

- The State Veterinarian will conduct an inspection visit to determine if the establishment meets the required standard and report to national Directorate of Animal Health.
- If the national office is satisfied and standards are met the 'ZA' number is allocated to the establishments and is listed as officially approved.
- A ZA certificate is issued to the establishments to confirm the registration.
- If an establishment falls short of the requirements for official approval, the state veterinarian will provide a list of points that require attention in order to qualify for registration.

Where do I get the standards for ZA approval?

- Different Veterinary Procedural Notices (VPNs) are available for many types of approved establishments.
- These documents are drafted and distributed by the national Directorate Animal Health.
- They outline the requirements that an establishment must comply with in order to obtain approval for export.



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Export procedure for animal and animal products



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Introduction

- All movement of animals and animal products poses a certain disease risk.
- The process of issuing a health certificate guaranteeing that a specific animal or animal product has undergone certain procedures or treatments, or originates from a certain area, is designed to reduce the risk.
- Since the importing country is going to be exposed to risk, it is only logical that it will be the one to set the requirements for risk reduction.
- A government veterinarian (state veterinarian) of the exporting country then issues a health certificate, which guarantees that the requirements of the importing country have been met.
- This forms the basis of international trade in animals and animal products.
- The official veterinarian occupies a position of trust in this process of ensuring the safety of animals and animal products.
- Abuse of this trust can put South African exports at risk.
- This publication is a guide to the process of veterinary certification as well as the common procedures that any prospective exporter should be familiar with.



Communication channels

- This liaison normally occurs between the National Veterinary Service of the two countries.
- There should be no direct communication between clients and the veterinary service of another country.

Importing country sets the requirements

- The importing country sets the requirements for importation into that country.
- This is dependent on the level of food safety and the occurrence of various animal diseases in that country.
- Importation requirements are intended to ensure the protection of their human and animal populations by ensuring food safety and preventing the transmission/introduction of animal diseases from one country into another.

Ways to obtain health requirements of the importing country

- The exporter can get the requirements via the importer in the importing country
- The requirements will be in the form of an import permit/licence issued to the importer by the veterinary services of the importing country.

The national Directorate Animal Health can obtain the requirements through communication with the Veterinary Services of the importing country.

Exporting country must comply

- The certifying Veterinarian must prepare an export certificate in line with the acceptable principles and standards.
- Country freedom from diseases, e.g. that South Africa is free from i.e. rabies and Newcastle disease.
- Area freedom for diseases which are not notifiable in South Africa.
- Clauses that certify issues that are not under our control:

1. Country freedom from diseases that South Africa is free from
2. Area freedom for diseases which are notifiable in South Africa
3. Clauses that certify testing and treatment of animals or products to be exported.

- A certifying veterinarian can only certify what he/she is able to verify or prove.
- Verification can be done by means of personal knowledge or on the basis of a certificate from another veterinarian.
- The exporter must ensure that all necessary processes are followed to enable the certifying veterinarian to verify the requirements of the importing country.
- The export certificate must be issued by the local state veterinarian in the area from which the export will take place.

Officially approved establishments

What are officially approved establishments?

- Importing countries often require that exports should take place from “officially approved” establishments or facilities.
- If an establishment is listed as an officially approved establishment, it is possible for the certifying veterinarian to provide guarantees with regard to the animals or products coming from that establishment.
- It is recommended that export establishments should be officially approved, as it provides a better backdrop from which to issue export certification.

The process of official approval of an establishment

The basic process of registration of officially approved establishments is as follows:

- The owner of the establishment must contact the local state veterinarian for assistance.