



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
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The Chief Directors and Directors
Provincial Veterinary Services

Dear Colleagues,

RE: CERTIFICATION OF VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATES FOR THE EXPORT OF CLOVEN HOOFED ANIMALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS

As a result of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the OIE recognised FMD free zone without vaccination, the Directorate Animal Health has begun the process of negotiating with trade partners on the export of products derived from cloven hoofed animals which are regarded as safe with regards to Foot and Mouth Disease. Letters have been sent to Angola, Bahrain, Brazil, Botswana, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Lesotho, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Qatar, Swaziland, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Director Animal Health would like to make the following recommendations for certification of export consignments of products derived from cloven hoofed animals:

- No certificates may be issued if they contain clauses referring to the FMD free zone status of South Africa. These certificates must be re-negotiated so that the FMD free zone clauses can be removed and replaced by equivalent guarantees.
- Where an importing country has issued a veterinary import permit after 7 January 2019, when the OIE notification regarding the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in the former free zone was made, and South Africa can comply with all the conditions therein, certification may take place and the consignment can be exported.

- Where the veterinary import permit is dated prior to 7 January 2019, the exporter should be advised to obtain confirmation from the Veterinary Authority of the importing country that the permit with its conditions is still valid. The preferred option is that a new veterinary import permit should be obtained. Alternatively, the Veterinary Authority of the importing country must confirm, in writing, that the permit issued is still valid and that the import conditions are unchanged.
- Where attestation to area freedom from Foot and Mouth Disease is required, care must be taken on the interpretation of "area". In general, for certification purposes, an area is taken to refer to the area under supervision of the certifying state veterinarian. It might be necessary for the Directorate Animal Health to negotiate with the veterinary Authority of the importing country regarding the definition of area, should there be reason for concern.
- Should Provincial State Veterinarians have any doubts regarding a clause, or where a clause cannot be certified, please contact the Import Export Policy Unit, so that an amended clause can be negotiated with the importing country. Such queries can be sent to Dr Luana Schoeman at LuanaS@daff.gov.za and copied to Dr Caroline Gibbs at CarolineG@daff.gov.za.

We thank you for cooperation and assistance.

Kind regards,



Dr Mpho Maja
DIRECTOR: ANIMAL HEALTH
Date: 18 January 2019