

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

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South Africa - Republic of

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Narrative

FAIRS Country Report

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Report Highlights:

All the sections of the Report have been updated based on recent regulation amendments, updated website links and to comply with the updated reporting instructions. The report includes an assessment of laws and requirements for food and agricultural products imposed on imports. It is recommended that this report be read with the FAIRS – Certification Report (Click here to download the 2016 FAIRS Report) for a comprehensive understanding of the South African regulations, standards and import requirements.

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

This report was prepared by the USDA/Foreign Agricultural Services in Pretoria, South Africa for U.S. exporters and policy makers relating to all food and agricultural products for human and animal consumption. While every possible care was taken in the preparation of this report, information provided may not be completely verifiable either because policies may 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: GENERAL FOOD LAWS

Regulatory Authorities and Key Responsibilities

The South African food and agricultural import regulations and standards are developed and administered by three ministries, namely, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). In some instances, these ministries also appoint independent agencies to undertake specific regulatory functions. The responsibilities and related legislations of these ministries and associated agencies are presented in **Tables 1, 2** and **3**.

Table 1: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Division/Agency	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Summary
Food Safety and	Key responsibilities
Quality Assurance	Administrating standards and norms for food producers, agricultural and related products of animal and plant origin.
	Appoint the following assignees for inspections and enforcement;
	 The Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB): to conduct inspections, certification and chain management for producers and exporters of perishable food products.
	 South African Meat Industry Company: classification and marking of meat intended for sale in South Africa.
	 Product Control for Agriculture (<u>PROKON</u>): for potatoes intended for sale on the local market.
	Liquor import and export regulations and certifications.
	<u>Legislation</u>
	Click here to download the Agricultural Products Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119)
	<u>of 1990).</u>
	Click here to download the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and
	Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947).
	Click here to download the Liquor Product Act, (Act 60 of 1989).
Plant Health	<u>Key responsibilities</u>
	Regulation of import and export of plants and plant products.
	Registration and approval of facilities (Production Units (PUC), Pack houses
	(PHC) and Inspection Points) to enable the Agricultural Products Inspection
	 Services (APIS) and PPECB to conduct inspections. Serve as the National Plant Protection Contact Point (NPPCP) of South Africa.
	Legislation
	Click here to download the Agricultural Products Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119)
	of 1990).
Plant Production	Key responsibilities
	Registration of premises for seed and nurseries, seed quality laboratories and
	plant and seed health laboratories for seed testing.
	Importation of listed and unlisted varieties.
	<u>Legislation</u>
	Click here to download the Plant Improvement Act, No 53 of 1976.
Animal Health	Key responsibilities

	_		
	 Promote awareness of, prevent and control animal diseases 		
	 Formulate policy and manage risks in the import and export of animals and 		
	animal products		
	Legislation		
	Click here to download the Animal Diseases Act No. 35 of 1984		
	Click here to download the Meat Safety Act No.40 of 2000		
	• Click here to download the Animal Identification Act No. 6 of 2002		
	• Click here to download the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act No.		
	<u>19 of 1982</u>		
	Click here to download the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and		
	Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act no. 36 of 1984)		
Genetic Resources	Key responsibilities		
	 Develop and implement policies, legislations, strategies and standards on the 		
	management of genetic resources for food and agriculture.		
	Regulate and promote the availability of propagating material of genetic		
	resources for food and agriculture.		
	Legislation		
	• Click here to download The Plant Breeders' Rights Act. 1976 (Act No.15 of		
	<u>1976)</u>		

Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Table 2: Department of Health

Division/Directorate	Summary
Food Control	Key responsibilities
Division	 Food legislation and regulations related to food safety, food labeling, advertisement and related matters. Audit and support Port Health Services, and Municipal Health Services. Evaluate risk assessments related to agricultural chemicals and food produced through biotechnology for DAFF. Acts as South Africa's National Contact Point for the joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Food Safety Authorities Network and the European Union Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed. Website Link http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/gf-tb-program/114-food-control Legislation Link Click here to download the Foodstuffs, Disinfectants and Cosmetics Act 54 of 1972

Source: Department of Health

Table 3: Department of Trade and Industry

Division/Agency	Summary
The National Regulator for Compulsory	Key responsibilities
Specification (NRCS)	 Enforces and sets standard specifications for both locally produced and imported seafood and canned fish products.
	Website
	• http://www.nrcs.org.za/
	Legislation
	 <u>Click here to download the National Regulator for</u> <u>Compulsory Specifications Act, 2008.</u>
	 Click here to download the Compulsory specifications for
	seafood and canned fish products.
	Click here to download the Consumer Protection Act, 2008
National Liquor Authority (NLA)	Key responsibilities
Timional Elquoi Humority (1(E11)	• Registration and inspection services of macro-
	manufacturers and distributors of liquor.
	Develop National Liquor laws, e.g. Minimum drinking age.
	<u>Legislation</u>
	• Click here to down the Liquor Act, No. 59 of 2003
	Click here to download the Regulations for the registration
	of liquor manufacturers and distributors and related matters
	arising under the liquor Act 2003
South African Bureau of Standards <u>Key responsibilities</u>	
(SABS)	Development, promotion and maintenance of independent
	food standards and quality systems.
	Food Product testing.
	 Certification, auditing and assessment services for food and beverage processes, equipment, accessories, services and standards
	• Serve as South Africa's WTO/TBT Point of Contact.
	Website
	• https://www.sabs.co.za/
	<u>Legislation</u>
	<u>Click here to download the Standards Act, 2008 (Act No. 5 of 2008)</u>
Companies and Intellectual Property	Key responsibilities
Commission (CIPC) – Patents, Designs	Registration and maintenance of Intellectual Property
and Innovation Division	Rights (trademarks, patents, designs and copyright)
	Website
	• www.cipc.co.za
	 Legislation Click here to download the Patent Act, 1978
	 Click here to download the Fatent Act, 1978 Click here to download the Trade Marks Act No 194 of
	1993
	• Click here to download the Merchandise Marks Act 17 of
	1941
	• Click here to download the Designs Act, 1983
	• Click here to download the Copyright Act, 1978

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

Enforcement of Food Regulations

The South African food and agricultural import regulations and standards are encompassed within at least fourteen Acts that are administered and enforced by three ministries and its associated agencies. A number of coordination mechanisms have been established, e.g. several Inter-Ministerial Committees comprised of all the key ministries affected by certain regulations. However, there are still challenges caused by the fragmentation of control, lack of coordination when implementing regulations and capacity constraints to ensure compliance. These challenges often result in the inconsistent application and implementation of regulations, affecting both domestic and imported food products. Although South Arica faces challenges in ensuring compliance and enforcement of certain regulations, imported agricultural products have to strictly adhere to these regulations as there are inspections undertaken at ports of entry.

The Food Control Division under the DOH is responsible for drafting regulations, and assigns the enforcement of compliance with all foodstuffs regulations to local municipalities and food health inspectors at the port of entry. The challenge with this approach is that some municipalities do not have adequate budgets and capacity to ensure the effective enforcement of all the food regulations. As a result, many small to medium businesses operate under the radar, while the larger businesses self-regulate themselves. According to Post contacts and media reports, the DAFF faces capacity challenges to enforce some of its regulations.

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specification (NRCS) and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) of the DTI, places food inspectors alongside the DOH and DAFF inspectors to examine both locally manufactured and imported seafood and canned fish products. The NRCS issues quality and compliance health certificates for seafood products in terms of the Foodstuff Cosmetic and Disinfectants Act. The DTI also faces challenges to enforce some of its proposed regulations, e.g. the mandatory labeling of GMO's regulations was pulled back due to the controversy and criticism it received as well as concerns regarding widespread industry non-compliance.

SECTION II: FOOD ADDITIVE REGULATIONS

Existing Food Additive Regulations

South African food additives regulations are developed and administered by the Ministry of Health, under the Food Control Division. Food additive regulations are developed and governed in line with the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act no. 54 of 1972 (Click here to download the Act). In the absence of a regulation pertaining to a specific additive, South Africa normally adopts the general standard for food additives (GSFA) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as shown in **Table 4** below.

Table 4: Existing Food Additives Regulations

Name of regulation	Website
	link
Regulations relating to the use of sweeteners in foodstuffs (R733/201)	<u>Download</u>
List of permissible sweeteners referred to in the regulations relating to the use of sweeteners in	Download
foodstuffs	
Codex General Standards for Food Additives	Download
Regulations – Preservatives and antioxidants: Amendment (R60/2009)	Download
Regulations – Preservatives and antioxidants: (R965/1977)	Download
Regulations relating to food colorants (R1055/1996)	Download
Miscellaneous additives in foodstuffs	Download

Source: Department of Health: Food Control Division

Amendments to the Miscellaneous Food Additives Regulations

On November 17, 2017, the Regulations relating to Miscellaneous Additives in Foodstuffs came into effect and applies to both domestic and imported foodstuffs. The regulation adopted the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission recommendations for the maximum amount of miscellaneous additives which may be present in the foodstuff. In the absence of such specifications, South Africa is willing to accept appropriate levels developed by reputable national or international bodies. The DOH also focused on foodstuffs intended for infants and young children. The following regulations were also repealed and now fall under the Regulations relating to Miscellaneous Additives in Foodstuffs:

- The Regulations Relating to Anti- caking Agents and the Amounts thereof that may be used in Foodstuffs.
- The Regulations Governing Acids, Bases and Salts and the Amounts thereof that Foodstuffs may contain.
- The Regulations Governing Emulsifiers, Stabilizers and Thickeners and the amounts thereof the Foodstuffs may contain.
- The Regulations Governing the use of Certain Food Additives in Certain Wheaten and Rye Products.
- The Regulations Relating to Baking Powder and Chemical Leavening Substances.
- The Regulations Relating to Jam, Conserve, Marmalade and Jelly.
- The Regulations Governing the Additives and Amounts as well as Tolerances, for Certain Substances in Wine, other Fermented Beverages and Spirits.

SECTION III: PESTICIDES AND OTHER CONTAMINANTS

The DOH and DAFF are responsible for regulations pertaining to pesticides and other contaminants. The DOH is responsible for determining and approving the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides, metals and other chemicals that may be present in foodstuffs. In addition, the DOH is also responsible for inspections, and ensuring compliance with MRLs in all domestic and imported foodstuffs. The existing Pesticides and veterinary drugs (MRLs) regulations published by the DOH are listed in **Table 5.** DAFF is responsible for the registrations, permits and usage of pesticides in agriculture production, and for ensuring that South African producers and exporters comply with the MRLs and only use chemical remedies registered in terms of The Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act No. 36 of 1947) on the specific crop (Click here to download the DAFF export legislation and MRLs for specific plant commodities). In the absence of regulations governing a specific pesticide and contaminant, South Africa defers to the CODEX standards.

Table 5: Existing Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs MRLs Regulations

Name of Regulation	Website
	Link
Regulations governing the maximum limits for pesticide residues that may be present in	Download
foodstuffs (R46/2012, R548/2010, R1047/2006 & R246/1994).	
Regulations governing the maximum limits for veterinary medicine and stock remedy residues	<u>Download</u>
that may be present in foodstuffs (2017)	

Source: Department of Health: Food Control Division

Table 6: Existing Contaminants Regulations

Name of Regulation	Website Link
Regulations governing the tolerance for certain agricultural products	Download
Regulations relating to maximum levels of metals in foodstuffs	Download
Regulations governing tolerance for fungus-produced toxins in foodstuffs	Download
Regulations relating to objects packed in foodstuffs intended for children	Download
Regulations relating to maximum levels for melamine in foodstuffs	Download
Regulations relating to Marine Biotoxins	Download
Regulations governing certain solvents in foodstufss	<u>Download</u>
Regulations relating to edible fats and oils	Download
Regulations governing radio activity in food stuffs	<u>Download</u>

Source: Department of Health: Food Control Division

Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill

On December 2, 2016, DAFF published the final Plant Health (phytosanitary) bill, whose purpose is to provide phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of regulated pests in South Africa; to provide for the control of regulated pests; and to provide for regulation of the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles into, within and out of South Africa. This Bill also gives effect to international agreements on phytosanitary matters which South Africa has ratified and which became binding on the date the Bill entered into force. Click here to download the Bill. An explanatory notice of the Bill was also published, Click here to download the explanatory summary.

Draft Regulations Governing the Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues that may be Present in Foodstuffs

On April 7, 2017, the MOF published a government notice (No. 40772) inviting the public to comment on the amendments to the regulations governing the maximum limits for pesticide residues that may be present in foodstuffs (Click here to download the notice). The key amendments to the regulation include the addition and revision of various maximum residue limits (MRLs), the prohibition of certain chemicals, regrouping of products and their respective MRLs, and the addition and removal of certain definitions. According to the Ministry of Health, the objective of the proposed amendments is to update the current list of MRLs, in respect of the products covered and their respective limits. A commenting period of three months was provided and the deadline for public comments was July 7, 2017. Post published a GAIN report on this proposed regulation (Click here to download the GAIN Report). The proposed regulation is still to be finalized and published.

Draft Regulations Relating to Maximum Levels of Metals in Foodstuffs

On September 6, 2016, the MOH published a government notice (No. 990) inviting the public to comment on the Draft Regulations relating to maximum levels of metals in foodstuffs (Click here to download the notice). According to the MOH, following the concerns and public comments received from several WTO members including the United States, the draft regulations had to be further amended and aligned with the latest relevant Codex standards. As a result, on May 18, 2017, the MOH sent out an email inviting further comments or inputs on the amended draft regulations. Post published a GAIN report on this proposed regulation (Click here to download the GAIN Report). The proposed regulation is still to be finalized and published.

SECTION IV: PACKAGING AND CONTAINER REGULATIONS

Existing Regulations

Packaging and container regulations for various agricultural products are developed in terms of the Agricultural Products Standards Act and falls within the mandate of DAFF. Click here to download the Agricultural Products Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990). The list of packaging and container regulations for various foodstuffs published in terms of the Agricultural Products Standards Act can be obtained from the following website link; Click here to download the list of Legislation published in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act.

In general, container regulations require that containers be intact, closed/ sealed properly, clean, moisture resistant, suitable and strong enough for the packing and normal handling of foodstuffs. In addition, containers should not pass any odor, taste, colour or other foreign characteristics to the product during processing or distribution. For all products, temperature in transit and at the destination point must be taken into consideration when using gels and dry ice. Chilled products should be packed either in an insulated container with gel-packs/blue ice or in heavy cardboard boxes with gel-packs. Frozen products should be tightly packed with gel-packs and/or dry ice. Dry goods should be packed tightly to avoid internal damage. Carton labels should be marked to indicate either dry or chilled or frozen content. The shipments should be marked with colored labels, and all boxes should contain the following: Supplier name, address, destination, total number of cartons shipped, and a copy of pro-forma / commercial invoices.

Specific packaging and container regulations for specific products can be obtained from the list of regulations published in terms of the Agricultural Products Standards Act provided above. Packaging material such as Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) also has to comply with standards and certifications set by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). Click here to download the SABS packaging standards.

Table 7: Regulations Relating to the Grading/ Classification, Packing and Marking

Product	Year	Regulation Link
	Published	
Onions and Shallots	2015	Click here to download the regulation.
Dairy Products and Imitation of Dairy	2015	Click here to download the regulation.
Products		
Poultry Meat Labels	2015	Click here to download the
		regulation.
Classification and Marking of Meat	2015	Click here to download the
		regulation.
Edible Ices	2015	Click here to download the
		regulation.
Rice	2014	Click here to download the regulation.
Malting Barley	2013	Click here to download the regulation.
Sunflower Seed	2014	Click here to download the regulation.
Soya Beans	2014	Click here to download the regulation.
Avocados	2014	Click here to download the regulation.
Jam, Jelly, Marmalade	2013	Click here to download the regulation.
Fruit juice and drink	2013	Click here to download the

regulation.

Source: DAFF

Relaxation of Regulations Relating to the Classification, Packing and Marking of Fruit Juice and Drink

In August 2015, DAFF published a notice relaxing the restrictions of the fruit juice and drink regulations, as the regulation were deemed restrictive to the creativity of containers containing the classes of fruit drink and fruit flavored drinks, as well as to assist industry and inspectors with the interpretation and enforcement of the regulation. The published regulation can be found on the following link: Download amendment.

Inclusion of Coconut Water under Fruit Juice and Drink Regulation

In November 2015, DAFF also published a notice relating to the inclusion of coconut water under fruit juice and drink regulation. Click here to download the notice.

Relaxation of the Restriction of Letter Size for Trademarks or Trade Names still in the Process of Registration – Dairy and Imitation Dairy Products

In September 2015, DAFF passed new regulations relating to the relaxation of the restriction of letter size for trademarks or trade names still in the process of registration of dairy and imitation dairy products. Click here to download the regulation amendment.

SECTION V: LABELING REQUIREMENTS:

Existing Regulations

Food and liquor labeling regulations are developed and enforced by the Food Control Division of the Ministry of Health. Inspectors under the MOH at the ports of entry are responsible for ensuring compliance with labeling regulations. According to the current regulations it is not mandatory to include nutritional information tables on labels. However, should a label contain nutritional information it has to comply with the existing labeling regulations as shown in **Table 8**. United States food labels face challenges in complying with the current South African Food Labeling regulations for two main reasons. Firstly, SA regulations require that labels use the wording "Typical Nutritional Information", while US labels use the wording "Nutritional Facts". Secondly, SA regulations only permit the use kiloJoules (kJ) in food labels, while US food labels use Calories. South Africa permits importers to cover non complying labels with a white sticker when such shipments are intercepted at the port of entry. However, importers and Post contacts have previously complained that such an exercise is too expensive and the main retailers/ supermarkets do not usually accept food products with covered labels as it raises unnecessary suspicions from consumers. **Table 9** shows the differences between a South African and United States food label.

Table 8 shows the regulations relating to labeling of foodstuffs.

Table 8: Existing Labeling Regulations

Name of Regulation	Website
	Link
Regulations relating to labeling and advertising of foodstuffs: Amendment (R45/2012)	<u>Download</u>
Regulations relating to the labeling and advertising of foodstuffs (R146/2010)	<u>Download</u>
Guidelines relating to the labeling and advertising of foodstuffs (applicable to	Download
R146/2010 for compliance purposes)	
Regulations relating to the labeling of foodstuffs obtained through certain techniques of	Download
genetic modification (R25/2004)	
Regulations relating to Foodstuffs for Infants and Young Children: Extension Notice	Download
(R433/2014) and Amendment (R434/2013)	
Regulations relating to foodstuffs for infants and young children (R991/2013)	Download
Regulations relating to Health messages on container labels of Alcoholic beverages:	Download
Amendment (R1208/2008)	
Regulations relating to Health messages on container labels of Alcoholic beverages	Download
<u>(R764/2007)</u>	

Source: Department of Health: Food Control Division

SA Label US Label STORE IN A COOL, DRY PLACE. ONCE OPENED, STORE IN AN AIRTIGHT **Nutrition Facts** CONTAINER. CONSUMER HELPLINE: VEGETARIAN WITH MILE PRODUCED IN THE REPUBLING SOUTH AFRICA ALLERGENS Saturated Fat 1g, 2.5g, 1.5g Cow's milk. Made in a factory which uses soya. rans Fat Og, Og, Og TYPICAL NUTRITIONAL Polyunsaturated Fat 0.5g, 4.5g, 1g holesterol Omg, 55mg, 55mg 1711 kJ Sodium 250mg, 270mg, 270mg 10% 11% 11% 9,2 g 2,8 g otal Carbohydrate 31g, 31g, 32g 10% 10% 119 Dietary Fiber Og, Og, Og Sugars 17g, 18g, 18g INGREDIENTS

Table 9: Example of the differences between a South African Food Label and United States Food Label

Proposed Amendment to the Regulations Relating to Health Messages on Container Labels of Alcohol Beverages

On September 4, 2014, the MOH proposed amendments to the regulations relating to health messages on container labels of alcohol beverages. The deadline for the submission of comments was December 4, 2014. Click here to download the proposed amendment. The DOH has indicated that the regulation review process is still underway, and the timeframe for passing the final regulation is still uncertain. Post published a GAIN report on this proposed regulation (Click here to download the GAIN Report).

Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Relating to the Labeling and Advertising of Foods

On May 29, 2014, the MOH published a government notice inviting public comments on the proposed amendments to the regulations relating to the labeling and advertising of foods. The deadline for the submission of comments was August 29, 2014. Click here to download the government notice. Post published a GAIN report on the proposed amendment. Click here to download the Post GAIN report. The proposed amendment generated a lot of interest and controversy. Post's contacts indicated that the DOH was under the impression that they had the buy in from industry, and was surprised with the high number of comments submitted. The date for the finalization of the regulation is now uncertain and this will push back some of the compliance deadlines proposed in the regulation.

Figure 1 below provides clear guidance on "do's" and "don'ts" regarding the information provided on the labels and in advertisements of foodstuffs. The label also provides an example of what must appear on domestic and imported foodstuffs

Figure 1: Example of the Requirements on Food Labels



- The following words may no longer appear on any food product: x% fat free, nutritious, healthy, healthful, wholesome, complete nutrition or balanced nutrition or other words implying the same thing. The words 'sugar-free' and 'fat-free' are only allowed if specific conditions are met.
- The words 'suitable for those with diabetes', 'diabetic friendly' or words with a similar meaning, may only be used if all criteria stipulated are met e.g., low GI, lower fat, controlled sodium, etc..

Source: http://www.bdo.co.za/

Proposed Regulation Relating to the Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or Food Containing Genetically Modified (GM) Ingredients

South Africa permits the production of genetically modified crops through the Genetically Modified Organisms Act of 1997 (Click here to download the Act). For further information on the production of

GM crops in South Africa refer to the following Post GAIN report on Biotechnology (<u>Click here to download the GAIN report</u>). GM labeling legislation has been in place since 2004 under the DOH Food Control Division (<u>Click here to download the labeling regulation</u>).

On April 1, 2011, under the Consumer Protection Act, the DTI published the regulation titled Product Labeling and Trade Descriptions: Genetically Modified Organisms. The regulation proposed the mandatory requirement of the labeling of all foodstuffs containing 5% or more GMO content (Click here to download the proposed GMO regulation). Following wide criticism, lobbying and noncompliance by industry, the Minister of Trade and Industry published a set of amended regulations on October 9, 2012 for further public comment (Click here to download the amended regulation). The deadline for public comments was initially set as November 8, 2012. However, the public comment period was re-opened until August 15, 2014, and the proposed regulation has still not been finalized and passed for implementation.

Amendments to Regulations Relating to Foodstuffs for Infants and Young Children

On July 7, 2015, the DOH published amendments to the regulations relating to foodstuffs for infants and young children, under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972). The deadline for comments was October 7, 2015 (Click here to download the amendments). The key amendments relate to the labeling and distribution of infant and young children's food. The amendment also provides for the dates of implementation of the various clauses, which range from 6 to 24 months. The proposed regulation has still not been finalized and passed for implementation.

SECTION VI: OTHER SPECIFIC STANDARDS

Table 10: Other Specific Standards

Name of Regulation		Website Link
Fortification and other Nutritional Issues		
Regulations relating to trans-fat in foodstuffs	DOH	<u>Download</u>
Regulations Relating to the Reduction of Sodium in certain Foodstuffs and related Matters	DOH	Download
Regulations relating to food-grade salt	DOH	Download
Regulations relating to the fortification of certain foodstuffs	DOH	Download
Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System		
Regulations Relating to the Application of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System (HACCP System)	DOH	Download
Hygiene and Related Matters		
Guidelines for Monitoring Irradiated Foodstuffs in South Africa	DOH	<u>Download</u>
Regulations Relating to Irradiated Foodstuffs	DOH	Download
Regulations Governing General and Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food	DOH	Download
Regulations Relating to Milking Sheds and the Transport of Milk	DOH	Download
Regulations Regarding Processed Foodstuffs	DOH	Download
Regulations Relating to Perishable Foodstuffs	DOH	Download
Microbiological Standards		
Regulations Governing Microbiological Standards for Foodstuffs and Related Matters	DOH	Download
Regulations Relating to Milk and Dairy Products	DOH	Download
Packaged Water and other Beverages	DOH	Download
Prohibition		
Regulations Prohibiting Guar Gum as a Foodstuff	DOH	Download
Regulations Relating to the Prohibition of the Manufacturing, Importation, Exportation and Sale of Polycarbonate infant Feeding Bottles containing Bisphenol A	DOH	Download
Minimum Brix and Puree Requirements	DAFF	Download
•		
Veterinary Procedural Notices		
Veterinary procedural notice for buffalo disease risk management in South Africa	DAFF	Download; Download
Veterinary Procedural Notices	DAFF	Download

Source: Department of Health: Food Control Division; DAFF

Seafood Products and Canned Meat Products

The Food and Associated Industries Division of the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) regulates canned meat and canned meat products, canned cish, canned marine molluscs and canned crustaceans, frozen fish and frozen marine molluscs, frozen rock lobsters, frozen shrimps/prawns, langoustines and crabs, smoked snoek, and live abalone. The Food and Associated Industries Division drafts the regulations and requirements for the above products, with respect to, packaging and labeling; quality and composition, and the processing facilities and persons handling and processing the above food products (Click here to download the applicable compulsory specifications).

Proposed Regulatory Requirements for Imported Fish and Fishery Products and Canned Meat Products

On October 20, 2017, the DTI published the proposed administrative regulatory requirements for imported fish and fishery products and canned meat products regulated under the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act No. 5 of 2008 (Click here to download the proposed regulation). The proposed regulatory requirements cover the general requirements, handling of specific consignments, handling of non–compliances, application for approval of the product, and the health guarantees for imported fish and fishery products and canned meat products regulated under the NRCS. The comment period opened on October 20 and will close on December 29, 2017.

Regulations Relating to the Reduction of Sodium in Certain Foodstuff

On March 20, 2013, the DOH published the Government Notice R214 which detailed the final regulations relating to the reduction of sodium in certain foodstuffs and related matters (Click this link to download the Regulations). Affected parties were granted a period of 3 years to ensure that their products were compliant, and the regulation came into effect on June 30, 2016. Post estimates that at least US\$ 16 Million worth of United States exports to South Africa will have to comply with this regulation, based on 2015 figures. The GAIN report on this report can be found on the following link, Click here to download the GAIN report.

Proposed National Liquor Policy (Liquor Act 59 of 2003)

On May 20, 2015, the DTI published a government notice (No. 38808) inviting the public to comment on the amendments to the National Liquor Policy Act, 59 of 2003. If the policy is implemented in its current form, it is expected to have economic implications to the liquor industry and could affect United States liquor exports. The deadline for submitting comments was August 13, 2015. Post published a GAIN report on this proposed policy. Click here to down the GAIN report. Due to the significant criticism of the policy, the DTI published the following document on August 2016 to outline and explain the policy recommendations intended to amend the Liquor Act, Click here to download the document. The proposed policy is yet to be finalized and published as the DTI is still undertaking consultations and considerations.

SECTION VII: FACILITY AND PRODUCT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Facility Registration

The DAFF requires that the imports of animals and animal products be from approved abattoirs and deboning plants in terms of the Meat Safety Act, (Act No 40 of 2000). United States facilities are required to be registered and certified with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The following FSIS website link provides the facility registration details and processes,

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-checklist. Once registered with FSIS, the United States facilities are included in the approved South African database and the products from these facilities would qualify for import permits subject to the relevant conditions. Click here to download the list of approved abattoirs and de-boning plants, as well as the process and forms for registration.

Table 11 below provides the processes and details for the registration of plant and plant products facilities as outlined by DAFF. South Africa accepts certifications issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS). United States exporters and facilities can obtain the information on facilities registration, procedures and export requirements, on the following APHIS website, https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/SA_Export.

Table 11: Facility and Product Registration Requirements

Facility or Product	Website link
Premises for seed and nurseries	Download
Premises for Laboratory: seed quality	Download
Premises for Laboratory: Plant and seed health	Download
Production Unit (s) (PUC), Pack house (s) (PHC) and Inspection Points	Download

Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Product Registration

The only product registrations required in South Africa are Genetically Engineered (GE) Events and Plant Breeders Rights. According to the <u>Genetically Modified Organisms Act</u>, prior to exporting commodities such as GE corn, DAFF requires that the exporting country must have approved the same type and number of GE events that have been approved in South Africa. As a result, it is the responsibility of the company that owns the intellectual property rights to the GE event e.g. Monsanto to ensure that it is registered in South Africa. The following link provides the timelines, costs, procedure and contact details for exporting and the registration of GE products,

Click here to download the relevant documents.

According to the <u>Plant Breeders Rights Act</u>, plant and propagating material intended for sale into South Arica need to be registered and issued with a Plant Breeders Rights valid either twenty five years (vines and trees) or twenty years (all other cases). The application for a Plant Breeders Right should be undertaken by an agent based in South Africa on behalf of the intellectual property owner. The application process, forms, costs and contact details can be obtained from the following link, http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Genetic-Resources/Plant-Breeders-Rights/Application-Forms-and-Technical-Questionnaires.

SECTION VIII: OTHER CERTIFICATION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Inspections and Testing

When imported commodities arrive at the port of entry, the South African Revenue Services (SARS) will inspect a random sample of the products to ensure that the declarations, HS Codes and customs duties applicable to that shipment have been correctly determined. The DOH inspectors and/or DAFF inspectors will inspect the consignment for compliance to the relevant regulations including labeling, SPS and that the correct permits are available. Samples of the products may be taken for further analysis. Click this link for regulations relating to the powers and duties of inspectors and analysts conducting inspections and analyses on foodstuffs and food premises. Also, Click here to download the tariffs charged for the testing by DAFF.

Following inspection of the imported commodities, and if the consignment meets the import requirements, the DAFF and/or the DOH inspectors will release the products. Once the consignment has been released by the inspectors, the importer or his/ her agent must take the import documents to SARS for final release. If the consignment does not meet the import requirements, risk management measures will be recommended. The consignment may be treated and cleared to enter South Africa, or rejected and refused entry. If the shipment has been rejected, the importer together with the exporter may decide whether the consignment should be destroyed, re-routed to another country or returned to the country of origin.

Basic Certification and Documentation that Must Accompany Shipment

In addition to the import permits, certificates, sanitary and phytosanitary permits, the following basic documentation should accompany all shipments into South Africa:

- A commercial invoice that shows the price charged to the importer in addition to the cost of placing goods on board of the ship for export.
- Bills of entry documentation that provide the correct physical addresses of supplier, storage facilities, correct quantities, grades and HS codes of commodities.
- The Bill of Lading.
- Insurance documents.
- Other special documentation and certifications may be required by the importer e.g. Laboratory results/certificates or Organic Certifications if the product claims to be organic.

SECTION IX: IMPORT PROCEDURES

Import Application Forms and Procedures

The DAFF provides an extensive list of procedures, applications forms and the legal framework applicable when importing agricultural products into South Africa. The following website link provides all the necessary procedures, applications forms and the legal framework applicable to the importation of animals and animal products, plants and plant products, veterinary import permits, GMO imports and the import of unlisted plant variety; http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Services/Imports.

An import certificate is required for all liquor products imported and intended for sale in South Africa. The DAFF is responsible for the inspection, sampling and issuance of import certificates for liquor products. An importer may apply for an import certificate only once in the lifetime of a product. The issued import certificate can be re-used provided that the composition, content, bottle size and label of that product don't change. Click this link to download the application forms and procedures when importing liquor products into South Africa.

Figure 2 provides the basic procedures to follow when importing agricultural products into South Africa. Detailed procedures, forms and the respective authorities dealing with specific products can be downloaded on the website link provided above.

Figure 2: Basic Procedures for Importing Food and Agricultural Products into South Africa

		•Determine whether your agricultural products can enter South Africa. Only acceptable
		countries (as determined by the relevant regulatory body) may export food and
Step	1	agricultural products to South Africa (e.g. select bovine parts from a number of
<u> Diep</u>		countries are banned in South Africa).

- It is best to have a reputable importer/distributor in South Africa who can apply for any
 necessary applications and fill out appropriate paper-work. The office of Agricultural
 Affairs in Pretoria can recommend several different importing companies for most food
 products.
- •In the case of meat and poultry, imports can only be made from foreign meat establishments (i.e. abattoirs/slaughterhouses), which are accredited by the DAFF. All United States federally inspected and approved meat establishments located in the United States are eligible to export to South Africa.
- •Import licenses/permits must be obtained from the relevant regulatory body for the products to be imported to South Africa before the products are shipped from the exporting countries. Veterinary Quarantine Certificates and Import Certificates must be obtained prior to importation.

•All agricultural and food products entering South Africa must be accompanied by a phytosanitary or health certificate issued by the regulatory body in the exporting country. This is required to be submitted for inspection along with the import permit to facilitate physical inspection of the products and customs clearance at the port of entry.

Source: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Registration with the South African Revenue Services

All exporters to South Africa must register with Customs at the South African Revenue Service (SARS). Post recommends that exporters appoint a local registered agent to act on their behalf. The following link has all the details for registrations, http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Processing/Pre-assessment/Registration/Pages/Foreign-importer.aspx.

The SARS also publishes the list of customs duties applicable. Click here to download the latest 2017 customs schedule. South Africa also provides tariff determinations, and applicants must apply for a determination through their customs broker/clearing agent to the Customs branch office where the goods are intended to be cleared or have been cleared for importation. The application must be properly motivated in terms of the Customs Act, Tariff and World Customs Organisation (WCO) explanatory notes. The application must be supported by manufacturer's/supplier's literature, all clearing documents and a sample of the products if available. The application will be forwarded to the SARS Tariff Division in Pretoria for a determination to be made and ultimate reply to the applicant via the customs branch office.

SECTION X: COPYRIGHT AND/OR TRADEMARK LAWS

Proposed Protection of Geographical Indications in South Africa

On October 21, 2016, the DTI published the final list of agricultural products including beer names, which will be protected on the basis of their geographical indications (GIs) under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU). The SADC countries included in agreement are Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa. **Table 12** below provides the links to the descriptions of the agricultural products and beers names as well as the Rules of Use applicable thereto can be viewed at the following links:

Table 12: List of Geographical Indications and Applicable Rules

Product	Link to the list and rules of use applicable
Fruit, vegetables and	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/AnnexII_1.pdf
cereals fresh or	
processed	
Cheeses Part 1	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/AnnexII_2_partie.pdf
Cheeses Part 2	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/AnnexII_2_partie_2.pdf
Meat Products	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/AnnexII_3.pdf
Olive oil	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Annex_II_4.pdf
Fisheries Products	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Annex_II_5.pdf
Beer	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Beers_list.pdf
Ceske pivov	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Ceske_pivo.pdf
Ceskobudejovicke pivo	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Ceskobudejovicke.pdf
Bayerisches Bier.	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Bayerisches_Bier.pdf
Bremer Bier	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Bremer_Bier.pdf
Munchener Bier	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/Munchener_Bier.pdf
Other Products	http://www.thedti.gov.za/business_regulation/docs/annexII_7.pdf

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

Copyright and Trademarks Regulations and Procedures

The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC): Patents, Designs and Innovation Division under the DTI is responsible for the registration and maintenance of certain property rights (trademarks, patents, designs and copyright). Property rights, including intellectual property, are protected under a variety of laws and regulations, which basically provides the right for the property right holder to enforce their registered rights through the courts. South Africa has an independent judiciary under which any challnge to property rights may be enforced.

Patents may be registered under the Patents Act of 1978 and are granted for 20 years. <u>Click here to download the Patent Act, 1978.</u> The CIPC provides detailed definitions, examples and processes for registering patents on the following website; http://www.cipc.co.za/index.php/trade-marks-patents-designs-copyright/patents/.

Trademarks can be registered under the Trademarks Act of 1993, are granted for ten years and may be renewed for an additional ten years. <u>Click here to download the Trade Marks Act No 194 of 1993</u>. The CIPC provides detailed definitions, examples and processes for registering trademarks on the following website; http://www.cipc.co.za/index.php/trade-marks-patents-designs-copyright/trade-marks/.

New designs may be registered under the Designs Act of 1967, which grants aesthetic designs for one period of 15 years, and to functional designs for one period 10 years.

<u>Click here to download the Designs Act, 1983.</u> The CIPC provides detailed definitions, examples and processes for registering designs on the following website; http://www.cipc.co.za/index.php/trade-marks-patents-designs-copyright/designs/.

Literary, musical and artistic works, cinematographic films and sound recordings are eligible for copyrights under the Copyright Act of 1978. This act is based on the provisions of the Berne Convention as modified in Paris in 1971 and was amended in 1992 to include computer software. Click here to download the Copyright Act, 1978. The CIPC provides detailed definitions, examples and processes for registering copyrights on the following website; http://www.cipc.co.za/index.php/trade-marks-patents-designs-copyright/copyright/.

The overall objective of the Merchandise Marks Act is to make provision concerning the marking of merchandise and of coverings in or with which merchandise is sold and the use of certain words and emblems in connection with business. <u>Click here to download the Merchandise Marks Act 17 of 1941.</u>

The CIPC also provides a detailed processes and options for enforcing property rights including intellectual property rights. Click the following link for details; http://www.cipc.co.za/index.php/trade-marks-patents-designs-copyright/enforcement/.

APPENDIX I: GOVERNMENT REGULATORY KEY AGENCY CONTACTS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

Table 13: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Contacts

Table 13: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Contacts Contacts		
Responsibility Import and Export Permits- Animals and Animal	Contacts Head Parmit Office: Mr Weekend Montabidi (Acting)	
Products	Head Permit Office: Mr Weekend Mantshidi (Acting)	
Floducis	Email: WeekendM@daff.gov.za Tel: +27 12 319 7514/ 7632 / 7503 / 7414	
	Fax: +27 12 319 7314/7032/7303/7414 Fax: +27 12 329 8292/+27 12 319 7491	
Import and Export Permits- Plant and Plant	Mr Bennie Kgomo/ Ms Priscilla Baloyi	
Products	Email: PlantHealthPermits@daff.gov.za	
Floducts	Tel: + 2712 319 6130 Fax +27 319 6383	
Import regulations for Animals and Animal	Mrs Lerato Diale	
Products	Email: LeratoDi@daff.gov.za	
Toducts	Tel + 27 (0) 12 319 7559 Fax + 27 (0) 12 329 6892	
Import regulations for plants, and plant products	Division: Policy Norms and Standards	
import regulations for plants, and plant products	Email: MaandaR@daff.gov.za or CharlesN@daff.gov.za	
List of annual of familiar about aims Or	Tel: +27 12 319 6164/ 6116 Fax: +27 12 319 6025	
List of approved foreign abattoirs &	Mrs. Elmarie Viviers	
slaughterhouses; applications and certificates for	Email: <u>ElmarieV@daff.gov.za</u>	
facilities and compartments.	Tel + 27 (0)12 319 7700 Fax +27 (0)12 329 6892	
Airport/ Port/ Border Inspections	Cape Town Harbour	
	Dr N Naude	
	NiekN@daff.gov.za & KarenSa@daff.gov.za	
	Tel: +27 (0)21 421 0270 Cell: 083 261 8502	
	Cape Town Quarantine	
	Dr Zarina Motala - Zarina M@daff.gov.za	
	Tel: +27 (0)21 551 2050	
	City Deep – Inland Port	
	Dr A Ikatekit-Okonera - ikatekitO@daff.gov.za	
	Tel: +27 (0)11 613 1636 Cell: 083 661 6809	
	1ei. +27 (0)11 013 1030 Ceii. 063 001 0609	
	Durban: Meat & Meat Products	
	Dr D Naidu - <u>DaveN@daff.gov.za</u> &	
	MelanieA@daff.gov.za	
	Tel: +27 (0)31 368 8564 Cell: 083 775 5171	
	Durban: Animal Quarantine & Animal Products	
	Dr S Soni - SharonS@daff.gov.za	
	Tel: +27 (0)31-368 8503	
	Kempton Park	
	Dr Ian McDonald - IanM@daff.gov.za	
	Tel: +27 (0)11 973 2827 Cell: 076 519 1977	
	Port Elizabeth	
	Dr I Burnand - ianB@daff.gov.za	
	Dr C Darke - ChrisD@daff.gov.za	
	Tel:+27 41 585 8907 Cell: 082 829 8512 / 082 925 1436	

Source: DAFF

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Food Control Division

Penny Campbell

Director

Tel: 012 395 8799/ 8800 Fax: 012 395 8854

E-mail Address: Penny.Campbell@health.gov.za

Malose Daniel Matlala

Deputy Director: Inter-Agency Liaison and Regulatory Nutrition

(National Codex Contact Point: South Africa)

Tel: +27 12 395 8789 Fax: +27 12 395 8854

Email: CACPSA@health.gov.za or Malose.Matlala@health.gov.za

Aluwani Madzivhandila

Responsible for MRLs Tel: +27 12 395 9359 Fax: +27 12 395 8854

E-mail: MadziA@health.gov.za

Yvonne Tšiane

Responsible for Metal Levels

Tel: +27 <u>12 395 8779</u> Fax: +27 12 395 8854

Email: Yvonne.Tsiane@health.gov.za

Port Health Services and Inspectors at Various Ports of Entry

The list of contact details of the port health services can be downloaded on the following link: http://www.health.gov.za/phocadownload/FoodInfor/PortHealth.pdf .

South Africa Codex Point of Contact

Tel: +27 12 395 8789 Fax: +27 12 395 8854

E-mail: CACPSA@health.gov.za

Liquor Labeling

Directorate: Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Tel: +27 12 395 8047

Email: Sifiso Phakathi (<u>PhakaO@health.gov.za</u>); Melvyn Freeman (<u>FreemM@health.gov.za</u>); Tebogo

Daphne Tladi (TladiT@health.gov.za); Ansie Tenner (TenneA@health.gov.za); Dineo Deane

(DeaneD@health.gov.za); Palesa Phasha (phashP@health.gov.za);

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Companies and Intellectual Property Commission

Patents, Designs and Innovation Division

Ms Fleurette F Coetzee

Senior Manager: Trade Marks:

Tel: +27 12 394 5109 Fax: +27 12 394 6109 E-mail: fcoetzee@cipc.co.za

National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)

Maphuti Kutu

National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)

Technical Specialist: Food & Agro-processing Division: Regulatory Research and Development Tel: +27 12 482 8930 Cell: +27 82 584 6086

Email: maphuti.kutu@nrcs.org.za

Website: www.nrcs.org.za

Ms Ntomboxolo Meisie Katz

General Manager

Food and Associated Industries | NRCS |

14 B Railway Road, Montague Gardens, Cape Town, South Africal Tel +27 21 526 3400 | Cell +27 84 974 3164 | Fax +27 21 526 3451

Email: meisie.katz@nrcs.org.za

Principal Inspector

14B Railway Road, Montague Gardens, Cape Town, South Africa

Tel +27 21 526 3406 | Fax 0867468512

Email: prinsak@nrcs.org.za

South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)

WTO/TBT Enquiry Point

Economic Impact & IP Department

Tel: +27 12 428 6229 E-mail: wto@sabs.co.za Website: www.sabs.co.za

National Liquor Authority (NLA)

Ms Nkoe Ramphele

Email: NRamphele@thedti.gov.za or nationalliquorauthority@thedti.gov.za

APPENDIX II: OTHER IMPORT SPECIALIST TECHNICAL CONTACTS

Office of Agricultural Affairs (FAS/USDA)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria, 877 Pretorius Street, P.O. Box 9536

Pretoria, South Africa 0001 Tel: (+27) 12 431 4057 Fax: (+27) 12-342-2264

E-mail: agpretoria@usda.gov

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

U.S. Embassy Pretoria, 877 Pretorius Street, P.O. Box 9536

Tel: (+27) 12 431 4740 Fax: (+27) 12-342-3385

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/