
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**NO. 714****10 JUNE 2016****ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO. 35 OF 1984)****PUBLICATION OF NOTICE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS FROM BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, NAMIBIA AND SWAZILAND**

I, Senzeni Zokwana, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby wish to publish the following notice under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984), of the implementation of revised import requirements for cattle, sheep and goats from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland. The revised import requirements for cattle, sheep and goats from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland will be implemented as from **1 July 2016**.

The above-mentioned revised requirements are available on the DAFF website (www.daff.gov.za) for public viewing, at the following route: Branches → Agricultural Production, Health & Food Safety → Animal Health → Import/Export Policy Unit → Import → Revised import requirements for cattle, sheep and goats from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland 2016.

NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED REVISED IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS FROM BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, NAMIBIA AND SWAZILAND

As a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), South Africa agrees to adhere to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS agreement). The Agreement both recognises the independent right of members to provide the level of protection against disease they deem appropriate; and ensures that SPS measures do not represent arbitrary, excessive, scientifically unjustifiable, or disguised restrictions on international trade. The Agreement also encourages Members to use the international standards, guidelines and recommendations where they exist.

In an effort to protect the animal disease status of South Africa as well as remain consistent with the SPS agreement, a decision was made to revise the import requirements for cattle, sheep and goats from Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. The OIE is the relevant international organization for animal health under the WTO SPS agreement. The import requirements for cattle, sheep and goats from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland were revised according to the OIE guidelines, which are regarded as "*...the world organisation for animal health recognized by the SPS Agreement.*" - (www.wto.org). Since the revised requirements are not stricter than the recommended OIE guidelines, no import risk analysis is deemed necessary.

The following consultation process has been followed:

1. A Government Gazette notice of the proposed revised import conditions was published in the Government Gazette on 17 April 2015 with a comment period of 30 days;
2. A WTO SPS notification of the proposed revised import requirements for cattle, sheep and goats from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland was published on 09 November 2015 with a comment period of 60 days;

All comments received in response to the above-mentioned notifications were considered and incorporated where relevant.

As the consultation process is deemed as concluded, the implementation of the revised import requirements will now proceed. The revised import requirements for cattle, sheep and goats from Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland will be implemented as from **1 July 2016**.