same person than the team leader, must ensure that the following checks are done by the Team Leader on the farm before the game harvesting can proceed:
 - Check the registration certificate of the farm to establish if the farm has been registered with a negligible or low chemical residue risk.
 - If the farm is registered as negligible risk the Team Leader must confirm with the owner of the farm that he has not recently notified the PVA of any changes in the chemical risk profile on the farm as previously evaluated.
 - In case of negligible risk with no change in risk profile the hunting can proceed.
 - Where farms had been approved with low chemical residue risk the Team Leader will have to ensure, by viewing the Drug Stock and Treatment Registers that no game on the farm had been treated and is still within the withdrawal period of the drug.

PART III: OTHER VETERINARY PROCEDURAL NOTICES APPLICABLE TO THE EXPORT OF GAME MEAT

1. VPN/05 Standard for the registration or re-registration of game farm for export.
2. VPN/08 Standard for the registration of **game harvesters** for harvesting wild game intended for export of game meat.
3. VPN/10 Standard for post-mortem meat inspection and hygiene control at game meat establishments.
4. VPN/15 Standard for the microbiological monitoring of meat.
5. VPN/16 Standard for the microbiological monitoring of water.

6. VPN/17 Principles of certification.
7. VPN/18 Law Enforcement at Export Establishments.
8. VPN/19 Standard relating to the National Residue monitoring Programme

Provincial Logo

ANNEX 9A

ANNEX 9A - HEALTH ATTESTATION BY ISSUING PROVINCIAL STATE VETERINARIAN*
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Ref. N° _____
(Farm Registration N° may be used)

Letterhead & contact details of issuing PSV

Address: _____

Tel. N°: _____
Fax N°: _____
Cell Phone _____

Addressed to: _____
(Name of **OSV-OVI** at abattoir of destination)

ATTESTATION BY THE ISSUING PROVINCIAL STATE VETERINARIAN

I _____ hereby certify that the farm from which the partially dressed game carcass (PDGC's) were derived, as identified in the copy of the Certificate of Origin (Annex 9B) attached, satisfy the following requirements:

1. **For cloven hoofed wild game** the farm must be located in the Foot and Mouth Disease Free zone (without vaccination) of South Africa as recognized by the OIE, as well as at a distance that exceeds 20 km from the border of a country or part thereof, which is not authorised during this period (2.5) for exporting this fresh meat to the European Community, or outside any Foot-and-Mouth Disease restricted area, as communicated from time to time by the Director: Veterinary Services of the National Department of Agriculture, **Forestry and Fisheries** or as specified in the latest EU Directives in the case of export to the EU. ⁽¹⁾

2. The farm from which the animals originate: _____
(Name of farm)

- 2.1 **with co-ordinates:** _____

- 2.2 has been registered for export approval Reg. N°; _____
(Reg. N°)

- 2.3 **on:** _____
(Date of registration)

- 2.4 is situated in the following district; _____
(District)

- 2.5 has maintained its status with regards to all provisions as noted during the original registration process (Annex 5B);

- 2.6 receives regular veterinary inspections;

- 2.7 was not under animal health restrictions during the previous 60 days in connection with any disease to which the animals concerned are susceptible.

I confirm that I have received a pre-notification from the game harvester providing me with details of the hunt.

Signed at (place) _____ (date) _____ *

Stamp _____ (Signature of Provincial State Veterinarian)

(Name in capital letters, title and qualification)

* This health attestation is valid for 10 days / completion of all fields compulsory.
(1) Not applicable to solipeds (zebra)

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DECLARATION BY RECEIVING OFFICIAL VETERINARY INSPECTOR

I hereby declare that the following partially dressed wild game carcasses arrived at _____ (name of establishment)
on (date) _____ (time) _____

Farm name	Farm Registration number	Species	Number of carcasses

Signed at (place) _____ , (date) _____

(signature of official veterinary inspector)

Stamp

(name in capital letters, title and qualification)

This declaration must please be send to the issuing Provincial State Veterinarian as indicated above, by fax or e-mail within 5 working days.

ANNEX 9B

(VPN/09)

**CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN OF
PARTIALLY DRESSED GAME
CARCASSES TRANSPORTED FROM
THE WILD GAME FARM TO THE
ABATTOIR**

(Logo of Controlling Authority)

(This form must be completed for each days harvesting, on each farm.)

A. PARTICULARS OF FARM AND OWNER

Registered number of farm: _____
 Name of farm: _____
 Name of owner / manager: _____
 District: _____

B. PARTICULARS OF GAME HARVESTER (TEAM LEADER)

Name of game harvester: _____
 Registration number: _____

C. PARTICULARS OF CONSIGNMENT

Harvesting register

Date of harvesting	Species harvested	Amount of carcasses	First tag number	Last tag number	Time: Start of harvest	Time: End of harvest	Time: Start loading Into Chiller vehicle	Time: End loading into chiller vehicle

Temperature recording after 24 hrs

Carcass No.	Temperature

Chiller vehicle registration number: _____

Date of departure: _____

Time at departure: _____

Name of abattoir of destination: _____

Carcass Number	Comments relating to ante- and post mortem inspection

D. DECLARATION BY AUTHORISED PERSON GMI/E

I, _____ hereby declare that:
(name of GME/GMI)

(i) The wild game carcasses mentioned in paragraph C of this certificate have been harvested from:

Name of Farm	Registration Number

(ii) by registered game harvester(s):

Name	Registration Number

(iii) the partially dressed game carcasses were loaded in chiller truck:

Registration Number	Seal Number

(iv) A copy of Annex 9C is attached hereto.

Signed at (place) _____, (date) _____

Signature of game meat examiner/inspector

E. DECLARATION BY RECEIVING AUTHORISED PERSON

I hereby declare that the following partially dressed wild game carcasses arrived at _____ (name of establishment)
 on (date) _____ (time) _____

Registration Number	Seal Number

Identification tag numbers of wild game carcasses **per species:**

First Tag Number	Last Tag Number

The following temperatures were recorded on arrival:

Position in truck	Carcass identification number	tag	Temperature °C
Back of truck			
Middle of truck			
Front of truck			

Signed at (place) _____, (date) _____

 (signature of official ~~state veterinarian~~ **veterinary inspector**)

Stamp

 (name in capital letters, title and qualification)

~~A copy of the Annex 9C is attached hereto.~~

ANNEX 9C

(VPN/09)

**CHECKLIST FOR HARVESTING
INSPECTION (To be completed by the
person doing the meat inspection **or**
official ad hoc inspection in the field)**

(Logo of Controlling Authority)

Farm owner: _____

Farm name: _____

Name of **game harvester Team Leader**: _____ Date of hunt: _____ Time of hunt:

Method used for harvest (4x4; Helicopter; bauma etc) _____

Name of Game Meat Examiner/Inspector or **Official Provincial Inspector**⁽¹⁾:

Signature of Game Meat Examiner/Inspector or **Official Provincial Inspector**⁽¹⁾:

GENERAL	Compliance	Non-compliance	Remarks
Clean and hygienic protective clothing			
Record of Medical Certificates and ID's of game harvesters and assistants available			
Annex 8F and previous audit reports available			
OPERATIONAL	Compliance	Non-compliance	Remarks
Game harvester's Registration Certificate available			
The prescribed checks regarding chemical residue controls were carried out			
Wild game animals are killed by an approved method in accordance with animal welfare requirements, did not contaminate the wild game carcass and caused immediate death			
Only healthy wild game animals are harvested			
Animals bled within 10 minutes of killing			
Evisceration takes place before bloating			
Hygienic evisceration			
DEPOT	Compliance	Non-compliance	Remarks
Hygiene evisceration			
Toilet paper			
Separation clean / dirty functions			
Method of sterilisation of knives available			
Temperatures or contact time (Chem) of sterilisers			
Potable water available			
Clean non-corrosive hanging frame			
Sufficient light			
Area below slaughter frame hygienically maintained			
Identification of carcasses and corresponding offal			
Timeous loading of carcasses into chilling vehicle			
Time record of loading of carcasses into chilling vehicle			
Temperature of carcasses below +7°C after 24 hours of killing			
Clean and hygienic protective clothing			
Workers wash hands regularly, with bactericidal soaps			
Containers for condemned, inedible material and rough offal available			
Thermometer to measure carcass temperature available			

Containers for head and feet available			
Insect activity			
Hand drying / waste bin			
Hygiene Management Programmes provided, correct, followed.			

VEHICLES	Compliance	Non-compliance	Remarks
Harvesting Vehicle(s) complies with requirements			
Reg. Number:			
Reg. Number:			
Reg. Number:			
Reg. Number:			
Reg. Number:			
Chiller Vehicle(s) complies with requirements			
Reg. Number:			
Reg. Number:			

Date: _____

Inspectors Name: _____

Inspectors Contact Details:

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

RECOMMENDATION DECLARATION:

Harvesting team acceptable to harvest for export market.

Yes	No
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Other Comments: _____

(This document has been completed by me, the GMI/E and has been forwarded together with the PDGCs to the abattoir of destination)⁽¹⁾

(A copy of this report has been sent to the ~~registration~~ Provincial Veterinary Authority where the Team Leader has been registered as game harvester, in case of noncompliance.)⁽¹⁾

(In cases where this report was used for official inspection purposes by an official provincial inspector a copy of the report has been given to the Team Leader, another copy was sent to the OVI at the Abattoir and a copy will be kept on file at the office of the PSV.)⁽¹⁾

Signed at (place) _____, (date) _____

.....
 (signature of ~~official state veterinarian~~ Game Meat Examiner/Inspector or Official Provincial Inspector)⁽¹⁾

Stamp

(1) Delete that which is not applicable