

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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South Africa - Republic of

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Certification

FAIRS Export Certificate Report

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Report Highlights:

This is the second FAIRS - Certification Report for South Africa. The report lists major certificates and permits required to export food and agricultural products to South Africa. It is recommended that this report be read with the FAIRS – Narrative Report ([Click here to download the 2015 FAIRS report](#)) for a comprehensive understanding of the South African regulations and standards.

SOUTH AFRICA: FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL IMPORT REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS (FAIRS) CERTIFICATION

This report was prepared by the USDA - Foreign Agricultural Services in Pretoria, South Africa for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely accurate either because policies have changed since its preparation, or because clear and consistent information about these policies was not available. It is highly recommended that U.S. exporters verify the full set of import requirements with their foreign customers, who are normally best equipped to research such matters with local authorities, before any goods are shipped.

FINAL IMPORT APPROVAL OF ANY PRODUCT IS SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AS INTERPRETED BY BORDER OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF PRODUCT ENTRY.

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

United States exporters should note that the South African import permits, namely, the Veterinary Health Certificate and Phytosanitary Permit are country and commodity specific. It is recommended that exporters contact the listed South African certifying authority on the contact details provided in **Table 2** to obtain the United States and commodity specific conditions for each permit. Some examples of the certificates are shown in Appendix I. Alternatively, these certificates and export requirements are also provided on the United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) website on the following links, [Click here for animal and animal products permits](#) or [Click here for plant and plant products permits](#). The export certification checklist, requirements for meat, poultry and processed egg products, export related policies, and eligible U.S. establishments can be obtained from the following Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) website, [Click here for the FSIS export requirements](#). For the import and export of animal feed and drugs, information and the requirements can be obtained from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), on the following link, [Click here to download the FDA requirements and processes](#).

Animals and animal products

In terms of Section 6 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984), an import permit and veterinary health certificate are required when exporting animal and animal products to South Africa. Detailed information on the exportation of animal and animal products to South Africa can be obtained on the following link; http://www.nda.agric.za/vetweb/ImportExport/How%20to%20import/SKMBT_C454e14071015170.pdf

The DAFF Directorate: Food Import and Export Standards in the Animal Health Division is responsible for issuing the import permits. Veterinary import permits are usually issued within 5 to 10 working days, under normal circumstances. The application forms for import permits can be obtained on the following link; <http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/importexport/forms>.

The veterinary health certificate can be issued by a recognized veterinary authority of the exporting country. The veterinary health certificate needs to be completed before departure and within 10 days of departure, in English. The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) provides inspection and certification services to United States exporters. The procedures and requirements for exporting animals and animal products from the United States to South Africa can be obtained on the following APHIS website; [Click this link to the APHIS webpage](#).

South Africa will usually specify any other documentation e.g. Indemnity Declaration, Rabies Vaccination Certificate required prior to or when issuing the import permit. South Africa will only allow import of animal and animal products from abattoirs and de-boning plants approved by the Director of Animal Health in terms of the Meat Safety Act, (Act no 40 of 2000). The list of approved abattoirs and de-boning plants can be found on the following link; [Click this link of the list of approved abattoirs and de-boning plants](#).

Plant and Plant Products

In terms of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) some plant commodities require an import permit, while others are exempt from an import permit but have to comply with phytosanitary measures for such exemption. The DAFF Directorate of Plant health is responsible for issuing import permits. The procedures to be followed when importing plant and plant products can be obtained from the following link;

[http://www.nda.agric.za/daaDev/sideMenu/plantHealth/docs/Import%20Procedure Book%20Marker%2017%20Oct%202014.pdf](http://www.nda.agric.za/daaDev/sideMenu/plantHealth/docs/Import%20Procedure%20Book%20Marker%2017%20Oct%202014.pdf) .

The import permit application forms and fees are also available on the following links;

<http://www.nda.agric.za/daaDev/sideMenu/plantHealth/docs/APPLICATION%20FORM.pdf>

Liquor Products

The Quality Audit division, of the DAFF Directorate of Food Safety and Quality Assurance is responsible for the inspection, sampling and issuing import certificates for Liquor Products. An import certificate is required to import liquor products, in bulk/ bottles (excluding beer) into South Africa. An importer is only required to apply for an import certificate only once in the lifetime of a product, after that the same import certificate number can be used provided that the composition, content, bottle size and label of that product doesn't change. An acceptable Analysis Certificate, issued by an Official Laboratory in the country of origin, is usually requested when applying for an import permit, and if provided, certain fees are exempted during the application. The lists of the Official Laboratories accepted in the different countries can be obtained from Marian Honing (Tel:27 21 809 1687 or marianh@nda.agric.za).

The procedures for applying for a liquor import permit can be obtained from the following link;

www.nda.agric.za/docs/plantquality/Drank%5Cimportman.doc .

The application forms can also be downloaded from the following link;

<http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Food-Safety-Quality-Assurance/Liquor-products> .

At least 48 hours' notice must be given to the Quality Audit division every time a consignment of liquor, for which an Import Certificate has been issued, will enter this country.

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

The DAFF Biosafety directorate is responsible for issuing GMO import permits, GMO status certificates, as well as the use, trials, commodity use permit (food, feed or processing) and commodity clearance for GMOs.

The procedures and application forms can also be downloaded from the following link;

<http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Genetic-Resources/Biosafety/Services/PDF-Application-Forms> .

The guideline documents for GMOs can be found on the following link;

<http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Genetic-Resources/Biosafety/Services/Guidline-Documents> .

Post published a GAIN report following the announcement by South Africa`s Registrar of GMO on December 5, 2016 stating that all corn Genetically Engineered (GE) events that have been causing asynchrony with the United States had been approved and invited applications for permits from importers.

[Click here to download the GAIN report on the approval of corn GE events by South Africa.](#) Post also published an annual report on the status of biotechnology in South Africa, [Click here to download the GAIN Biotechnology report.](#)

SECTION II: LIST, SPECIFIC ATTESTATION AND PURPOSE OF ALL THE REQUIRED EXPORT CERTIFICATES

Table 1: List of required export certificates

Product	Title of Certificate	Attestation Required on Certificate	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Animals and animal products	Veterinary Health Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country of origin of consignment. • Country/Zone is free from prescribed or notifiable diseases e.g. BSE, Foot and Mouth e.t.c. • The prescribed inspections, isolations, treatments and tests have been carried out as prescribed. • Prescribed bedding, fodder, feedstuffs, transportation and supervision by official veterinary authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The certificate confirms that the prescribed regulations and conditions have been met. • Prevent the introduction of animal diseases into South Africa, as well as to protect human health. 	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
Animals and animal products	Veterinary Import Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official permit granting authority to import the specified animal or animal products subject to the prescribed conditions. • The validity of the permit, and whether it applies to single or multiple consignments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The permit serves as the official authorization and confirmation to import. • The permit also states the conditions applicable to the imports 	DAFF
Plant and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attests to the phytosanitary status of any consignment affected by phytosanitary regulations. • Country of origin of consignment. • The prescribed regulations, quarantine, treatment and other prescribed procedures have been tested and fulfilled. • Follows the model certificates of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prevent the introduction or spread of quarantine pests or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests. • Quality control. 	DAFF

Plant and Plant Products	Import Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official document authorizing importation of a commodity in accordance with specified phytosanitary measures and other import requirements. • The validity of the permit, the prescribed port of entry if applicable, and whether it applies to single or multiple consignments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The permit serves as the official authorization and confirmation to import. • The permit also states the conditions applicable to the imports 	DAFF
Genetically Modified Organisms	GMO Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commodity is registered and has the necessary approvals in SA. • Approval for the development, production, use, release, or distribution of the GMO has been granted. All activities must be approved by the executive council before the registrar can issue a permit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety and quality control. 	DAFF
Liquor	Import Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product complies with the requirements of the Liquor Act 60 of 1989. • The validity of the certificate. You apply for the import certificate only once; thereafter the same import certificate number can be used provided that the composition, content, bottle size and label of the product does not change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety and quality. • Preliminary approval to import a specific liquor product. 	DAFF

Sources: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and the Department of Health.

SECTION III: CONTACT DETAILS OF THE RELEVANT CERTIFYING AUTHORITIES

Table 2: Contact details

Product	Title of Certificate	Requesting Ministry
Animals and animal products	Veterinary health certificate	DAFF: Food Import and Export Standards Tel.: 27 12 319 6004 / 6117 Email: vetpermits@daff.gov.za or inaL@daff.gov.za
Animals and animal products	Veterinary Import Permit	DAFF: Animal Health Tel.: 27 12 319 6004 / 6117/ 7514/ Fax: 27 12 329 8292 or 27 12 319 7644 Email: VetPermits@daff.gov.za or inaL@daff.gov.za
Plant and Plant Products	Phytosanitary permit	DAFF: Directorate: Plant health Tel: 27 12 319 6102/ 6383/ 6130 Fax: 27 12 319 6370 Email: PlantHealthPermits@daff.gov.za or solomonmatsa@daff.gov.za
Plant and Plant Products	Import permit	DAFF: Directorate: Plant health Tel: 27 12 319 6102/ 6383/ 6130 Fax: 27 12 319 6370 Email: PlantHealthPermits@daff.gov.za or solomonmatsa@daff.gov.za
Liquor	Import certificate	DAFF: Food Safety and Quality Assurance Tel: 27 21 809 1602/1687/1681 Fax: 27 21 887 6396/6392 Email: WendyJ@daff.gov.za
Genetically modified organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMO Permit • GMO Status Certificate 	DAFF: Genetic Resources - Bio-safety Tel: +27 12 319 6382 Fax: +27 12 319 6298 Email: NompumeleloM@daff.gov.za or RefilweN@daff.gov.za

Sources: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

SECTION IV: GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Table 3: Animals and animal products: Veterinary Health Certificate

Question	Answer	Comment
Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?	Yes	
How long is the certificate valid?	Varies	Usually issued for 3 months
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	Usually issued for one consignment
Will the country accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S State issued export certificate?	Yes	By an official and prescribed official e.g. APHIS, FSIS
Will the country derogate export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	No	Certificates are accepted from recognized US agencies such as APHIS, FSIS.

Table 4: Animals and animal products: Veterinary Import Permit

Question	Answer	Comment
Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?	Yes	
How long is the certificate valid?	Varies	Usually issued for 3 months
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	Usually for one consignment
Will the country accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S State issued export certificate?	No	Only issued by DAFF
Will the country derogate export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	Yes	Permit can only be issued by South African government.

Table 5: Plant and Plant Products: Phytosanitary permit

Question	Answer	Comment
Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?	Yes	
How long is the certificate valid?	Varies	Usually one year or quantity based.
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	
Will the country accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S State issued export certificate?	Yes	By an official and prescribed official, e.g. APHIS
Will the country derogate export certificates?	No	Certificates accepted from recognized US agencies i.e. APHIS.

Table 6: Plant and Plant Products: Import Permit

Question	Answer	Comment
Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?	Yes	

How long is the certificate valid?	Varies	Usually one year or quantity based.
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	
Will the country accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S State issued export certificate?	No	Only issued by DAFF
Will the country derogate export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	Yes	Permit can only be issued by South African government.

Table 7: Liquor: Import Certificate

Question	Answer	Comment
Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?	Yes	
How long is the certificate valid?	Indefinite	Provided that the composition, content, bottle size and label of that product doesn't change.
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Yes	
Will the country accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S State issued export certificate?	No	
Will the country derogate export certificates?	Yes	Permit can only be issued by South African government.

Table 8: Genetically modified organisms: Import Certificate

Question	Answer	Comment
Does the original certificate need to accompany the product at the time of entry?	Yes	
How long is the certificate valid?	Varies	Usually one year or quantity based.
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	
Will the country accept a Suppliers or Manufacturers Export Declaration as proof of compliance?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S State issued export certificate?	No	
Will the country derogate export certificates?	Yes	Permit can only be issued by South African government.

SECTION V: OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Certificate of Origin

The South African Declaration (or certificate) of Origin, Form DA-59, certifying the country of origin, description of goods, weight, etc, is required for shipments of some foodstuffs. South African Customs will notify the importer if a Form DA-59 is required and the importer will notify the exporter. When the form is required, exporters or suppliers must provide at least one original signed copy attached to the original commercial invoice. The Form DA-59 can be downloaded from the following link;

<http://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/OpsDocs/SARSForms/DA%2059%20-%20Declaration%20of%20Origin%20-%20External%20Form.pdf> .

APPENDIX I: COPY OR OUTLINE OF THE CONTENTS OF EACH EXPORT CERTIFICATE

United States origin Health Certificate for exportation of horses to South Africa

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/sf_eq_hc.pdf



United States origin
Health Certificate for

Veterinary Health Certificate for the export of Hides and Skins from the United States to South Africa

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/sf_hides_cert.pdf



Veterinary Health
Certificate for the exp

U.S Origin Health Certificate for exportation of Bovine Embryos to South Africa

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/sf_bo_em.pdf



U.S Origin Health
Certificate for export

Figure 1: Veterinary Import Permit for Laboratory Mice/ Rats from the U.S.

Directorate of Animal Health
Import-Export Policy Unit
Private Bag X138
Pretoria, 0001
Republic of South Africa

Tel: (27)-012-3197514
Fax: (27)-012-3298292

Importer:

PERMIT NO: 13/1/1/30/2/4-
Valid from:
Expiry date:

VETERINARY IMPORT PERMIT FOR LABORATORY MICE/RATS FROM THE USA
[Issued in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984)]

Authority is hereby granted for you to import into Republic of South Africa.

from:

subject to the following conditions :

1. Each consignment must be accompanied by:
 - 1.1 This original permit;
 - 1.2 A certificate issued by the Veterinary Authority of the country of export, certifying:
 - 1.2.1 The origin of the.....;
 - 1.2.2 That theoriginate from colonies that routinely test negative for infectious and contagious diseases of rodents and are free of clinical signs of these diseases when packed into shipping boxes for export.
 - 1.2.3 That the.....were securely packed in leakproof containers in facilities that are under official Veterinary supervision.
2. The consignment is to be airfreighted through port of entry
The mice/rats may only be imported as manifest cargo under an airwaybill number and may not be imported as personal luggage.
3. The.....must be kept and used for purposes of testing/research at the laboratories of under the personal supervision of
4. On completion of tests/research the are to be euthanized and destroyed by incineration;
5. The State Veterinarian:..... Tel:..... must be advised timeously of the arrival of the consignment.
6. This permit is subject to amendment or cancellation by the Director Animal Health at any time and without prior notice being given.
7. This permit is valid for three (3) months from date of issue and FOR ONE CONSIGNMENT ONLY.

DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH

NOTE:

From 1st January 2005 any consignment imported into South Africa packed with either wood packing material or dunnage, will require treatment to remove any pests present (by heat or methyl bromide fumigation). Treatment must be indicated on packing material. [Enquiries: Directorate Inspection Services Fax: 012 309 8703 or www.daaff.gov.za]