



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE REVIEW OF SOUTH AFRICAN ANIMAL FEEDS LEGISLATION

1. Purpose

This document outlines the principles, objectives and proposed direction of the modernisation of the regulatory framework of animal feeds in South Africa. It also seeks broad stakeholder comments and inputs on the proposed regulatory framework.

2. Objectives

The objectives of reviewing the current legislation are to:

- Ensure food and human health safety
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on stakeholders
- Reflect changes in science and technology
- Better align the regulatory framework with government priorities related to food security economic growth and rural development
- Support industry competitiveness.

3 Background

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) is undertaking a review of its current animal feed legislation. It is anticipated that this review will improve consistency and reduce complexity in regulation, and will enhance the ability of DAFF to contribute to the safety of the feed supply.

Livestock production and the consumption of animal products are crucial to the economic and nutritional well-being of millions of people around the world. Animal feeds play a leading role in the food industry and is the largest and most important contributor to safe, abundant and affordable animal proteins for a growing population. The role of animal feed in the production of safe food is recognised worldwide. In recent years, public concerns about the safety of foods of animal origin have increased because of incidents related to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), dioxin and melamine contamination and outbreaks of food borne bacterial infections. There are also growing concerns about veterinary medicines' residues and microbial resistance

to antibiotics resulting from in-feed medication, as well as the impact of animal feed on animal, human and environmental safety.

Animal feeds in South Africa are regulated in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). The existing Animal Feed Legislative Framework reflects the legislative standards of the early 1900s when focus was on agricultural production enhancement in order to stimulate agricultural productivity. The regulatory focus has now shifted to include safety in recognition of the direct impact of animal feeds on food safety for the benefit of human and environmental safety.

It is against this background that the South African government is reviewing the existing animal feeds legislation to ensure adequate control of feed-related hazards that could cause public health risks.

4. Discussion topics for stakeholder inputs

In order to take a structured approach to this pre-consultation phase of the Animal Feed Regulatory Framework review, the DAFF proposes that the following principles provide the basis for comments and feedback by interested parties:

- Food safety and traceability
- Registration of feed ingredients
- Licensing of facilities
- Regulation of home mixers
- Labelling and advertising of products
- Regulation of imported products
- Licensing of rendering and sterilising plants
- Recognition of industry initiatives.

4.1. Food safety and traceability

It is proposed that the core principle of the new animal feeds legislation should be food safety. The legislation should require the maintenance of records regarding the production, distribution and use of feeds and feed ingredients.

4.2. Registration of feed ingredients

It is paramount that risk analysis of each ingredient is conducted and all ingredients must be registered individually.

4.3 Licensing of facilities

Facilities that commercially transact with animal feed must be licensed.

4.4. Regulation of home mixers

Certain categories of home mixers must be subject to facility licensing depending on the outcomes of a risk assessment by the regulator. However, all home mixers will be required to comply with some provisions of the legislation.

4.5. Labelling and advertising of products

Labels are to be clear and informative on how to handle, store and use feeds or feed ingredients. Technical aspects of labelling must be regulated by the Animal Feeds Legislation, while the non-technical claims together with advertising should be regulated by other competent authorities.

5.5 Regulation of imported products

Imported complete products must be regulated the same as locally produced complete products.

5.6 Rendering and sterilising plants

Facilities that render or sterilise animal by-products and animal products, must be licensed respectively. The regulation of rendering and sterilising plants should be aligned with all other relevant legislations.

5.7 Recognition of industry initiatives

The legislation should establish provision for recognition of voluntary standards of industry associations in the different industry sectors.

You may wish to:

- comment on the nature, implementation and likely impacts of the reforms
- provide qualitative and/or quantitative information to support your views
- advise if any additional measures would complement the proposed topics above.

6 Outline of the consultation project

6.1 Process of consultation

South Africans are encouraged to participate in the discussion about the review of the Animal Feeds Regulatory Framework to ensure that we get a balance of views from all stakeholders. To accomplish this we have developed this discussion paper which sets the context and guides you in the key areas that need to be prioritised.

All stakeholders are, therefore, requested to make inputs and comments on the proposed regulatory approach. Your inputs will be used to refine the proposed approach and will aid in arriving at a mutual vision of the new animal feed regulatory framework.

6.2 Milestones

Consultation on this paper will be open until 31 August 2015; however, we would prefer comments to be sent earlier. The government aims to complete consultation on the detail of the reforms of the discussion paper in November 2015. We anticipate finalising the discussion paper by the end of January 2016. This will be followed by a draft of the proposed legislation by the end of March 2016. Stakeholders will be given opportunity to provide inputs on the draft legislation during 2016.

6.3 How to respond

Should you wish to provide a written statement or submission to the DAFF at this initial stage, contact details are provided below. While submissions may be lodged electronically or by post, electronic submissions by e-mail are preferred. For accessibility, please e-mail comments and inputs in Word or PDF format.

6.3 Contact details

For further information on this process and written comments, please contact the department at the following details:

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