



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Are you travelling to South Africa?

“Please help safeguard South African agriculture, forestry and fisheries”

South Africa is one of the world's most attractive business and leisure travel destinations because of its economic opportunities, scenic beauty, magnificent outdoors, sunny climate and cultural diversity. In the past four years, South Africa has recorded over 9 million international visitors per annum and the number is predicted to reach 13,5 million by the year 2015.

As people and commodities move around the world, pests that threaten the life and health of plants and animals travel with them. The increasing volume of international tourism and trade raises the risk of introducing alien invasive species as well as foreign pests associated with plants, plant products, animals, animal products and other regulated goods from one country to another. Once a pest has entered South Africa, climate change may influence its establishment and spread, as well as the damage it causes.

When travelling to South Africa, make sure you do not bring in prohibited agricultural products. These products may harbour pests that occur in other countries and their introduction may endanger South Africa's competitiveness in trade and agricultural productivity. The introduction, establishment and spread of these pests undermine agricultural productivity and trade because of the direct damage to plant and animal resources, the high costs involved in pest eradication and post-harvest programmes, technical difficulties encountered in eradicating these pests and loss of markets.

Animals and animal products such as meat and dairy products, plants and plant products, honey and honey products as well as other regulated goods, are all potentially high-risk materials. These materials may only be imported into South Africa by means of an import permit, unless exempted, and must be declared with Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) inspectors for inspection at ports of entry before entering South Africa.

In the interest of protecting plant health, animal health, human health and the country's territory against exotic pests, South Africa has put legislative measures in place to control the importation of agricultural products into the country and invested in raising biosecurity awareness to the international travellers and traders. Travellers and commercial importers are therefore advised that, inspectors from DAFF conduct luggage and consignment inspections at the ports of entry by means of visual and sniffer dogs to ensure compliance with the import permit requirements.

Prohibited products will either be confiscated, destroyed or returned to the country of export and you may face a fine of up to R20 000,00 or imprisonment.

For further information, please visit us at www.daff.gov.za » Import/Exports or contact:

Directorate: Inspection Services Tel: +27 12 309 8701/8735, e-mail: Info.sps@daff.gov.za or nppoza@daff.gov.za

Remember to declare agricultural products with the DAFF inspectors at the port of entry!

Don't bag a bug!

