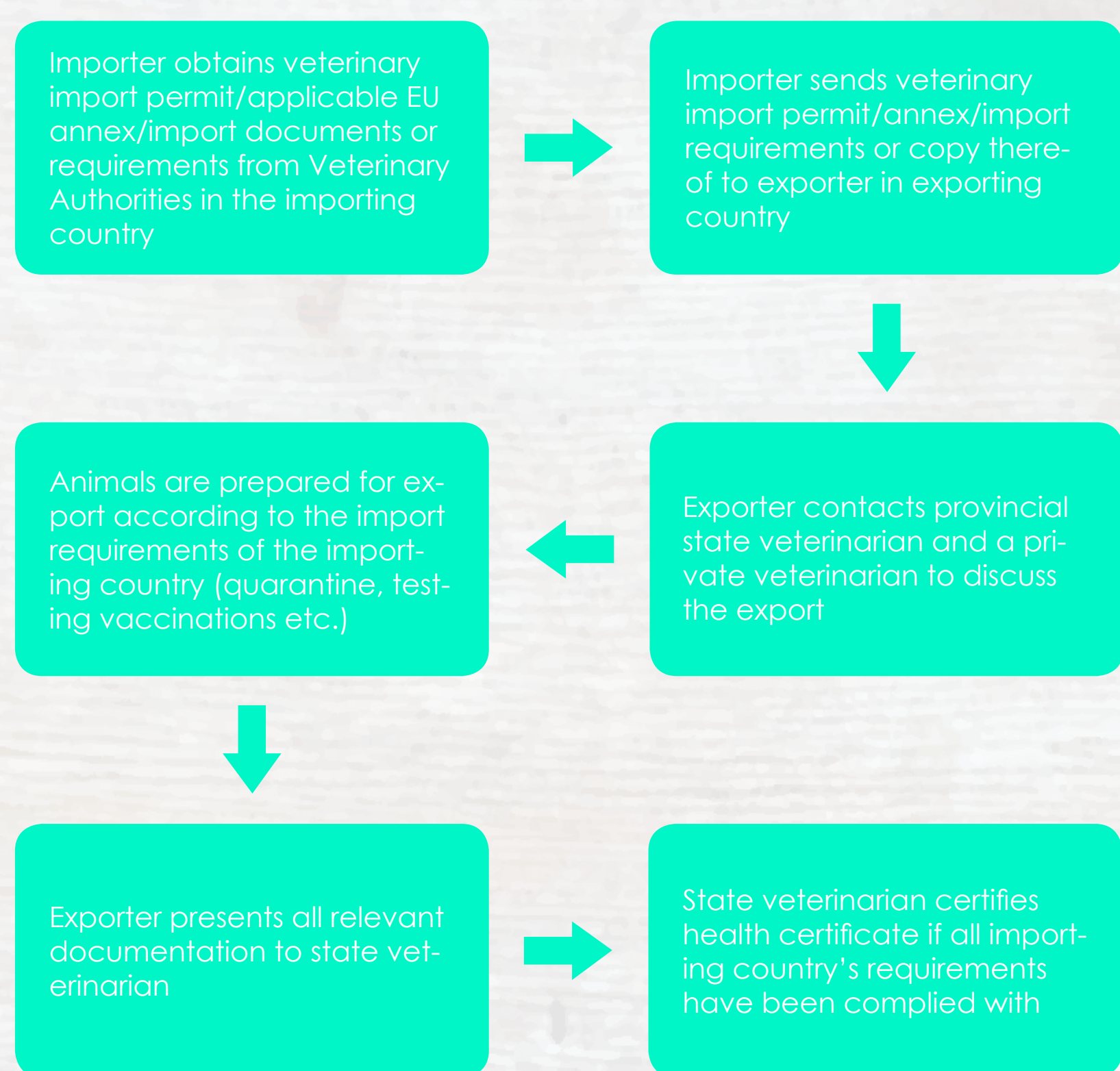


International trade requires a continuing ethical responsibility from all countries involved and the quality of export certification is a reflection of the entire Veterinary Services of the country.

GENERAL FLOW OF EXPORT CERTIFICATION



Basics of certification:

1. The importing country normally prepares the requirements for any commodity imported into their country. These requirements are put in place in an attempt to safeguard the animal health and disease situation of the importing country, by mitigating the risk of introducing disease as far as possible. These rules/requirements/conditions are usually collated into an import permit with health conditions, or in the case of the European Union (EU) an applicable annex.
2. It is the exporting country's responsibility to certify that the consignment complies with the requirements/health conditions set out by the importing country in the import permit. A State Veterinarian in the exporting country is responsible for certifying compliance with the import requirements of the importing country, before the consignment leaves the exporting country. For exports, the client in the importing country will need to apply for an import permit from the Veterinary Authorities of the importing country. Once the permit has been obtained, the importer will need to send the Veterinary Import Permit/annex/import requirements or a copy thereof to the exporter in the exporting country. The exporter will then contact their local provincial South African State Veterinarian to discuss the export certification of the consignment. South Africa becomes the exporting country, responsible for certifying compliance with the import requirements of the importing country.
3. Export certification is a provincial function i.e. export certification is performed by provincial State Veterinarians, authorised by the Director Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. State Veterinarians responsible for export certification can only certify information which they can verify, have personal knowledge of and can prove.

Important factors to remember for the certifying State Veterinarian:

- The import requirements of the importing country should be complied with. The importing country's requirements cannot be altered to suit the export. If the import requirements cannot be complied with or are not certifiable, please contact the Import Export Policy Unit (IEPU).
- State Veterinarians can certify on the basis of certificate or attestation provided by another State Veterinarian (for example, a movement permit for products moving from one State Veterinarian area to another or another province altogether) or Private Veterinarian (for example, a health certificate), provided the certifying State Veterinarian is in possession of that document before he/she is required to certify the final exportation of the product/consignment.
- The certificate should only contain deletions as required by the text of the certificate; you cannot delete clauses you cannot certify, if not required by the certificate to delete as appropriate.
- To avoid fraudulent activity, no section should be left blank, so that it could be completed by a person other than the certifying officer.
- Any alterations of the certified information should be initialled and stamped by the certifying State Veterinarian (only information added by the State Veterinarian may be altered, no alterations may be made to the text of the certificate as received from the importing country).

- State Veterinarians should not be expected to certify:
 - certificates with blank spaces or incomplete certificates
 - anything they have no personal knowledge of
 - anything they cannot verify or prove
 - any clauses for future events or anything that have already passed out of their control (for example that animals will not pass through a certain area during transport or for conditions during transport etc.)
- The certificate should be completed in a colour of ink that is different from the text of the certificate (i.e. if the certificate is typed in black ink, use a blue pen) and it should contain at least the following information of the certifying State Veterinarian:
 - Signature
 - Name and surname
 - Address
 - Designation
 - Stamp
 - Date on which certificate was signed and issued

NB – if a disease outbreak occurs in South Africa, we have a responsibility to inform the importing country of the disease if an export of a possibly affected commodity occurred during the normal incubation period of the specific disease. The certifying State Veterinarian should immediately inform the IEPU if they were aware of such an export.

EXPORT CERTIFICATION RESPONSIBILITIES (inter alia)

PROVINCIAL STATE VETERINARIAN	PRIVATE VETERINARIAN	DAFF	EXPORTER
Advise exporters according to the import requirements of the importing country.	Assist in preparing animals for export according to the specifications in the Veterinary Import Permit/ EU annex/requirements of the importing country (testing, vaccination, parasite treatment, clinical examinations etc.).	Negotiations with importing country regarding import requirements that cannot be complied with or for some reason cannot be certified (for example country freedom from Rabies).	Obtains veterinary import permit/applicable EU annex/import documents or requirements from importer.
Assist in preparing animals for export according to the specifications in the Veterinary Import Permit/ EU annex/requirements of the importing country (quarantine, isolation under official supervision etc.)	The Private Veterinarian cannot quarantine or provide official veterinary supervision, only the State Veterinarian can.	Advise/guide State Veterinarians with regards to export certification.	Contact provincial state veterinarian and a private veterinarian to discuss the export.
Provide a movement certificate, or if it is the final point of export, provide export certification of the health certificate of the importing country if the consignment complies.	Provide a health certificate containing details of the treatments, vaccinations, examinations etc as prescribed by the health certificate of the importing country, to the responsible State Veterinarian.	Assistance and guidance with regards to export certification.	Ensure all requirements of the importing country are complied with. Bears all costs related to export preparation. Present all relevant documentation to state veterinarian

Guidance on Export Certification:

- OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2015 Section 5 (Chapter 5.1 and 5.2), or as updated annually
- VP 17, as updated when required
- Import Export Policy Unit (IEPU) at Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)

References:

4. OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2015
5. VP 17 (Principles of certification)

Feel free to contact your nearest state/private veterinarian/animal health technician for further information:

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**agriculture,
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Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA