

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** November 19, 2025

**Report Number:** SF2025-0034

**Report Name:** South Africa Publishes Four Draft Plant Health Regulations for Public Comment

**Country:** South Africa - Republic of

**Post:** Pretoria

**Report Category:** FAIRS Subject Report

**Prepared By:** Masego Moobi

**Approved By:** Oliver Flake

**Report Highlights:**

The Ministry of Agriculture in South Africa has released four draft regulations under the Plant Health Act of 2024 (Act No. 35 of 2024) for public comment. Regulation 1 establishes rules for controlling regulated pests, including quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of infested plant material. Regulation 2 outlines export requirements, such as obtaining phytosanitary certificates to meet importing country standards. Regulation 3 lists products that can be imported without a permit, subject to conditional exemptions, while Regulation 4 requires an import permit for regulated items. The regulations were published on September 26, 2025, and the deadline for public comments is 30 days from the publication date.

The South African Ministry of Agriculture has published four draft regulations under the Plant Health Act of 2024 (Act No. 35 of 2024) for public comment. The Plant Health Act was passed into law on December 10, 2024; however, it has not yet been declared (come into force), as it is pending approval of the newly published regulations. The regulations were released on September 26, 2025, with a 30-day public comment period following the publication date. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Plant Health Act aims to prevent the introduction and spread of regulated pests and control the movement of plants within and out of South Africa.

### **Regulation 1: Draft Control Measure R.6664 of 26 September 2025**

This regulation establishes rules prohibiting the keeping and removal of regulated pests, as well as the keeping and transportation of certain plants. It also provides for the demarcation of quarantine areas if an area is found to be infested with a quarantine pest. This demarcation allows for corrective actions to suppress or eradicate the pest. Additionally, the regulation prohibits the movement of plants or plant products from quarantined areas to other parts of South Africa. If a pest does not meet the criteria for classification as a regulated pest in a specific area, the regulatory authority will declare it a non-regulated pest. The regulation provides a list of plants and areas to which the stated prohibitions apply.

### **Regulation 2: Draft Export Regulation R.6665 of 26 September 2025**

This regulation outlines the requirements for exports, including the prescribed phytosanitary certificate, compliance with the importing country's phytosanitary standards, and other related requirements. It also details the process for applying for a phytosanitary certificate for plants, plant products, and related items intended for export. Additionally, the regulation specifies approved points of exit, such as harbors, airports, and border control points.

### **Regulation 3: Draft Importation of Regulated Articles Without a Permit R.6666 of 26 September 2025**

This regulation lists the products that can be imported into South Africa without an import permit, such as spice seeds, unrooted vegetative propagating material, bulbs, tubers, rooted greenhouse plants, tissue cultures in vitro of certain species, timber, and unprocessed timber products. These products are subject to conditional exemptions outlined in Clause 2 of the regulation. Some of these exemptions include requirements that the products must be imported through an authorized point of entry and inspected by an official.

### **Regulation 4: Draft Import Regulations with a Permit R.6667 of 26 September 2025**

This regulation states that exporters of plants and plant products must apply for an import permit and comply with the phytosanitary import requirements. Importers are also required to specify the intended destination of the imported products to ensure traceability. If phytosanitary import requirements are available, the import permit will be issued within 30 days. If no phytosanitary import requirements are established by the National Plant Protection Organization of South Africa, a pest risk analysis will be conducted before the import permit is issued. The regulation also outlines the process for presenting consignments for inspection, extended detention of imports for inspection at an inland facility, and post-entry quarantine measures.

Public comments regarding the draft regulations should be directed to:

Dr. Maanda Rambuali

Department of Agriculture, Directorate Plant Health

Email: [MaandaR@nda.gov.za](mailto:MaandaR@nda.gov.za) / [LinnethM@nda.gov.za](mailto:LinnethM@nda.gov.za)

Comments should be submitted within the 30-day public comment period following the publication date of September 26, 2025.

**Attachments:**

[Plant Health Draft Regulations.pdf](#)

[Plant Health \(Phytosanitary\) Act 35 of 2024.pdf](#)