

## 10. Sale of potatoes in loose quantity

- Any quantity of a particular class, size group or cultivar shall not be displayed mixed with potatoes of any other class, size group or cultivar.
- All the potato producers or packers are expected to comply with the above prescribed requirements in the local trade.



## 11. Legislative implications

No person shall sell potatoes in the Republic of South Africa unless it complies with classes prescribed, standards regarding quality, container, marking and packaging requirements.

For more technical information on potato regulation contact:

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*Alternatively, visit*

<http://www.nda.agric.za/doaDev/sideMenu/foodSafety/doc/localImportRegulations/potatoes12Nov2010.pdf>

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Further information can be obtained from:

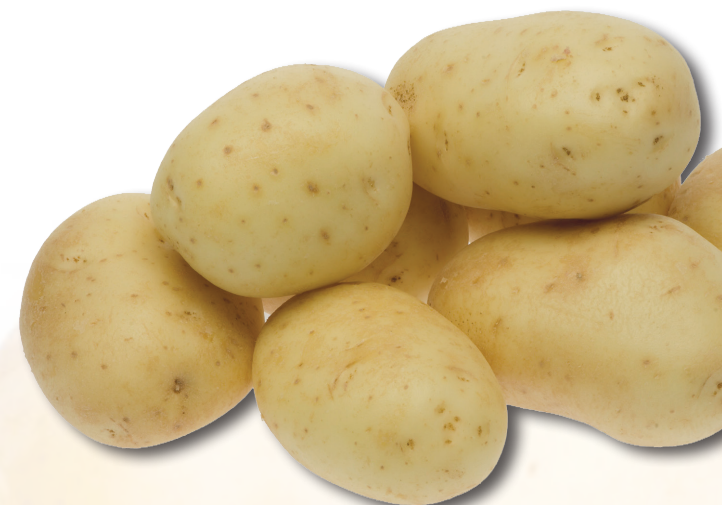
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*General  
requirements relating to  
grading, packing and  
marking  
of potatoes intended for  
sale in the Republic of  
South Africa*



agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## 1. Background

South Africa has self-sufficient capacity to produce potatoes for local consumption as well as cater for export markets. Potatoes play a significant component of the food basket for most South Africans. They contribute a role as one of the staple vegetable crop for the country's Food Security.

Regulations R1031 of 12 November 2010 administered under the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No.119 of 1990) stipulates the compulsory quality specification that producers or suppliers of potatoes in the local market have to comply with in the republic.

## 2. Restrictions on the sale of potatoes

No person shall sell potatoes in the Republic of South Africa unless:

- Potatoes are sold according to the classes
- Potatoes comply with the standards regarding quality
- Containers in which such potatoes are presented for sale have been manufactured according to the requirements
- Potatoes are packed in a container and in a prescribed manner
- Containers carrying potatoes are marked with the particulars and in the manner prescribed

## 3. Classes for potatoes

There are four classes for potatoes namely:

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Lowest class



## 4. Standard for classes

Potatoes which are classified as class 1, class 2, class 3 and the lowest class shall comply with the specifications as per regulation.

The maximum extent to which class 1, class 2, and class 3 potatoes deviates from the prescribed specifications shall be determined as follows:

- Examine the tubers in the sample of the consignment physically and on the basis of the colour plates, in order to determine whether such deficiencies occur thereon or therein: provided that any tuber from the sample suspected of internal deficiencies may be dissected for the purpose of confirmation or otherwise of the observation concerned.
- Determine with regard to each of the separate quality factors.
- Express the mass determined as the percentage of the net mass of the container of potatoes, such percentage represents the extent to which potatoes with deviation concerned are present in such container: provided that in case of the internal quality defects the degree of the deviation shall be determined as a percentage of 3kg.

## 5. Container requirements

Potatoes shall be packed in containers which:

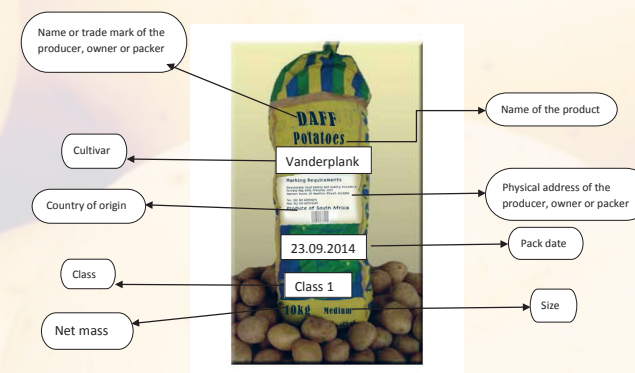
- Are new, intact, clean, suitable and strong enough for the packing and normal handling of potatoes.
- Shall not impart a taste or odour to the potatoes.
- In case of a carrier container, shall be strong enough not to bulge out or dent in during normal handling and transporting practices.

## 6. Packing requirements

- Potatoes shall, in the case of class 1 class 1, class 2, class 3 and lowest class correspond in cultivar, class, and size group in the same consignment: provided that the size group shall not be applicable to class 3.
- Containers shall be closed by bunch tying with the suitable wire tie or by sewing with suitable tying string or with a suitable lid or whatever the choice of packaging may be.

## 7. Marking requirements

- The prescribed marking requirements in the regulations are used to provide the consumer with accurate and relevant information on a product, so as to allow an informed and personal choice to be made.
- Containers containing potatoes shall be marked in clear and legible block letters of at least 5mm in height using English and any other official language with the following compulsory particulars:



## 8. Potato group size

| Size group        | Mass                    |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| (i) Baby          | 5g (min) - 50g (max)    |
| (ii) Small        | 50g (min) - 100g (max)  |
| (iii) Medium      | 90g (min) - 170g (max)  |
| (iv) Large-medium | 150g (min) - 250g (max) |
| (v) Large         | 250g (min) - and more   |

## 9. Restricted particulars

No wording, illustration or other means of expression which constitute a misrepresentation or which directly or by implication may create a misleading impression of the content or the quality or the class thereof, shall appear on a container containing potatoes.