

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: December 14, 2023

Report Number: SF2023-0044

Report Name: FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual

Country: South Africa - Republic of

Post: Pretoria

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report

Prepared By: Makoma Makgopa, Katherine Woody

Approved By: Ali Abdi

Report Highlights:

This report has been updated to reflect the newest information and contacts relevant to exporting to South Africa. The FAIRS certificate report includes a list of the main licenses and certificates needed to export food and agricultural products from the United States to South Africa. It is advised that this report and the Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Country Report be read together for a thorough understanding of South Africa's market access and certification requirements.

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Disclaimer

This report was prepared by the USDA - Foreign Agricultural Service in Pretoria, South Africa, for U.S. exporters of domestic food and agricultural products. While every possible care has been 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 products 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.

Executive Summary

South African import permits, health certificates, and phytosanitary permits are specific to the type of product and country of origin. It is recommended that exporters contact the listed South African certifying authority via the contact details provided in this report to obtain the relevant conditions for each shipment.

An import permit and veterinary health certificate are required when exporting animal and animal products to South Africa. Detailed information, including application forms for import permits for the exportation of animal and animal products to South Africa can be obtained on the [website of the South African Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development](#) (DALRRD). Veterinary import permits in South Africa are usually issued within five to 10 working days. Veterinary health certificate must be issued by a recognized veterinary authority of the exporting country. South Africa requires that the veterinary health certificate be completed before the products are shipped. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) are recognized certifying authorities by South Africa and provides inspection and certification services to American exporters. The procedures and requirements for exporting animal and animal products from the United States to South Africa can be obtained on the [APHIS website](#). Guidelines for exporting meat and poultry products may also be found on the [FSIS website](#).

Most plant products imported into South Africa require an import permit, while others are exempt but must comply with phytosanitary measures for such exemption. DALRRD's Directorate of Plant Health is responsible for issuing import permits. APHIS is a recognized certifying authority by South Africa and provides inspection and certification services to U.S. exporters to confirm that the shipment complies with the required phytosanitary measures. The procedures to be followed when exporting plants and plant products to South Africa, as well as import permit application forms, can be obtained on the [DALRRD website](#).

DALRRD's Biosafety Directorate is responsible for issuing import permits, status certificates, and permits for use (food, feed, or processing) for genetically engineered (GE) products. The procedures and application forms for these permits can be downloaded from the [DALRRD website](#). Guideline documents for [GE certifications, regulations, and fees](#) are also available online.

The DALRRD Directorate of Food Safety and Quality Assurance is responsible for inspections and issuing import certificates for alcoholic beverages. An import certificate is required to import alcoholic beverages (excluding beer) in bulk or bottles. An importer needs to apply for an import certificate once in the lifetime of a product; thereafter, the same import certificate number can be used provided that the composition, content, bottle size, and label of that product do not change. An acceptable analysis certificate, issued by an official laboratory in the country of origin, is usually requested when applying for an import permit. The procedures for applying for a liquor import permit, including application forms, can be obtained on the [DALRRD website](#).

Section I: List of all the Required Export Certificates Required by South Africa

Table 1: Export Certificate Matrix for Animals and Animal Products

Product	Certificate Name	Required Attestations	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Milk and Milk Based Products for Human Consumption	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Milk or Milk-Based Products for Human Consumption to the Republic of South Africa	Products are fit for human consumption, processed at an officially approved manufacturing plant, and conform to the specific condition stipulated on the import permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Food quality • Confirm origin of product • Disease prevention and control (Foot and Mouth Disease - FMD) • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.
Milk and Milk Based Products for Animal Consumption	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Milk or Milk-Based Products for Animal Consumption to the Republic of South Africa	Products are fit for animal consumption, processed at an officially approved manufacturing plant, and conform to the specific condition stipulated on the import permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Food quality • Confirm origin of product • Disease prevention and control (FMD) • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.
Caseine, Caseinate or Milk-Protein for Human Consumption Derived from Milk Products Imported from FMD Infected Countries	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Caseine, Caseinate or Milk Protein for Human Consumption Derived from Milk Products Imported from FMD Infected Countries for Export to the Republic of South Africa	Products are fit for human consumption, processed at an officially approved manufacturing plant, and conform to the specific condition stipulated on the import permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Food quality • Confirm origin of product • Disease prevention and control (FMD) • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.

Protein Drinks/Supplements for Human Consumption Containing BOTH Dairy and Eggs	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Products Containing Dairy and Egg from the United States to South Africa	Products are fit for human consumption, processed at an officially approved manufacturing plant, and conform to the specific condition stipulated on the import permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety • Food quality • Confirm origin of product and ingredients • Disease prevention and control (FMD, Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease, Salmonella) • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.
Raw Animal Wool, Mohair and Scoured Animal Wool / Mohair	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Raw Animal Wool, Mohair and Scoured Animal Wool/Mohair from the United States to South Africa	Products are from areas free from specified diseases, sourced from an officially approved establishments, and conform to the specific conditions (such as packaging and storage requirements) stipulated on the import permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the introduction of animal diseases (anthrax, FMD, rinderpest, east coast fever, sheep scab, sheep pox) • Confirm origin of the products • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.
Hides and Skins	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Hides and Skins from the United States to South Africa	Hides were obtained from animals slaughtered at licensed abattoirs, from areas where no FMD has been reported, and animals showed no evidence of specified diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the introduction of animal diseases (FMD, anthrax, vesicular stomatitis, epizootic diseases) • Confirm origin of the products • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.
Bile salts (for Pharmaceutical Purposes Only)	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Bile Salts (for Pharmaceutical Purposes Only) from the United States to South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bile salts were derived from animals born and raised in Canada, United States, or Mexico • Cattle were slaughtered at a US establishment • Bile was processed at an officially approved establishment and conforms to the specific conditions stipulated on the import permit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the introduction of animal diseases (FMD) • Confirm origin of the products and ingredients • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.

Pet Food	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Pet Food from the United States to South Africa	Product was manufactured in a USDA-approved facility, ingredients were sourced from the United States and/or Canada, and shipment complies with specific conditions stipulated on the import permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the introduction of animal diseases (BSE, Salmonella) • Confirm origin of the products and ingredients used in manufacturing • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.
Products derived from bovine blood or blood byproducts intended for pharmaceutical or laboratory use	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Products Derived from Bovine Blood or Blood Byproducts intended for Pharmaceutical or Laboratory Use from the United States to South Africa	The bovine blood used in the manufacturing process of the product was collected from cattle born and raised in the United States or a country where specified diseases have not been reported in the last 5 years, and the bovine blood used complies with specific conditions stipulated on the import permit and the manufacturing facilities are controlled and regulated by the competent U.S. authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the introduction of animal diseases (FMD, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, peste de petits ruminants, lumpy skin, anthrax, leptospirosis, or bovine tuberculosis) • Confirm origin of the products and ingredients used in manufacturing • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.
Other 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, FMD, Anthrax, etc.) • Prescribed inspections, isolations, treatments, and tests have been carried out • Prescribed bedding, fodder, feedstuffs, transportation, and supervision by official veterinary authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm that the prescribed regulations and conditions have been met • Prevent the introduction of animal diseases and protect human health • Traceability 	DALRRD accepts a health certificate issued by APHIS.

All Animals and animal products	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 and a valid health certificate • Validity of the permit and whether it applies to single or multiple consignments • Quantity to be imported • Likely port of entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official authorization and permission to import • State all the minimum conditions applicable to importation • Confirm the origin of the products • Traceability 	DALRRD or Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC) for seafood
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Source: DALRRD, APHIS, FSIS, and FDA

Table 2: List of Required Export Certificates for Plants, Plant Products, and Liquor

Product	Certificate Name	Required Attestations	Purpose	Requesting Ministry
Plants and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Certificate for the Export of Plant and Plant Products to the Republic of South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attests to the phytosanitary status of any consignment governed by phytosanitary regulations • Country of origin • Prescribed regulations, quarantine, treatments, and other prescribed procedures have been fulfilled • Follows model certificates of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the introduction or spread of quarantine pests or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests • Quality control • Confirm origin of the products 	DALRRD accepts an electronic certificate issued by APHIS.
Plants and Plant Products	Import Permit	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"> • Official document authorizing importation of a commodity in accordance with specified phytosanitary measures and other import requirements • State all conditions applicable to the imports 	DALRRD

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm origin of the products • Traceability 	
Genetically Modified Organisms	GMO Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity is registered and has the necessary approvals in South Africa • 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 • Registration of products • Environmental protection 	DALRRD
Liquor	Import Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product complies with the requirements of the Liquor Act of 1989 • Validity of the certificate. You apply for the import certificate only once; thereafter the same import certificate number can be used for other shipments, provided that the composition, content, bottle size, and label of the product do not change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food safety and quality • Preliminary approval to import a specific liquor product • Confirm origin of the products • Traceability 	DALRRD

Source: DALRRD and APHIS

Section II: Purpose of Specific Export Certificates

See export certificate matrix in Section I above.

Section III: Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates

Table 3: Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates for Animals and Animal Products

Product	Certificate Name	Required Attestations	Copy
<u>Milk and Milk-Based Products for Human Consumption</u>	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Milk or Milk-Based Products for Human Consumption to the Republic of South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of product and animal species of origin • Number of packages or units/net weight • Product was produced from milk or milk-based products, derived from animals in or from a country not under restrictions due to FMD or rinderpest • Product was processed at an officially approved manufacturing plant • Product was subjected to prescribed processes such as ultra-high temperature treatment, pasteurized, heat sterilized, or acidification • Products do not contain any ingredients derived from animals other than milk • Products are fit for human consumption • Products do not contain harmful additives or constitute any danger of introducing infectious or contagious diseases into South Africa 	See Appendix I
<u>Milk and Milk-Based Products for Animal Consumption</u>	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Milk or Milk-Based Products for Animal Consumption to the Republic of South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of product and species of origin • Number of packages/units and net weight • Product was produced from milk or milk-based products, derived from animals in or from a country not under restrictions due to FMD or rinderpest • Product was processed at an officially approved manufacturing plant • Product was subjected to prescribed processes such as ultra-high temperature treatment, pasteurized, heat sterilized, or acidification • Products do not contain any ingredients derived from animals other than milk • Products do not contain harmful additives or constitute any danger of introducing infectious or contagious diseases into South Africa 	See Appendix I
<u>Caseine, Caseinate or Milk-Protein for Human Consumption Derived from Milk Products Imported</u>	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Caseine, Caseinate or Milk Protein for Human Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product was produced from casein or dairy proteins legally imported from an FMD-infected country • Product was processed at an officially approved manufacturing plant • Product was subjected to one of the following processes: ultra-high temperature treatment, pasteurized, heat sterilized, or acidification 	See Appendix I

from FMD-Infected Countries	Derived from Milk Products Imported from FMD-Infected Countries for Export to South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Products do not contain any ingredients derived from animals other than milk or milk-based products • Products are fit for human consumption • Products do not contain harmful additives or constitute any danger of introducing infectious or contagious diseases into South Africa 	
Protein Drinks/Supplements for Human Consumption Containing BOTH Dairy and Eggs	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Products Containing Dairy and Eggs from the United States to South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin of the consignment • Products were produced from ingredients derived from flocks and herds that were not under any veterinary restriction for diseases to which the species is susceptible and can be transmitted by the product • Ingredients used, such as milk from herds kept in an FMD-free or FMD-infected zone, have been subjected to the correct ultra-high temperature treatments, pasteurized, and acidification • Eggs used were produced and packaged in a zone free from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or were underwent time and temperature treatments suitable for the inactivation of HPAI in eggs and egg products • Eggs used were produced and packaged in a country or zone free from Newcastle disease, as defined by the OIE, or were subjected to time and temperature treatments suitable for the inactivation of Newcastle disease • Eggs were subject to pasteurization process to destroy harmful microorganisms including salmonella. • Product was manufactured in facilities inspected and approved by the competent authority and subject to regular audits or inspections aimed at ensuring that the processing is properly and hygienically carried out so the product is fit for human consumption • Products do not contain any harmful additives or constitute any danger of introducing infectious diseases into South Africa • South Africa is currently requiring that cartons are marked with an expiration date 	See Appendix I
Raw Animal Wool, Mohair, and Scoured	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Raw Animal Wool,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of Product • Origin of the consignment • Product was derived from area where anthrax is not prevalent, and which is free from FMD, 	See Appendix I

Animal Wool/ Mohair	Mohair, and Scoured Animal Wool/Mohair from the United States to South Africa	<p>rinderpest, east coast fever, sheep scab, and sheep pox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vesicular stomatitis has not occurred on the farms of origin • In the case of greasy/raw wool or mohair, product was stored under official veterinary supervision for a minimum of 30 days prior to export • In the case of scoured animal wool or mohair, the wool or mohair was scoured at an approved establishment, which consists of the immersion of wool/mohair in a water-soluble detergent held at 60-70C, and the scoured wool/mohair did not come into contact with raw materials prior to export • The wool/mohair/scoured wool are sourced from a plant that is approved and regularly inspected by the veterinary authority of the United States • Consignment will be packed in new packaging materials 	
Hides and Skins	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Hides and Skins from the United States to South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hides were obtained from animals that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Were slaughtered at licensed abattoirs approved for export by the veterinary authority of the USDA ○ Were presented for slaughter for human consumption and were inspected by officers authorized for that purpose ○ Came from districts where no FMD had been reported for the previous six months and where anthrax is not prevalent, and also where no restriction were in force for the control of epizootic diseases of the species ○ At the time of slaughter showed no evidence of vesicular stomatitis, FMD, or anthrax ○ Have not been slaughtered in a disease-eradication campaign • Hides were loaded/containerized and sealed under authorized supervision with container numbers or seal numbers stipulated 	See Appendix I
Bile salts (for Pharmaceutic al Purposes Only)	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Bile Salts (for Pharmaceutical Purposes Only) from the United	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bile salts were derived from cattle that were subjected to both ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection at the abattoir and were found to be free from clinical signs of disease • Bile was derived from animals born and raised in Canada, United States, or Mexico • Cattle were slaughtered at a U.S. establishment 	See Appendix I

	States to South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bile was processed at an establishment approved for export by U.S. veterinary authorities • During collection of the bile, precautions were put in place to ensure that the bile was not contaminated by specific BSE risk material • Country of origin is officially free from FMD • Bile salts have been subjected to treatments involving heating, solvent extraction, and vacuum drying • Product was packed in a manner designed to prevent recontamination of the product after processing • Packaging shows the identification of the manufacturing facility 	
Pet Food	Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Pet Food from the United States to South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product was manufactured in a USDA-approved facility • Products meet the requirements of U.S. laws and regulations and may be freely sold in the United States • Pet food contains only porcine and/or poultry-origin ingredients that were sourced from the United States and/or legally imported ingredients from Canada • Pet food contains only fish and/or bovine dairy products sourced from the United States and/or legally imported ingredients • The United States is officially recognized as a negligible BSE risk country by the OIE • All bovine material was sourced from animals born, reared, and slaughtered in the United States, a negligible BSE risk country, or was sourced from animals born in Canada • Hermetically sealed containers were heat-treated, manufactured, and packed in compliance with approved manufacturing practices • Products comply with acceptable levels of salmonella and enterobacteriaceae 	See Appendix I
Other 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, FMD, anthrax) • Prescribed inspections, isolations, treatments, and tests that have been carried out • Prescribed bedding, fodder, feedstuffs, transportation, and supervision by official veterinary authority 	Not available

Animals and animal products	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 and a valid health certificate • Validity of the permit and whether it applies to single or multiple consignments • Quantity to be imported • Likely port of entry 	Not available
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Source: DALRRD, APHIS, FSIS, and FDA

Table 4: Specific Attestations Required on Export Certificates for Plants, Plant Products, and Liquor Products

Product	Certificate Name	Specific Attestation Required on Certificate	Copy
Plants and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Certificate for the Export of Plants and Plant Products to the Republic of South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the consignment, including name and address of exporter, number and description of products, country of origin, and declared point of entry • Plants and plant products have been inspected and/or tested according to official procedures • Products are free from the quarantine pests and conform with the phytosanitary requirements specified on the import permit • Treatments have been performed and that any additional declarations have been met as specified in phytosanitary regulations, import permits, and/or protocols 	Not publicly available
Plants 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 • Validity of the permit, prescribed port of entry if applicable, and whether it applies to single or multiple consignments 	Not publicly available
Genetically Modified Organisms	GMO Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodity is registered and has the necessary approvals in South Africa • Description of GM event • Company or organization to which the permit was granted • Approval for the development, production, use, release, or distribution of the GMO has been granted 	Not publicly available
Liquor	Import Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and origin of the product • Product matches the liquor category and meets the prescribed minimum quality standards 	Not publicly available

Source: DALRRD and APHIS

Section IV: Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements

Table 5: 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 instead of a certificate issued by a competent authority?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S. state-issued export certificate?	No	
Will the country waive export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	No	Certificates are accepted from recognized U.S agencies such as APHIS, FDA, or FSIS. The application can be submitted on the APHIS , FDA , or FSIS websites.
Does the country specifically require a Certificate of Free Sale?	No	

Table 6: 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 instead of a certificate issued by a competent authority?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S. state-issued export certificate?	No	Only issued by DALRRD
Will the country waive export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	Yes	All import permits can only be issued by the South African government. Contact details for applications are included in Table 11 .
Does the country specifically require a Certificate of Free Sale?	No	

Table 7: Plants 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 based on quantity
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	
Will the country accept a suppliers' or manufacturers' export declaration as proof of compliance instead of a certificate issued by a competent authority?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S. state-issued export certificate?	No	
Will the country waive export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	No	Certificates accepted from recognized U.S. agencies such as APHIS
Does the country specifically require a Certificate of Free Sale?	No	

Table 8: 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 based on quantity
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	
Will the country accept a suppliers' or manufacturers' export declaration as proof of compliance instead of a certificate issued by a competent authority?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S. state-issued export certificate?	No	Only issued by DALRRD
Will the country waive export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	Yes	All import permits can only be issued by the SA government. Contact details for applications are included in Table 11.
Does the country specifically require a Certificate of Free Sale?	No	

Table 9: 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 do not change
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Yes	
Will the country accept a suppliers' or manufacturers' export declaration as proof of compliance instead of a certificate issued by a competent authority?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S. state-issued export certificate?	No	

Will the country waive export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	Yes	All import permits can only be issued by the South African government. Contact details for applications are included in Table 11.
Does the country specifically require a Certificate of Free Sale?	No	

Table 10: 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 based on quantity
Can certificate be applied to multiple shipments?	Varies	
Will the country accept a suppliers' or manufacturers' export declaration as proof of compliance instead of a certificate issued by a competent authority?	No	
Will the foreign country accept a U.S. state-issued export certificate?	No	
Will the country waive export certificates? Which certificates? How do you apply?	Yes	All import permits can only be issued by the South African government. Contact details for applications are included in Table 11.
Does the country specifically require a Certificate of Free Sale?	No	

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 here](#).

Organic Certification: South Africa has no regulations or state certification programs for organic products. Certification is driven by international standards and accreditation systems. Regulations relating to the grading, packing, and marking of eggs (R. 345/2020) specifically prohibit “organic” claims for eggs. The Foodstuff, Cosmetics, and Disinfectants Act (No. 54 of 1972) and the Consumer Protection Act (No. 68 of 2008) both clearly state that the consumer must not be misled. This means that where an ‘organic’ claim is presented on a label, suitable substantiation must be available upon request. The USDA National Organic Program is widely accepted for the certification of U.S. products intended for export into South Africa. Details and procedures to obtain organic certification under the USDA National Organic Program may be found on [the AMS website](#).

Halal and Kosher Certification: South Africa does not have an official state inspection or certification program for Halal or Kosher products. There are several voluntary organizations including the [National Independent Halaal Trust](#), [South African National Halal Authority](#), and the [Kashrut Department of the](#)

[Beth Din](#) of Johannesburg and Cape Town, which are responsible for the domestic certification in South Africa. While there are no Halal and Kosher state certification programs, imported products must not mislead consumers. As a result, where there are Halal and Kosher claims, suitable substantiation from reputable bodies may be requested at the port of entry.

Section VI: Contact Details of the Relevant South African Certifying Authorities

Table 11: Certifying Authorities

Product	Title of Certificate	Requesting Ministry
Animals and animal products	Veterinary health certificate	DALRRD: Food Import and Export Standards Tel.: +27 12 319 6004 / 6117/ 7632/ 7503/ 7414 Email: VetPermits@dalrrd.gov.za
Animals and animal products	Import Permit	DALRRD: Animal Health Tel.: +27 12 319 6004 / 6117/ 7514/ 7461/ 7406 Email: VetPermits@dalrrd.gov.za
Plants and plant products	Phytosanitary permit	DALRRD: Directorate: Plant health Tel: +27 12 319 6102/ 6383/ 6130/ 6207/ 6396. Email: PlantHealthPermits@dalrrd.gov.za or Info.sps@dalrrd.gov.za
Plants and plant products	Import permit	DALRRD: Directorate: Plant health Tel: +27 12 319 6102/ 6383/ 6130 Email: PlantHealthPermits@dalrrd.gov.za or Info.sps@dalrrd.gov.za
Liquor	Import certificate	DALRRD: Food Safety and Quality Assurance Tel: +27 21 809 1602/1687/1681 Email: WendyJ@dalrrd.gov.za
Genetically modified organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMO Permit • GMO Status Certificate 	DALRRD: Genetic Resources - Biosafety Tel: +27 12 319 6382 Email: NompumeleloM@dalrrd.gov.za or RefilweN@dalrrd.gov.za

Source: DALRRD

Appendix I: Electronic Copies or Outlines of Export Certificates

Table 12: APHIS Export Certificates

Export Certificate	U.S. Agency	Link
Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Milk or Milk-based Products for Human Consumption to the Republic of South Africa	APHIS	Download
Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Milk or Milk-based Products for Animal Consumption to the Republic of South Africa	APHIS	Download
Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Caseine, Caseinate or Milk-Protein for Human Consumption Derived from Milk Products Imported from FMD Infected Countries for Export to the Republic of South Africa	APHIS	Download
Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Products Containing Dairy and Eggs from United States to the Republic of South Africa	APHIS	Download
Veterinary Certificate for the Export of Raw Animal Wool, Mohair, and Scoured Animal Wool/Mohair from the United States to South Africa	APHIS	Download
Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Hides and Skins from the United States to South Africa	APHIS	Download
Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Bile Salts (for Pharmaceutical Purposes only) from the United States to South Africa	APHIS	Download
Veterinary Health Certificate for the Export of Pet Food from the United States to the Republic of South Africa	APHIS	Download
U.S. Origin Health Certificate for Exportation of Horses to South Africa	APHIS	Download
U.S. Origin Health Certificate for Exportation of Bovine Embryos to South Africa	APHIS	Download
Health certificates/procedures for exporting shell eggs from the United States to South Africa	AMS	Download
Health certificates/procedures for exporting hatching eggs from the United States to South Africa	APHIS	Download

Table 13: FSIS Export Certificates

Export Certificate	U.S. Agency	Link
Certificate for the Export of Poultry Meat (excluding trimmings, mince, mechanically recovered poultry meat and other anatomically unrecognizable cuts) to South Africa	FSIS	Download
Certificate for Raw Frozen Pork Meat (Specified Cuts, Excluding Offal) Exported from the United States of America to South Africa for Unrestricted Sale	FSIS	Download
Certificate for Raw Frozen Pork Meat (Specified Cuts, Excluding Offal) Exported from the United States of America to South Africa for Unrestricted Sale	FSIS	Download
Certificate for Importation of Beef and Beef Products from the United States to South Africa	FSIS	Download

Table 14: FDA Export Certificates

Certificate Name	U.S. Agency	Link
Certificate to a Foreign Government (CFG) or Certificate of Exportability (COE) for conventional foods, food additives, food contact substances, and infant formula	FDA	Sample Certificate
Certificate of Free Sale (COFS) for dietary supplements, medical foods, and foods for special dietary use	FDA	Sample Certificate

Attachments:

No Attachments