

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: South Africa Proposes Regulation for Edible Vegetable Oils

Country: South Africa - Republic of

Post: Pretoria

Report Category: FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

South Africa's Ministry of Agriculture published a draft regulation regarding the grading, packing and marking of edible vegetable oils. The government of South Africa notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) on June 27, 2025, and will accept public comments until August 26, 2025.

South Africa has published a draft regulation under the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), administered by the Ministry of Agriculture. This regulation pertains to the grading, packing, and marking of edible vegetable oils intended for sale in South Africa. Public comments on the draft are invited until August 26, 2025.

The draft regulation applies to edible vegetable oils packaged in retail containers and not to edible oil intended for use as an ingredient in manufacturing. The proposed regulation sets out quality requirements for the containers used for packaging edible vegetable oils. It also sets out the product labeling standard, stating requirements for labeling vegetable oils for one type of oil and blended oils. These provisions aim to ensure consistency and transparency in the packaging and labeling of edible vegetable oils intended for retail sales.

The regulation proposes prohibitions on using terms such as "lite," "light," "extra light," and "reduced" on vegetable oil containers. It also proposes a restriction on use of adjectives that cannot be objectively measured, such as "real," "premium," "finest," and "super."

The regulation also sets out chemical testing requirements to verify product composition and quality factors for the oils listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Edible Vegetable Oil listed in the Proposed Regulation

Arachis oil	Palm kernel stearin
Babassu oil	Palm oil
Coconut oil	Palm olein
Cotton-seed oil	Palm stearin
Grape-seed oil	Palm super olein
Maize/Corn oil	Rape-seed oil
Mustard-seed oil	Rice bran oil
Olive oil	Safflower-seed oil
Olive-Pomace oil	Sesame-seed oil
Palm kernel oil	Soya-bean oil
Palm kernel olein	Sunflower-seed oil

This proposed legislation was [notified to the WTO](#) on June 27, 2025. Stakeholders, including manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, are encouraged to review the draft regulations and submit comments before the August 26, 2025 deadline.

Comments are to be addressed to

South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

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Attachments:

[South Africa's Proposed Regulation on Edible Vegetable Oils.pdf](#)