



AFSQ
Agency for Food Safety and Quality

NEWS FLASH

PROCESSED MEAT PRODUCTS - INSPECTIONS AND SAMPLING

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic across the world and President Ramaphosa's announcement regarding the 35-day nationwide lockdown, the following arrangements have been made and will be applicable during this challenging time.

The services of Agency for Food Safety and Quality (Pty) Ltd (AFSQ) are classified as "essential" under the agricultural products sector and therefore business will continue as normal in order to maintain food quality standards on products provided to the consumers.

Agency for Food Safety and Quality will commence with product inspection and sampling during April 2020 in terms of the Agricultural Product Standard Act, 1990 (119 of 1990) and the Processed Meat Products Regulations. AFSQ will conduct inspections and sampling at all producer sites and will also commence with product inspection and sampling at retail level.

This will be performed as an initial trial run to provide inspectors with the necessary training and exposure to the industry. AFSQ will also use this as an opportunity to look at the flow of the sample taking procedure, as well as the effectiveness and efficiency of the industry PERTEN NIR Analyzer machine, as well as all other qualifying laboratories.

AFSQ is taking all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of all, including our personnel. Each inspector has been issued with the required authorisation letter to enable travelling during this time. In order to maintain social distancing during the inspection and sample-taking, the facility is required to nominate one responsible individual to accompany the inspector during his/her inspection at the facility.

Laboratory results will be interpreted and sent to the manager, owner or responsible person of the producer. It is therefore essential that the client information page and non-disclosure agreement in the information pack you will receive from the AFSQ inspector be completed fully. Invoices will be submitted to the producer or retailer (house-brands) for each inspection and or sample taken.

AFSQ is communicating with all relevant stakeholders regarding sampling of their products.

Should you have any questions you are welcome to contact:

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We look forward to engaging and working with you during this challenging time.

LOUIS VISAGIE
CEO

PALESA MPANA
**MANAGER: PROCESSED
MEAT PRODUCTS**