



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
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DESIGNATION OF ASSIGNEES WITH RESPECT TO THE INSPECTION OF LOCAL / IMPORTED FRESH PRODUCE, GRAIN AND GRAIN PRODUCTS

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Senzeni Zokwana, has finally designated two assignees for local and import inspection related to fresh produce, grain and its related products. This was done after a lengthy and transparent selection process which started off with the invitation of prospective assignees on 2 October 2015. The assignees are designated in terms of section 2(3) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act No. 119 of 1990 and will be responsible for the implementation of section 3 and its associated supporting sections of the said Act.

Product Control for Agriculture (Prokon) and Leaf Services were designated on 17 May 2016 for the purposes of the application of the local/import regulations relating to fresh produce and grains and its related derivative products respectively under the Agricultural Product Standards Act No. 119 of 1990.

The implementation of the aforesaid regulations were delayed for six months in order to allow the designated assignees to set up their operations and consult with the affected stakeholders. The assignees will be operational as from the 1st January 2017 throughout all the selling or inspection points; pack houses, silos, milling factories, processing facilities, distribution centres, retail level, wholesale, national fresh produce markets, bakeries, ports of entry, etc.

The implication of the designation is that fresh produce, grains and grain products will be subjected to inspection at a cost to the owners / seller by assignees. The cost of inspection will be based on the gazetted tariffs which would have been properly informed by an objective cost recovery model.

The importance of implementing these regulations will result in the promotion of fair trade practices and consumer protection. Consistent quality products in keeping with claims will be sold to consumers and thus resulting in sellers being fairly rewarded for their production effort. The enforcement of the regulations will further result in the prevention of poor quality products being imported into South Africa. Both locally produced and imported products will be subjected fairly to the same regulation(s) under the enforcement wing of the assignees.

For media enquires please contact:

Ms Makenosi Maroo

Chief Director: Stakeholder Relations and Communications

Tel.: (012) 319 6787

Cell: 072 475 2956

E-mail: MakenosiM@daff.gov.za

For technical information please contact:

Mr. Billy Makhafola
Acting Director: Food Safety and Quality Assurance
Tel.: (012) 319 7306
E-mail: BillyM@daff.gov.za

Mr. Etienne Booyens
Chief Executive Officer
PROKON
012 325 4579
E-mail: Etienne@prokonsa.co.za

Ms. Nokulunga Mnqeta
Managing Director
Leaf Services
011 064 5695
082 7818514
E-mail: nokulunga@leafservices.co.za